

TOWN Reminder

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FIREWORKS return with fun for all

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
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SOUTH HADLEY – The fireworks are back, and with them come crowds of people from all over to enjoy some fair food, and take a turn on the rides and set up their ideal spots for fireworks viewing.

The South Hadley Rec-

reation Department has been hosting the fireworks for Independence Day since at least 1987, and has continued the tradition every year since.

“The Lions Club was also involved. They have always been at the Michael E. Smith Middle School except for a year where there was school construction and they were held at

Ledges,” said Andy Rogers, director of the South Hadley Rec Department.

“[What I love most about the fireworks is] that it is such a family and community-friendly event. I see a lot of the same people year in and year out there, and everyone always has a great time,” said Rogers.

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Competing for the giant chameleon.

The fireworks setting off over the carnival rides.

Turley photos by Emily-Rose Pappas

Summer reading for kids and teens at the library

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
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SOUTH HADLEY – Summer reading has arrived at libraries across the country, and the theme, “Level Up at Your Library,” is aimed at encouraging people to get out to the library and “level up”, if you will, their knowledge.

With themed weeks and fun events and classes, kids, teens, and adults can join in the challenges of reading this summer to win fun prizes, all while levelling up their reading skills.

“The theme ‘Level Up at Your Library’ is great because it incorporates all types of gaming and covers a wide variety of teen interests,” said Teen Librarian Bethany Roberts. “I currently have a book display in the Teen Room related to the theme, but I just encourage the teens to read or listen to whatever interests them.”

“I like the ‘Level Up’ theme because it encourages us to gamify our programs and activities. It inspired my reading log design, which looks like a game board,” said Jenny Arch, the children’s services librarian.

The books that the kids and teens can choose can be whatever they want, whether it’s a thrilling fantasy, a fairy tale, or on-theme, a book about a video game.

“Kids can read whatever they want - that’s what makes it fun! But I do put out different displays each month. In June, we featured books about Pride, Juneteenth, and Father’s Day. July is summer favorites, and in August we’ll pull out the back-to-school books,” said Arch.

For the children’s summer reading program, any kid from an infant to a 10-year-old can use the game board reading log by coloring in one space on the board for every day that they read for 20 minutes, and being read to or listening to an audiobook

Please see **READING**, page 9

Four towns celebrate successful food drives

By Emily-Rose Pappas
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GRANBY – Over the past two months, the four Democratic Committees worked together to put together food drives in order to support the local food pantries.

Susie Knightly with the Granby Dems, Ann Stockton with the South Hadley Dems, Cara Lapenas with the Belchertown Dems, and Mia Alves with the Ludlow Dems. “[The most meaningful part was] having members of our committee and community come together and pitch in to make the food drive success-

ful,” said Stockton.

“The United Congregational Church in Granby allowed us to collect and store foods and products until repairs are completed later this summer at Granby To Go,” said Knightly.

“The most meaningful part of the day was meeting new neighbors and savoring a deep sense of community from our shared concerns. So many are shocked from the reported cuts to funding to our food pantries. We hope to step up and fill the needs of our neighbors in need, especially the children,” said Knightly.

The Granby food drive

collected over 400 total items, including cans, boxes and bags of grains and cereals, and other items, as well as \$1,000 total in cash donations from the community who came to support Granby to Go.

“One moment that truly stuck out to me was seeing folks who were probably struggling on tight budgets show up with their children and boxes of food or with a few dollars to donate. That really go to me,” said Knightly.

At Ludlow for the Veterans Pantry, they filled all nine totes full to the brim of food donations.

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Submitted photo

Ann Rochi and Gary Hammond at South Hadley’s food drive for Neighbors Helping

Spreading Hope in Brittney’s Name: How Brittney’s Believers are turning grief into action

By Tina Lesniak
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY - In a quiet corner of South Hadley, a small nonprofit is making a powerful impact across the region—and it all started with a little girl named Brittney.

Born on May 27, 2018, Brittney Bliss brought joy, wisdom, and sparkle to everyone who knew her. “When she arrived, we knew our family was complete. As soon as we held her, we knew she was the piece we had been missing. She brought such light and joy to our lives. She and her sister are 12 years apart, but their bond was truly magical to watch,” said her mother, Elena Bliss. “She was an old soul. She may have been



Brittney Bliss as a young girl.

Submitted photo

shy at first, but when she warmed up and let you see her spirit shine, it was a joy to witness.”

From dancing in the kitchen dressed as Moana

Please see **HOPE**, page 2

Library hosts First Book Club for kids

By Emily-Rose Pappas
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SOUTH HADLEY – With summer here, picking out a book is your first step, or even finding a book club if you can’t choose.

While book clubs are around for teens and adults, kids can have one now too at the South Hadley Public Library for My First Book Club, a book club designed just for kids.

“In the summer, it functions as a gentle introduction into school-type activities in a classroom-ish environment, and it’s also a great opportunity for rising kindergarteners, especially, to meet fellow students and make friends before school starts,” said Jenny Arch, the children’s librarian.

After seeing a neighboring

Please see **LIBRARY**, page 6



Turley photo by Emily-Rose Pappas

Pili Valencia getting ready to read two stories with Miss Jenny.

HOPE from page 1

to singing Taylor Swift songs at age two, Brittney's zest for life was unmistakable. She adored learning, reciting bedtime stories, and watching movies like Encanto and Monster High. "Daily, my husband and I share her little one-liners that she would make us laugh with or recall memories that come rushing back when something reminds us of her," said Bliss. "Her presence is everywhere; her imprint on our hearts continues to guide us."

In May 2022, Brittney was diagnosed with embryonal rhabdomyosarcoma, a rare and aggressive pediatric cancer. The tumor in her inner ear affected nerves and blood vessels, making surgery impossible. She underwent months of chemotherapy and proton radiation, all while surrounded by a devoted support network of family and friends, lovingly referred to as Brittney's Believers.

"We thought this would just be one chapter in her story," Elena said. "We had every hope that she would one day share her testimony of survival and healing." But tragically, Brittney passed away before she could start kindergarten.

From that grief, Brittney's Believers was born—an organization dedicated to supporting families facing pedi-

atric cancer, funding critical research, and honoring Brittney's radiant life. "We felt called to keep our promise to give back in her honor," Bliss said. "Pediatric cancer treatment often lasts over a year, while paid leave covers just 12 weeks. We know that reality firsthand."

The organization provides direct financial support to families in treatment, covering expenses such as mortgage payments, utility bills, and transportation costs. Through partnerships with hospitals across Massachusetts and Connecticut, Brittney's Believers ensures help reaches those who need it most.

"We also deliver care packages and meals twice a year to the inpatient pediatric oncology unit at Connecticut Children's," Elena explained. "And with help from the South Hadley High School Service Club, we provide go-bags and toys to Baystate's pediatric oncology department."

The work is deeply personal. "Unless you've walked that road, it's impossible to truly understand the emotional weight," Bliss said. "We know that feeling."

Their mission has also expanded to advocacy and research. "As we watched the treatments meant to save Brittney ultimately fail her,

we witnessed firsthand just how outdated and harsh these therapies are," explained Bliss. "Most of the ones being used today were never designed with kids in mind. We came to understand the heartbreaking truth: progress in pediatric cancer has been painfully slow due to a lack of funding."

Only 4% of federal cancer research funding is allocated to pediatric cancers—a statistic the Bliss family is determined to change. Through a partnership with a research foundation focused on rhabdomyosarcoma, they've launched The Brittney Project, helping fund and shape ongoing studies. They've also taken Brittney's story to Capitol Hill during events like CureFest in Washington, D.C.

Brittney's legacy is at the heart of every event, especially the annual Bands for Brittney fundraiser, which features live music and dance performances—two of Brittney's greatest loves. "We want everything we do to reflect her joy," Bliss said. "Our colors, purple and gold, represent Brittney and childhood cancer awareness."

The community continues to show up in powerful ways, from Go Gold days at South Hadley High School to partnerships with local sports teams like the Springfield Thunderbirds.



Delivering donations in Brittney's memory.

Submitted photos

"One of the biggest challenges we've faced is an emotional one: choosing to continue this work, knowing that it won't change anything for Brittney. That even if we find a cure, sadly, it won't bring her back," noted Bliss. "But the heartbreaking reality is that we are seeing more and more kids being diagnosed, especially locally. Every day, parents are hear-

ing those life-altering words, 'Your child has cancer.' And while we could walk away, choosing to remove ourselves from the cancer world since our child is no longer here, we won't. Because what good would that do for the next family fighting? They need our support. They need our voices to push for a change in funding and treatment options. So we will continue to

stand with them, to fight in Brittney's name because her story matters, she deserved better, a future to grow up, a world where cancer isn't stealing our children and we hope that the kids currently battling and those diagnosed in the future will get that chance that Brittney didn't."

To learn more or support their mission, visit www.britneysbelievers.com.



The Bliss family.



Brittney loved dancing and music.



Brittney bravely smiled through her treatment.

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Trash carts have arrived for new trash system

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
epappas@turley.com

SOUTH HADLEY – Josh Broderick, Public Works Director, announced in the South Hadley Bulletin an update regarding South Hadley's new trash system involving carts that were delivered to homes in June.

The trash-collection days will remain the same, and the only changes coming in include the delivery of trash and recycling carts which should have already been brought to your residence.

"On July 1, 2025, the town of South Hadley curbside trash collection will transition from the current green bag pay-as-you-throw system with dual-stream recycling to an automated cart collection system and a single-stream recycling collection," Broderick said.

All South Hadley homes received a 65-gallon trash cart and a 95-gallon recycling cart, with only condominium complexes having a choice for a 35-gallon cart.

"These carts will be the property of the town, assigned and distributed to your property," said Broderick.

A 35-gallon cart will hold three 13-gallon trash bags, a 65-gallon cart will hold five to six 13-gallon trash bags, and a 95-gallon trash cart will hold

seven to eight 13-gallon trash bags.

"You can use whatever trash bag you prefer for disposal into the trash cart," said Broderick.

The cart lid must be closed completely, and for the trash to be picked up, the lid must be closed. For the recycling carts with single-stream recycling, you can add paper, cardboard, bottles, cans, and glass into the same cart, but it must also be able to have the lid close completely.

"If you have more trash or more recyclables that can fit into the carts, there are two options: one, you can hold them until the next collection day, or two, you can bring them to the Recycle Center Tuesday through Saturday, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.," said Broderick.

The Recycling Center is closed from noon to 1 p.m. for lunch, and access requires a valid sticker which can be picked up at the collector's office or at the DPW office. You are also asked to make an appointment time for entry, and can do so on the town website under Public Works on the "bookoo" website.

The Recycling Center is cashless, and you can find fees for the disposal on their website, and for more information or to ask any questions, you can contact the DPW at 413-538-5030.

Learn about volunteering at Harmony House

CHICOPEE – Harmony House of Western Massachusetts is a social model home for hospice care located in Chicopee.

The beautiful new facility reopened in the spring of 2024 and has been a safe and loving home for people with limited support who cannot live on their own. Potential volunteers are invited to explore the opportunity to help care for individuals who are in the final stage of their lives. Harmony House is currently in need of caregivers and support people. Whether it's a few hours a week or a few hours a month, Harmony House is a welcoming place for people looking to help people.

A Meet-and-Greet event is scheduled for Tuesday, July 29, at 6 p.m. at the South Hadley Library, 2 Canal Street, South Hadley, in their Common Room. Please come and meet members of the Board of Directors and current volunteers to learn more and have your questions answered by those who are directly involved in resident care.

Harmony House is a local, non-profit organization whose mission is to provide a loving home offering compassionate care for people who are on hospice and are in need of care. If interested in learning more or becoming a volunteer, please complete the online volunteer application form at www.harmonyhousewma.org/volunteer-1 or email us at admin@harmony-housewma.org.

Riders rally to end homelessness in Springfield

2nd Annual Motorcycle Ride Fund-raiser to end homelessness, featuring live entertainment by Cold Train

SPRINGFIELD – Bikers from across the region will unite with a common goal: ending homelessness in our community. The Ride to End Homelessness, hosted by the Springfield Rescue Mission, in collaboration with Sheldon's Harley-Davidson and Trantolo & Trantolo, LLC, will take place on July 27, 2025, starting at Sheldon Harley-Davidson, 914 Southbridge St., Auburn MA and concluding with a community celebration at the Springfield Rescue Mission, 10 Mill Street in Springfield MA.

The ride will raise funds and awareness for the Springfield Rescue Mission, which provides critical services such as meals, shelter, transitional housing, job training, and workforce development for individuals experiencing homelessness. The Springfield Rescue Mission also provides breakfast and lunch to over 300 men, women, and children 5 days a week.

Registration Fee: \$35 per Rider & \$10 per passenger
After Party: open to walk-ins with \$10 donation
All proceeds to benefit Springfield Rescue Mission

raffle, and live music performed by Cold Train!

Register to Ride at www.springfieldrescuemission.org.

Donate: Can't make the ride? Donations are welcome at www.springfieldrescuemission.org.

Sponsorships: Contact Rebecca Connor at 413-732-0808 ext 237, or email at rconnor@springfieldrescuemission.org.

How to Get Involved:

Register to Ride at www.springfieldrescuemission.org.

Donate: Can't make the ride? Donations are welcome at www.springfieldrescuemission.org.

Sponsorships: Contact Rebecca Connor at 413-732-0808 ext 237, or email at rconnor@springfieldrescuemission.org.

Event Details:

Date: July 27, 2025

Kickstands up: 10:30 a.m.

Start Location: Sheldon's Harley-Davidson, 914 Southbridge St., Auburn, MA.

Finish: Entertainment and Food: Springfield Rescue Mission, 10 Mill Street, Springfield, MA, Food, 50/50



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Opinion

SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor

Can I switch to a taxi driver job without hurting my Social Security?

Dear Rusty:

I opted to draw my Social Security retirement benefit early and work part time. The company I work for has decided to pull me from field work due to my age and health. Although they are great keeping me at 20 hours per week running for parts and doing office work, I'm not sure how much longer it will last. I'm thinking of taking a taxi driving job to keep my income enough to live on. The way it would work, I would lease the cab for some amount of dollars per day, set my own hours to work and collect anywhere from \$1.40 to \$4.00 per mile, depending on what type of fare. My question is: how does Social Security look at that type of employment? Would I be held to the 15 - 45 hours a month standard? I could never come close to making the \$1,200 to \$1,300 a month I need by working so little. Any advice is greatly appreciated.

Signed: Seeking Advice

Dear Seeking:

If you go ahead with your plan to lease a taxicab instead of continuing your current employment, you would, in effect, be considered "self-employed" and would submit your income tax return to the IRS accordingly. Social Security would get your earnings information as reported to the IRS and it would be your net earnings from self-employment after deducting all your business expenses that is reported to SSA by IRS.

There is, however, a special rule which would apply to you in your first calendar year of self-employment while collecting early Social Security benefits. Since, in your first year, some of your earnings would be as a part-time employee paying SS FICA payroll taxes, Social Security would first look at your earnings as an employee to see if you exceeded the annual earnings limit (\$23,400 for 2025).

Then, upon starting your self-employment, Social Security would look at the hours you spent performing "substantial gainful activity" (e.g., driving your taxi) each month and, if you spent more than 45 hours per month in that capacity, you would not be considered "retired," and thus, not eligible for Social Security in any month you exceeded that amount of hours.

If you earned less than the annual limit in total both as an employee and while self-employed, you would get benefits for all months of the year. But

if you earn more than the annual limit, you will get no benefits for any month you exceeded 45 hours as a self-employed person. Again, this only applies during the first calendar year of self-employment - in the following year only your net earnings from self-employment would count toward the annual earnings limit.

In effect, SSA would use the hours-worked standard to see if you are truly retired or actually working. If the latter, they would withhold SS monthly benefits for any month you exceed 45 hours working while self-employed (up to and including December of your first calendar year of self-employment), and only if your total income (as an employee and while self-employed) exceeds the annual limit.

So, if your goal is to net \$1,200 - \$1,300 per month as a self-employed taxi driver, that would be well within the limits of the annual earnings test (\$23,400 for 2025 but changes yearly). But there may, or may not, be a reduction in your Social Security benefits during your first year of self-employment, depending on when you start as self-employed. Note that SSA will ask about your work plans when you apply, and if you expect to stay under the annual limit (working part time in both capacities), you should get full SS benefits. Just be careful to stay under the annual earnings limit for those collecting early Social Security benefits. FYI, earnings from before your SS benefits started don't count toward the earning limit.

Note, too, that your monthly Social Security benefit will be actuarially reduced according to how far in advance of your full retirement age you claim SS. Whenever SS benefits are claimed prior to one's full retirement age, those benefits are permanently reduced.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

A self-sown surprise

I was pleased to come home from vacation and see the changes in my work gardens over 10 days time. It was astounding to witness the growth that many of the plants put on!

One other thing I enjoyed seeing was a few "volunteers" that had popped up here and there. Celosia, portulaca and my favorite, the cleome, had germinated in bare spots in the garden.

While most of these plants did not fit in to the current year's design and had to be removed, the cleome, better known as "spider flower," popped up exactly where I would have wanted it. In a month or so I will have dome gorgeous flowers in the center of a bed, providing height right where I need it.

Spider flower goes by the scientific name *Cleome hasslerana*. Older cultivars such as "Helen Campbell" and the "Queen" series top off at an airy four or five feet tall, while the newer "Sparkler" hybrids are a bit shorter and bushier. Besides white, spider flower comes in pink, cherry and lavender.

It was given such a unique name because of the flower's long, slender stamens that remind one of spider legs protruding from the plant. The stamens hold the eventual seed pods a distance away giving them even more "popping power" once ripe.

As a child, I was drawn to the seed pods of this peculiar plant - if you waited

need in order to thrive- perhaps if I met those requirements I'd have better luck.

I had always known that cleomes prefer full sun and well-drained soil. What I didn't know was that they also like fertile soil and space away from one another. Regular doses of liquid feed are a must!

In the north, the cleome's habit of self-sowing doesn't become annoying, but in warmer areas it can become weedy. Clipping the seed-pods as mentioned above would "nip this problem in the bud." Seedlings that develop from volunteers will likely be a blend color-wise of the plants you grew last year because they are cross-pollinated by insects.

I will have to wait and see what color my self-sown cleome seedlings end up being, but lucky for me the rest of the flowers in the garden bed are in pink and lavender shades and will blend perfectly the volunteers.

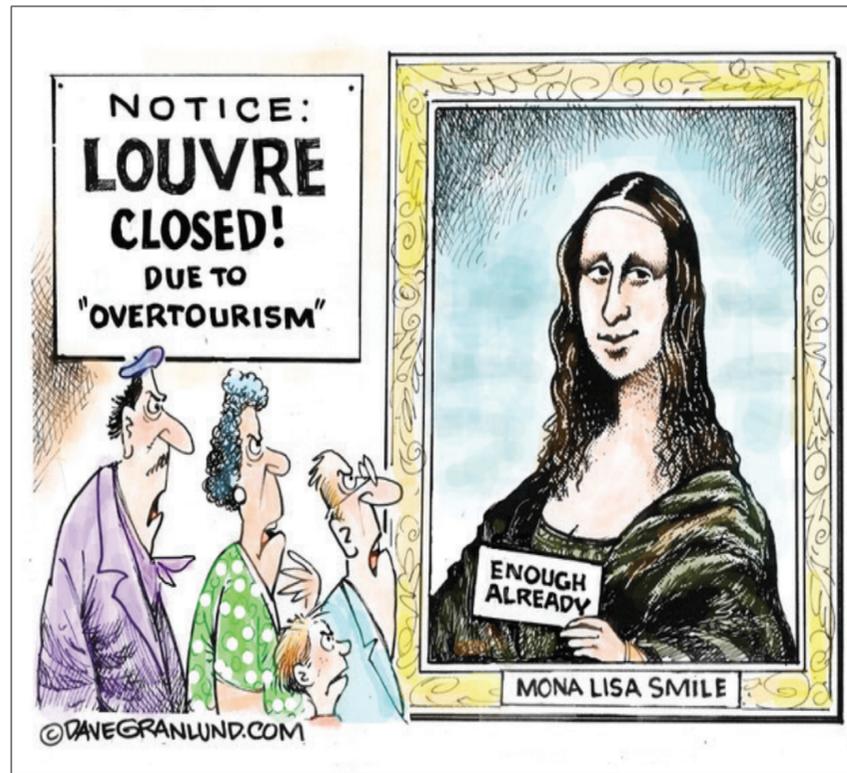
Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

until they were "just right" and gave them a squeeze, the seeds would fly everywhere. What fun!

This attribute gives the plant tremendous "staying power" in the garden- in other words it pops up everywhere the following season! This can be a very good thing if you enjoy having the cleome around as much as I do.

Because cleomes are flower producing powerhouses they sometimes become exhausted by midsummer; their lower leaves yellow and flowers start to fade. I always thought that if they were dead headed like other, more common annuals were, maybe they would last longer into the season.

So, as an experiment I clipped the seed-pods close to the plant as soon as they began to form. Unfortunately, the overall form of the plant was altered- not for the better and with little reward for my work. Then I began to search out what exactly cleomes



Holyoke Medical Center offers cancer support group

HOLYOKE - Holyoke Medical Center will host an ongoing Cancer Support Group for community members and/or caregivers dealing with cancer. The group will meet in the Fran Como Conference Room of Holyoke Medical Center, 575 Beech Street, Holyoke, from 4:30pm - 6pm on the following dates: July 10, August 14, September 11, October 9, and November 13.

Holyoke Medical Center will provide a safe place for active and surviving cancer patients, families, and caregivers to share thoughts and feelings with others dealing with similar concerns and emotions.

"Support groups are a safe place to talk about emotions and difficult subjects. Our group members have developed a community through shared experiences and feelings, and create a welcoming space for others to feel heard,

understood, supported, cared for, and accepted," said James Haskins, MSW, LICSW, ACSW, HMC Oncology Social Worker.

The Holyoke Medical Center Cancer Support Group offers a light meal, along with education, activities, as well as facilitation of discussion around a variety of topics. Open feedback from support group members is encouraged, and a survey is provided at every group meeting to enhance future meetings.

Participants are asked to please register in advance to ensure enough food and materials are available for all. Please RSVP by calling 413.534.2520.

About Holyoke Medical Center:

Holyoke Medical Center (HMC) is a 219-bed independent community hospital with over 1,800 employees serving individuals and families throughout the cities and

towns of the Pioneer Valley. The medical staff includes more than 375 physicians and consulting staff. Holyoke Medical Center is a nationally accredited hospital and is the first and only hospital in Western Massachusetts to obtain the prestigious accomplishment of becoming certified in the ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System. HMC received the Top Hospital Award in 2020, 2016, and 2014 from the Leapfrog Group for excellence in quality of care and patient safety. This full-service hospital provides a complete line of inpatient and outpatient medical and surgical services. Holyoke Medical Center is a member of Valley Health Systems in Holyoke, which also includes the affiliates Holyoke Medical Group and Holyoke Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice Life Care. To learn more, visit www.holyoke-health.com.

OPINION PAGE/ LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the Editor have a maximum of 350 words. We require writers to include their name, address and phone number in order for our office to authenticate authorship prior to publication. Addresses and phone numbers are not published.

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions. Libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks or defamations of character are not allowed. Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

Please email (preferred) letters to townreminder@turley.com. Mailed letters can be sent to Town Reminder, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

Turley Election Policy

This newspaper will print free self-submitted statements of candidacy only four weeks or more out from the election. All candidates running in both contested and uncontested races are asked to submit their statements to the editor to include only biographical and campaign platform details. Total word count for statements is limited to between 300-500 words maximum. Please include a photo. We will not publish any statements of candidacy inside the four weeks from election threshold. To publish any other campaign publicity during the race, please contact our advertising representatives. We also do not allow personal attacks against other candidates or political parties in statements of candidacy, nor do we publish for free any information about key endorsements or political fundraisers.

Letters to the editor of no more than 250 words from supporters endorsing specific candidates or discussing campaign issues are limited to three total per author during the election season. No election letters will appear in the final edition before the election. We reserve the right to edit all statements of candidacy and letters to the editor to meet our guidelines.

TOWN Reminder

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The *Town Reminder* is published every Friday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass., 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.

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WE ♥ OUR READERS

Porter-Phelps-Huntington Museum to host community days

The Porter-Phelps-Huntington Museum to host community days in Amherst, Shutesbury, Leverett, Hadley, South Hadley, and Sunderland.

HADLEY – The Porter-Phelps-Huntington-Museum invites all residents of Amherst, Shutesbury, Leverett, South Hadley, Hadley, and Sunderland to a Community Day on Saturday, July 19, for a free guided tour from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., available every half hour. The museum features a tour that foregrounds the lives of six enslaved Africans at the site-Zebulon Prutt, Cesar, Peg, Phillis, Rose, and Phillis- in addition to exploring the home's transition into a museum. Guests can

relax on the back porch with complimentary refreshments and conversation after the tour. The museum is located at 130 River Drive, Route 47, Hadley, MA 01035. The museum and its grounds are a smoke-free site. For more information, please call (413) 584-4699 or go to www.pphmuseum.org/community-days.

Community Days are a staple of the Porter-Phelps-Huntington Museum's programming, and the museum is delighted to offer these events. Recently, the museum was designated the "Forty Acres and its Skirts National Historic District" by the Massachusetts Historical Commission. Members of the community are encouraged

to explore the grounds and learn about the history of the Connecticut River Valley. The Museum is also the Connecticut River National Scenic Byway Visitor Center and the starting point of a trail system from the river and to the top of Mount Warner.

Community Days will continue on Saturday, July 26, for residents of Northampton, Hatfield, Whately, South Deerfield, Belchertown, Pelham, and Granby.

The museum's Wednesday Folk Traditions concert series continues on July 23 with Tony Vacca with the World Rhythms Ensemble as they mix tradition and innovation to create a rhythm-heavy tour-de-force through the sources of jazz, Ju-ju,

samba, hip-hop, and blues. The Porter-Phelps-Huntington Museum is the designated Way-Point Center for the National Connecticut River Scenic Byway. The Museum hosts a panel exhibit on the natural history of the Valley, the Museum's history. A trail system begins at the Museum, traverses the farm fields along the river, and continues up the old buggy path to the top of Mount Warner, where the farm's cattle grazed in the 18th century. Trails are improved and open year-round.

The Porter-Phelps Huntington Museum sits on ancestral Nonotuck lands. The House was built in 1752 by Moses and Elizabeth Porter and was central to the 600-acre farmstead known

as "Forty Acres." Today, the 114 acre property is "Forty Acres and Its Skirts", a National Register of Historic Places district that includes the PPH museum and homestead, and neighboring Phelps farm, surrounded by protected farmland, forest, and river frontage. The Museum contains a collection of the belongings of seven generations of one extended Hadley family, and portrays the activities of family members, enslaved people, artisans, household servants, and farm laborers who made "Forty Acres" an important social

and commercial link in local, regional and national cultural and economic networks. The Porter-Phelps-Huntington Family Papers, one of the largest collections of family papers in the country, are now housed at Special Collections & University Archives at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

The Porter-Phelps-Huntington Museum is located at 130 River Drive, Hadley, MA, on Route 47 just two miles north of the junction of Routes 9 and 47 North in Hadley. (413) 584-4699 www.pphmuseum.org

PVPA adds Technical Design and Production Dept.

SOUTH HADLEY – Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School (PVPA) is expanding the school's Arts classes to add a fifth Arts Department: Technical Design and Production. The Technical Design and Production track will include courses ranging from Costuming, Stage Design, Cinematography, Stage Construction, Lighting Design, Scenic Design, Sound Design and Engineering and more. With the additional twenty-six classes in Technical Design and Production, PVPA will have over one hundred Arts Courses offered across five Arts Departments, joining existing courses in Music, Dance, Theater and Visual Arts.

Technical Theater and the skills associated with it have always been a valued part of the PVPA school community, with students assisting in everything from costuming

to stage management. PVPA "Techies" have been the behind the scenes support that makes PVPA's twelve to fourteen shows a year run smoothly throughout the school's history. With the investment into Technical Design and Production, PVPA is excited to make a commitment to this artistic discipline.

PVPA will also be offering free bus transportation to all students residing within the school's new region, beginning with the upcoming school year. For the first time in the school's 30 year history, all students will have the option to pick up the bus less than 2 miles from their home. PVPA has long been aware that lack of affordable transportation has been a barrier for many students considering attending the school, and looks forward to making PVPA more accessible to all students.

PVPA is currently ac-

cepting applications for the 2025/2026 school year at www.pvpa.org/admissions. Application deadline is July 1, 2025. An enrollment lottery will take place on July 3, 2025 for Grades 7 & 10. All other applications will be held until current waitlists are exhausted. PVPA is a public charter school; there is no tuition or audition required to attend. All Massachusetts students entering grades 7-11 are welcome to apply, with priority given to students from within the school's region.

PVPA's region includes the following school districts: Agawam, Amherst-Pelham (Amherst, Leverett, Pelham and Shutesbury), Belchertown, Chicopee, East Longmeadow, Easthampton, Granby, Hadley, Hampden-Wilbraham (Hampden and Wilbraham), Hampshire (Chesterfield, Goshen, Southampton, Westhampton, Williamsburg, Worthington),

Hatfield, Holyoke, Ludlow, Northampton, South Hadley, Springfield, West Springfield, and Westfield.

PVPA is a publicly funded charter school, authorized by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, enrolling 400 students in grades 7-12. PVPA offers a college preparatory curriculum that provides all students a broad exposure to the performing arts.

Per MA General Laws, Chapter 76: Section 5, PVPA does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, creed, sex, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, mental or physical disability, age, ancestry, athletic performance, special need, proficiency in the English language or academic achievement.

Please contact PVPA at admissions@pvpa.org with any further questions.

Buttery Brook Park: Here comes Big Rig Day!

SOUTH HADLEY – Get ready for some fun at Buttery Brook Park, and for the return of the annual Big Rig Day next week, and the grand opening of the Disc Golf Course.

Friday, July 11 - Cruise Night & Live Music featuring Off The Record, 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the front pavilion.

Wednesday, July 16 - Children's Concert: Ed Popielarczyk's Comedy Magic Show, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, July 16 -

Farmer's Market, 2 to 6 p.m. Thursday, July 17 - Big Rig Day, 10 a.m. to noon.

Friday, July 18 - Disc Golf Course Grand Opening, Cruise Night & Live Music featuring The Wonder Yearz, from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on the soccer field.

Pickleball Courts - Daily Open Play (Monday to Sunday), from 8:30 a.m. 11 a.m. / Weeknight Open Play (Monday to Friday), 4:30 to 10 p.m.

Spray Park - Open Daily, 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

South Hadley Band to host doc preview

SOUTH HADLEY – The townspeople of South Hadley are invited to attend the Preview Party for the documentary "The Town with the Band," which highlights the legacy of Dr. Roger W. Farnsworth and the South Hadley Tiger Marching Hundred band from 1965 to 1980. This free event is scheduled for Saturday, August 23 at 1 p.m. at the South Hadley High School auditori-

um. The film has a runtime of approximately one hour and fifteen minutes, and will be followed by a Q&A session featuring former Band Director Dr. Farnsworth and former Associate Band Director Frank P. Fuller. For further information please contact Charlene Malanowski Mahoney at cmahoney192@gmail.com or Karen Kawalec Quinn at jkequinn@gmail.com.

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South Hadley COA's special events for July

SOUTH HADLEY – With the hot summer upon us, keep in mind that the South Hadley Council on Aging and Library are both Cooling Centers to get out of the heat!

The COA's Summer Concert Series begins with Wild Bill & Big Trouble on Thursday, July 17 at 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tickets include a mouthwatering BBQ lunch and the concert for just \$8.

The July Art Exhibit features Ross McNamara. Come and meet the artist on July 11 at 12:30 p.m.

Come to the COA for Fun Fridays in July: Join us every Friday in July for free ice cream, live music and a variety of vendors selling handmade goods.

On Tuesday, July 15 from 1 to 3 p.m., there will be Birthday Bingo! Featuring bingo, cake prizes and a special raffle just for those celebrating a birthday or anniversary in the month of

July. Open to everyone over the age of 60, even if you're not celebrating a special occasion.

On Friday, July 18 at 8:30 a.m., we will be hosting a delicious breakfast for just \$3.00.

On Wednesday, July 23 at 1:30 p.m., come to a special information session on Understanding Online News & Media.

On Wednesday, July 23 at 2 p.m., join us for a trip to Buttery Brook Farmer's Market. Sign up at the Welcome Desk to join us.

On Thursday, July 24 at 1:30 p.m., a representative from Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Massachusetts will provide information for individuals approaching Medicare eligibility.

On Monday, July 31 at 1:30 p.m. Neil Broome will be sharing an eclectic and entertaining look at the stunning country of Switzerland. Don't miss this inspiring visual adventure!



Paul, Ann, Mary Lou, and Representative Homar Gomez with a full truck for Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

FOOD from page 1

"The timing of this was great as the food bank is closed for end of fiscal year inventory so the Veterans pantry did not pick up their usual load this past week. The Veterans Pantry goes through 10,000 pounds of food per week. Thank you to all who came out. Lots of great food, variety."

"Neighbors Helping Neighbors is able to reach hundreds of people in South Hadley who are struggling to provide nutritious meals they need to thrive," said Jim Bosman, a volunteer in South Hadley.

"We were thrilled with the enthusiastic response, and to see how genuinely happy to help out everyone was when they dropped off their donations. Those who came also took care to check expiration dates, which was very helpful as most items could be readily used by the food pantry," said Lucia Foley, another volunteer at South Hadley's drive.

Over 70 cars came to the South Hadley High School's parking lot to bring their food donations, and State Representative Homar Gomez was there helping load the trucks.

The Neighbors Helping Neighbors van ended up filled with 1968 pounds of food donations, and \$960 from the generous community's donations.

"Food pantries do the 'unseen' work in our communities. Learning about the volunteers who run Helping Hands, putting faces to those who quietly do this work day in and day out, and hearing directly what the needs are," said Lapenas.



Jean Marie and Zoe at the Helping Hands Cupboard in Belchertown.



Zoe, Jenine, Lynda, and Cara collecting food donations for Helping Hands Cupboard.



Homar Gomez helping to load the truck in South Hadley.



Submitted photos Here, left to right: Susie Knightly, Leonard Yakir, Joan Grenier, Trevor Augustino, Lumila Dibble, Tobias Wilson and Sue Bennett accepting, sorting and packing.

LIBRARY from page 1

town's library host one, Arch decided to bring it to South Hadley, and give it her own twist by having monthly meetings through the summer.

"In My First Book Club, we sit together, introduce ourselves, read a book together, and talk about it. I bring extra copies of the book so everyone can have their own copy to follow along," said Arch.

Kids can also have the option to take turns reading out loud if they would like to, and after reading together, do a craft or activity related to the books.

For July's, the kids read

"Meet Yasmin" by Saadia Faruqui, and then made a patterned bookmark like Yasmin did, and after reading "What About Worms?!" by Ryan T. Higgins, colored pages from the book. For "Charlie and Mouse" by Laurel Snyder, the kids and Miss Jenny compared and looked at some different cover designs and completed a maze and word search.

My First Book Club is a warm and welcoming place, where kids can meet some new friends and take part in their own event to read books together this summer.

My First Book Club will hold its next meeting on Monday, August 11 at 6:30 p.m., in place of Pajama Storytime.

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Aldenville Post 337 falls to West Springfield

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

CHICOPEE – The only sport that allows mulligans is golf.

The Aldenville Post 337 Legion baseball team could've used a mulligan against West Springfield Post 207.

After giving up four runs in the top of the first inning, the Post 337 squad entered the bottom of the fifth inning trailing, 6-1. The home team closed the gap to 6-3, but West Side scored five more runs in the sixth and celebrated an 11-3 victory at Szot Park in Chicopee, last Monday night (June 30).

"We battled back a little bit after falling behind early in the game," said Aldenville co-manager Nate Carillon, who remained upbeat following his team's third home loss of the regular season. "They just caught us on a bad day. Hopefully, we play much better in our next game."

Aldenville (3-5), who won their first three road games, needed a victory to enter the month of July with a .500 record.

Carillon, who shares the coaching duties with Mason Scott, is hoping his squad can put together a winning streak just like they did a year ago.

"We got hot at the end of the regular season last year," Carillon said. "We won six or seven games in a row before losing to Belchertown in the championship game by one run."

One of the bright spots for Aldenville in the home loss was catcher Alex Savlick. He had two base hits with a walk and scored two runs. He also

threw out two runners trying to steal.

"Alex played very well in tonight's game," Carillon said. "He had a couple of base hits and also threw out two runners. He's a very good catcher."

Savlick, who plays several different positions, lives in Springfield and attends Minnechaug Regional as a school

choice student.

Memphis Huertas, who goes to South Hadley High School, is normally the starting catcher for Aldenville. Huertas missed a couple of Legion games because he was playing in a base-

Please see **POST 337**, page 8



Charlie Maxwell makes the throw to first.



Matt Sutton slings a throw across the diamond.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Justin Moskal catches the out at first.

Pioneers punch playoff tickets with victory

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW – After winning the USL D-3Pro League championship title in 1999, the Western Mass. Pioneers only qualified for the playoffs five times during the next 20 years.

Since joining USL League Two in 2019, the Pioneers have qualified for the playoffs each season.

The Pioneers clinched a berth in this year's playoffs following a 5-0 win over the Albany Rush before a large gathering at historic Lusitano Stadium, last Wednesday night.

"This is the sixth time in a row that we've made the playoffs," said Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari, who's been coaching the men's squad since 2012. "I think it's a very good accomplishment for the club. We need to win our last two regular season games to have a chance to finish in first place."

The Pioneers (9-1-2), who have finished in second place in the league standings during the past three years, are battling Vermont Green FC (9-0-2) for the top spot in the Northeast Division table.

"We accomplished one of our goals tonight by clinching a playoff berth," said Pioneers midfielder Augustine Boadi. "We're now trying to win the league title."

The Pioneers were scheduled to play a road match against the New England FC on Monday night before closing out the regular season by hosting the boys from Vermont on Friday night.

The Vermont Green won the first meeting of this season between the two squads, 2-0, which took place in front of 2,500 enthusiastic soccer

fans at Virtue Field located on the University of Vermont campus on June 17.

When Vermont made the three-hour trip south on Rte. 91 to Lusitano Stadium a year ago, they clinched a playoff berth with a 3-1 win over the Pioneers in the regular season finale. It was the Pioneers, who had already locked up a playoff berth, only home loss of the 2024 campaign.

Entering last Wednesday's match, Albany (2-9-1) had never defeated the Pioneers since they joined USL League Two in 2022.

The Pioneers, who defeated the Rush, 6-0, on May 19, put the second meeting out of reach by scoring four goals in the first half.

"Building a large first half lead allowed us to relax a little bit in the second half," Molinari said. "We played very well tonight."

The Rush have gone 0-7-1 since celebrating back-to-back victories against Black Rock and Boston City FC at the end of May. Any hopes they might've had about upsetting the Pioneers didn't last very long.

The home team took a 1-0 lead following a corner kick goal in the ninth minute.

Defender Gustavo Barbosa booted the ball into the box from the right corner. Then Boadi sent a pass to forward Jose Bustamante who tapped the ball into the net past Albany goalie James Joyce.

A little more than ten minutes later, Matt Cence, who's also a midfielder, delivered a crossing pass from the right wing into the box. Boadi finished the play by scoring his first goal of the season.

"I've been on a goal drought for a long time," Bo-

Please see **PIONEERS**, page 8

Mutiny closes out regular season



Mila Dillard, of Chicopee, heads down the field.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Avery Klingensmith, of Belchertown, tries to get a pass away.

Maddy Theriault, a Agawam's Hope Santaniello, corrals the ball.



Agawam's Hope Santaniello fights for possession of the ball.



Samantha Breton, of Chicopee, tries to fake out an opponent.



Bella Santaniello, gets in the action for the Worcester Fuel during a recent matchup with the Mutiny.

LUDLOW – The New England Mutiny, which gathers talent from all over the region to play its home matches at Ludlow's Lusitano Stadium, recently wrapped up its regular season, including an impromptu 12-0

win over the Worcester Fuel. The Mutiny's short season will lead them to the playoffs, which are likely to take place on the road this year. The Mutiny have hosted playoffs at Lusitano in the past.

Blue Sox edged by Danbury

HOLYOKE – On First Responders’ Day at MacKenzie Stadium last Sunday, where members of the Holyoke Fire and Police Departments were honored, the Valley Blue Sox narrowly fell to the visiting Danbury Westerners 8-7.

The Westerners quickly jumped in front, as centerfielder Garrett Larsen launched a home run over the left field wall during the game’s first at-bat.

The early offense set the tone for a game that showcased nine lead changes and ties.

Sunday’s back-and-forth battle came to a head when Danbury extended their lead on a Grayson Sparr RBI double in the eighth inning. That run proved to be the difference, as Danbury edged out an 8-7 win.

“We’re going to continue to stay on the offensive attack,” said Blue Sox manager Endy Morales.

“We’re staying right there. I think mentality, we just got to continue to put good swings on balls. We played better defense today, so as long as we continue to stay forward and move forward, I think we’ll be fine.”

Valley tallied 11 hits in the loss. Nick Spaventa picked up three hits and two RBI in five appearances. Sebastian Mexico had a two hit performance, adding two RBI. Michael Elko added the other multi-hit outing for Valley, while Rees Kozar and Wyatt Hunt earned RBIs.

Danbury’s Aidan Paradine went three for three with an RBI. Left fielder Michael Iannazzo produced two RBI from two hits, and Gavin Donohue collected two runs, a hit and an RBI from four plate appearances. Sparr and Larsen had two hits apiece.

Kenan Elarton started for Danbury and Andrew Koshy earned the win in relief. Harper McLendon was given the loss. Teo Spadacini got credit for the save.

Valley falls to a record of 11-13. Danbury improves to a 9-13 record on the season.

After an off day tomorrow, the Blue Sox enter a stretch in which they will play six games over the course of five days.

“It’s going to take everybody,” said Morales. “This is why we have the wonderful resources of Adam Feit and the [training] facility, and taking advantage of the off days. We have all these resources so that we can withhold a stretch like that. It’s going to take every single guy, not just to look ahead, but to attack the game that’s right in front of us. I think we’ll be just fine if we do that.”

Quabbin Valley to host second league

Following up on the resounding success of its inaugural campaign, the Quabbin Valley Baseball League, an over-28 adult baseball league will hold its second Fall League this September and October.

Seeking to create a similar competition environment to its spring/summer league, Quabbin Valley, with contributions from the Valley Wheel Over-28 Baseball League, created a four-team fall league last year featuring the Braves, Dodgers, Cardinals, and Twins.

Those same four teams are set to return and each team tends to have openings on them. Additionally, the

league is open to welcoming more teams in to the league if it finds enough interest.

While the fall league schedule is still under construction, it will mostly feature Sunday morning games played with wood-bat only, which is customary for fall baseball. There could be some Saturday games added to the schedule depending on the completion of the spring/summer season as well as to makeup rain-outs, potentially. Games are nine-innings long and there is a small playoff and championship held at the end of the season. Last year’s fall season was eight games and that is the goal for this year. Free and low-cost fields

are used as well as just one umpire in an effort to keep the costs lower for players. The cost to play will likely range from \$40 to \$60 for the eight-game schedule. Players from outside the Quabbin League may also pay a small fee for insurance as well.

An interest/registration form, will be forthcoming soon, but until then, to express interest in the league, you can email the coordinators of the league at either GScibelli22@yahoo.com or ikhandfield@gmail.com.

Scheduled and team placement for unaffiliated players will be finalized in mid-to-late August. Please join in the fun this fall.

Registration open for soccer jamboree

BELCHERTOWN – The Third Annual Julia’s 3v3 Soccer Jamboree is scheduled to be held at the State Street Fields in Belchertown on August 16th, 2025. The annual event is held in memory of 13-year-old Julia Haynes who passed away in March of 2023 following a battle with brain cancer. All of the funds the Jamboree raises benefit the Julia Haynes Scholarship Fund, which is a 501(c)(3) founded

by four of Julia’s classmates. The first two events hosted more than 60 teams, each year, in grades 3 through high school for the all-day event bracket which also featured food trucks, raffle and dunk tank.

Registration is open until July 20 and is \$100 per team for up to four players and includes an event t shirt. There is also a new bracket for class of 2022 - 2025 participants. There

will again be food trucks, a DJ and some fun activities for attendees including a raffle. Those interested in registering a team, becoming a volunteer, sponsor or donating to the raffle can get more details on the @julias3v3jamboree Instagram or Julia’s 3v3 Soccer Jamboree Facebook pages or through Rungsignup: https://rungsignup.com/Race/MA/Belchertown/Julias3v3SoccerJamboree

PIONEERS from page 7

di said. “I’ve been working very hard, and it feels very nice to finally score a couple of goals, especially in front of the home crowd. You can’t ask for anything better than that.”

Cence and Boadi hooked up again in the 24th minute. This time, Boadi blasted a shot into the upper right corner of the net.

While Cence and Boadi are teammates during the summer, they’ll be opposing each other at the beginning of September.

Boadi, who’s one of the Pioneers veteran players, is also a member of the men’s soccer team at Bryant University, while Cence plays at

UMass-Amherst.

Aidan Kelly, who’s the Pioneers captain and defender, is also a member of the Minutemen men’s soccer team

The two college soccer teams are scheduled to meet each other in a non-conference match in Amherst on September 6.

“It’s always a lot of fun playing your summer teammates during the college soccer season,” said Boadi, who would like to play for a professional soccer team after graduating from college next year. “I’m hoping that we can win our game against UMass. We talk about it all the time and I’m really looking forward to that match.”

Cence is a first-year member of the Western

Mass. squad.

“I’m thankful for coach Molinari allowing me to join the team this year,” Cence said. “It has been a great experience and the guys on the team are awesome.”

Cence also assisted on the Pioneers’ fourth goal, which was scored by midfielder Robbie Lyons in the 34th minute.

The Pioneers had several more scoring chances during the second half.

Bustamante netted his second goal of the match during the 82nd minute. Defender Alejandro Carrillo was credited with the assist.

Goalie Alan Horrocks only had to make a couple of save in recording the Pioneers sixth shutout of the season.

Polewarczyk grabs win

HUDSON, N.H. – Joey Polewarczyk left no doubt Sunday night as to who holds the home track advantage at Hudson Speedway.

The Hudson, N.H., native and 2020 Granite State Pro Stock Series champion, led every lap en route to his second straight victory in the series’ annual Gate City Classic 100.

Only a pre-race redraw could keep “Joey Pole” from starting on the pole, as the veteran clocked in fastest in time trials but redrew second. Two-time GSPSS champ Joey Doiron led the field to green, but Polewarczyk nosed out front before the field even reached turn one.

Polewarczyk and Doiron showed the way for the first nine laps, until Bobby Frappier nosed into the turn-three concrete to bring out the evening’s first caution flag. On the restart, Polewarczyk reasserted himself out front, keeping Doiron at arm’s length but setting a brisk pace around the high-banked quarter-mile.

While the two veterans held firm out front, former Hudson winner Angelo Bel-

sito diced for third with recent winner Evan Beaulieu and first-time starter Connor McDougal. Eddie MacDonald lingered in the distance, cracking the top five by half-way as he gave Belsito fits for fourth.

Polewarczyk and Doiron were well ahead of the pack when Cory Casagrande ran up on a slower car in heavy traffic, sending the car for a spin and drawing a yellow flag with 25 laps to go.

Once again, the lead duo took off from the field, but the battle for third heated up as “The Outlaw” cleared Belsito, then Beaulieu, to claw his way toward the podium. Belsito and Beaulieu quickly found their hands full with a charging Casagrande and Cole Robie, both trying to make up for lost time in the closing laps.

But not even Doiron could chase down Polewarczyk, who gapped Doiron by nearly half a second on the way to his fourth GSPSS win at his home track.

Doiron’s runner-up result was his best-ever finish at Hudson, the track where he last finished a GSPSS race

outside the top ten back in 2020.

MacDonald brought car owner Dale Drew’s No. 50 home in third, with Beaulieu close on his heels in fourth. Robie finished fifth, giving the young hard charger three top-five runs to open the season.

Casagrande was sixth after an early exit one week ago at Speedway 95, while Belsito slipped all the way to seventh in the home stretch. Frankie Eldredge had his best GSPSS performance yet with an eighth-place finish, while McDougal and Josh St. Clair rounded out the top ten.

Polewarczyk’s ninth GSPSS win elevates the 36-year-old to second on the series’ all-time win list behind D.J. Shaw. His home-track mastery has played a big part; only once in five GSPSS appearances at Hudson has Polewarczyk not parked in the winner’s circle.

The GSPSS teams have a week off to celebrate Independence Day before returning to action on Friday, July 11 at Claremont Motorsports Park, kicking off a four-week midsummer trek through New Hampshire.



Brandon Carillon makes the play for Post 337.



Matt Drobiak sends a pitch home.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

POST 337 from page 7

ball tournament in Georgia with his travel team.

Matt Drobiak, who was Aldenville’s starting pitcher against West Springfield (2-6), also had two base hits.

The home team’s only other hits were by centerfielder Noah Carillon, leftfielder Lincoln Belsky, and shortstop Brandon Carillon.

West Springfield took advantage of a couple of errors to build a 4-0 lead in the top of the first inning.

Shortstop Aiden Wykes, who’s from Agawam, fouled off several pitches leading off the game before lining a single into right field. He scored the game’s first run on a passed ball.

The other four Post 207 players from Agawam are Jonah Higby, Owen Lavelle, Joe Szemela, and Nolan Longo.

The visitors scored another run when Lavelle (2-for-3), who started in left field, hit a ground ball single into left field. The other two runs crossed the plate following a

throwing error.

Noah Carillon and third baseman Matt Sutton, who was a freshman on the Chippopee Comp varsity baseball team this past spring, reached base on walks during the first two innings.

Post 337 scored a run in the third inning.

With one-out, Savlick drew another walk before stealing second base. Then Noah Carillon belted a double to the gap in right center and Savlick scored easily.

West Side took a 6-1 lead in the fifth following another RBI single by Lavelle and a fielding error.

Aldenville got those two runs right back in the bottom half of the inning.

Belsky drove home the first run with a line-drive single to center field with one-out.

At that point, Higby, who began the game as the designated hitter, replaced right-hander PJ Greenia on the mound.

Higby, who’s also a righty, allowed an inherited runner to

score when Drobiak blasted a double to left.

Then second baseman Charlie Maxwell walked which brought the potential tying run to the plate.

Higby, who wound up as the winning pitcher, escaped the jam by recording back-to-back strikeouts.

The two West Side pitchers combined for twelve strikeouts.

The visiting team pretty much put the game out of reach in their next at-bats. Szemela capped off the big inning with a two-run single. Lavelle and first baseman Michael Zarelli also provided RBI hits during that frame which helped West Side build an 11-3 lead.

With one-out in the seventh inning, Drobiak singled to left. After stealing both second and third, he scored on a throwing error by the catcher.

Higby retired the next two batters on flyballs ending the game, which lasted more than two hours.

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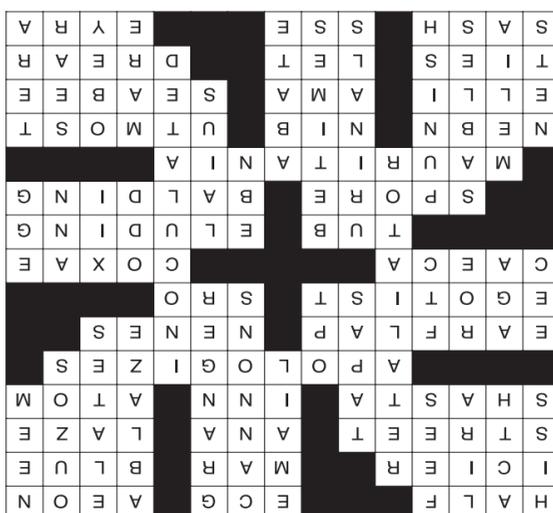
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Granby Library's Youth Summer Reading Program Is Here!

GRANBY – Join the club! We are excited to announce The Granby Library's free Summer Reading Program for 2025, "Level Up at Your Library" which starts on June 20!

We have fun activities and great prizes to win. Kids birth through age 11 can sign up at the Children's Desk and get a folder (which they keep all summer) including a log sheet, calendar of events and more. Reading 15 minutes a day helps prevent learning loss over the summer.

Read (or be read to) anything you want from home or on the go, simply mark off on the included log calendar for each day that you read for 15 minutes (read 10 min. to the youngest participants)!

All participants get a free book, free Cindy's Ice Cream cone coupon prize pack when they log 25 days of reading. Participants can stop in for raffle tickets for our weekly raffle baskets and stickers to decorate their folders.

The completed reading log is kid's entry to the two main prizes - \$175. gift cer-

tificate for Mystic Aquarium & sea fun puzzle/ book and a \$100 gift certificate for Magic Wings & a butterfly hatchery set.

Silly Pet Photo Contest Capture your pet on camera looking silly! Photos will be voted on & the silliest pet in photo will win a \$50.gift certificate for Granby Grain. Drop off /email a photo through August 1 to: janicemcardlegpl@gmail.com

Don't fur-get! "Reading Buddies" is bark at the library! It's a grrreat, low-stress way to gain confidence in your reading. For kids in K & up. Sign up for a slot: June 12 & 26 and July 10 & 24.

Level Up with Yeti and Unicorns July 15- 19

Mythological creatures are fun to read about! It's all about them this week. Drop in crafts on July 16th are adorable Yarn Yetis and magical Flower Crowns. Weeklong: Guess how many unicorns are in the jar? and Hunt for Magical Creatures too! This week we have 2 raffle baskets: One Unicorn basket and one Yeti basket.

Level Up with Games July 22- 26

Minecraft Madness!! with Jungle Jim Friday, July 25 at 11 a.m.

A fast-paced, interactive show that brings the world of Minecraft to life with: Building Block Madness Tournament, Balloon Firework Rocket Show, Zombie Chase Challenge & an Awe-inspiring giant 6-foot balloon finale. You don't want to miss this!Week-long Minecraft table. Play "Findcraft." This week's raffle basket is Minecraft themed.

Level Up with Superheroes July 29- August 2

Lego Superheroes Wednesday, July 30 3pm. Create a Superhero or Dogman (he's a hero too) Lego mosaic using a pattern card. Pre-register, space is limited. Kids keep the Lego. Ages 4 & up Drop in to color a Dog Man sheet & make a Dog Man badge July 30-Aug.2. Enter a superhero raffle with your weekly raffle ticket.

Guess What Book is in the Jar July 16 - 30

If you guess what book is shredded in the jar you win a "munch & play" prize basket!

Would You Rather - "Ice Cream Edition" July 22 - August 2

Fill out a "Would you Rather" sheet for a chance to win free ice cream! Sheets for younger & older kids.

Drop in crafts are all "while supplies last."

Stop in or call the library at 413-467-3320 during open hours to pre-register for programs.

Granby Library hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Thursday 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Check out "Granby Library Children's Room" page on Facebook for updates & news!

Teen "Got Summer Reading Program" at the Granby Library June 20 - August 22, 2025, for students entering grades 7 -12

Teens, read your required Summer Reading books or just for fun books and you'll have a chance to win one of several great prizes at the Granby Library!

You may also buy a great

book from a special selection, with 1 raffle ticket. For each book you read this summer, teens fill out a raffle ticket in the teen room. Keep track of the books you read on a "Got Summer reading" sheet that you pick up at the library or download on our website under "Young Adult." Bring this sheet into the library after you've read 1 book for a free coupon for a Cindy's Drive In ice cream cone.

Teens, also come on in & cool down this summer, there's always something to do in the Young Adult Room. Check out the craft & board game cart, plus the following activities!

Play "Would You Rather? Pizza Edition! July 8 - August 22

It's all about the slice... win free pizza! Pizza sticker sheets, guessing jar - How many slices of pizza gummies are in the jar? Drop in to play! 1 time per teen.

Unmask the Title of the Shredded Book in the Jar... what's its true identity?

Win a goodie basket! Through July.

Summer Long ~

June 20 - August 22

Build the Granby Library Lego Tower Each time you stop in grab a handful of Lego, add to the tower. How high can we go?

Help us build an art gallery!

Create a post it note masterpiece and add it to our collection. We are excited to see what you can make on a tiny square! Summer long.

Weekly Drop-In Activities in the Young Adult Room & Take Home Crafts

New crafts start on the following dates & go until we run out of craft items.

Check our calendar for newly added activities!

July 8 on: Drop in to scratch art a bookmark. Take Home Craft Kits - Perler bead bracelets.

July 19 on: Drop in to create "Black Out Poetry". Take Home Craft Kits - sand mandala.

August 2 on: Drop in for DIY duct tape fun. Guessing Jar - Twin Snake Gummies. Take Home Craft Kits -Junk Journal Kit.

**1 of each activity per teen 11-18 yrs. while supplies last.

T-Birds bringing back Community Caravan

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds are proud to announce the return of the T-Birds Community Caravan, with support from MassMutual, marking the third annual summer tour designed to bring the excitement of Thunderbirds hockey to communities across the region.

This year's Caravan will include three stops throughout the Greater Springfield area during the summer months, continuing the initiative's mission to keep the T-Birds top-of-mind in the offseason while deepening the team's connection to local families and fans. This summer's Caravan dates are as follows:

- Saturday, July 19 - Sonny's Place, Somers, CT - 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

- Saturday, August 9 - Amelia Park Ice Arena, Westfield - 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. *

*The Westfield Community Caravan will also feature the annual T-Birds Street Hockey Tournament on the outdoor deck hockey court at Amelia Park. The Street Hockey Tournament features teams of players ages 9-12. To register your

team, click here.

"After a fantastic continuation of the program last summer, we're thrilled to bring back the Caravan and keep building on its success," said Thunderbirds President Nathan Costa. "We're equally excited to welcome back MassMutual as a partner and thank them for embracing our mission of being champions in the community beyond the Thunderdome."

Each free-to-attend event will feature appearances by Thunderbirds mascot Boomer, team staff, and a lively mix of interactive games, street hockey, family-friendly activities, and local vendors. Fans can also enjoy delicious food options, with each Caravan date spotlighting a local nonprofit beneficiary, helping to raise awareness and support for impactful community organizations.

"We're delighted to support the Springfield Thunderbirds not only on the ice but also throughout the local community," said Dennis Duquette, head of community responsibility at MassMutual and

president of the MassMutual Foundation. "Their caravan provides terrific activities for local kids and families, and we're proud to be a part of it."

The Springfield edition of the Caravan will be collecting donations benefiting The Gray House. Among the requested items are baby food, diapers and wipes, school supplies, and non-perishable food items. The Thunderbirds will also be hosting food drives at the July and August Caravan stops. The July Caravan at Sonny's Place will benefit the Enfield Food Shelf in Connecticut, while the August Caravan in Westfield will collect items for the Westfield Food Pantry.

Additional information for all Community Caravans will be released in the coming weeks via the Thunderbirds' website and social media channels.

For more information on upcoming events, including the Community Caravan, stay tuned to the T-Birds on social media @ThunderbirdsAHL, or visit the Community Tab on www.SpringfieldThunderbirds.com.

READING from page 1

counts, too.

"The idea is to build a habit of reading every day, which is an evidence-based way to prevent the 'summer slide', learning loss that can occur over the summer while school's out," said Arch. "There are a variety of game-themed prizes to choose from for those who 'win' the summer reading game, and everyone who participates will receive a coupon for ice cream at Cindy's in Granby (a huge thank you to Cindy's for donating these!)."

The kids' summer reading was kicked off with an event featuring Mass Capoeira, featuring a demonstration where everyone got to participate in the Afro-Brazilian martial art.

The kids will also be able to join in a Hula-Hooping event on July 16 at 2 p.m., and enjoy Mobile Mini Golf on Friday, Aug. 15 from 2 to 4 p.m. Kids will also be able to take part in a Book Binge on Thursday afternoons, where participants can win some free books.

For the teens, they get to look forward to their normal weekly activities and monthly Snackternoon, sponsored by the Friends of the South Hadley Public Library, as well as their yearly Night Rave, where teens take over the library for the evening.

"A Food Explorers program will be on Monday, Aug. 4, which is going to be pretty awesome and delicious," said Roberts.

There is a variety of prizes the teens can win, from mini ducks, water bottles, and even some gift cards, and every teen in the Summer Reading Program will also be able to earn a free ice cream certificate from Cindy's Drive-In.

"These are kindly offered by Cindy's Ice Cream in Granby every year. With teens, reading in any format every day for 20 minutes is strongly encouraged. I use the honor system with the teens," said Roberts. "We are offering a Reading Buddies program this summer twice a week through Thursday, Aug. 14, where our teen volunteers are reading with those ages 4-10. It's off to a

great start this summer."

"I always enjoy being able to see the teens over the summer, and that I have a larger number of teens coming in, and I get to do a lot more reader's advisory," said Roberts. "Our Summer Reading Program is for everyone. We have something for our youngest patrons, all the way to our youngest at heart. Everyone should sign up!"

"I love that they promote reading as a fun leisure activity. The library is extra busy in summer, and I get to see some families who don't visit here as much during the school year," said Arch.

The Odyssey Bookshop is also hosting a summer reading program and is participating in the Book Crawl, offering the perfect opportunity to visit your local independent bookstore.

The summer reading program is a wonderful opportunity for you to find something new, enjoy a re-read, or enjoy books vicariously through your children, bringing everyone to the library this summer for fun and memories to be made.

Send Us Your Community Autumn Events

Turley Publications will print your Autumn event FREE OF CHARGE in our Autumn Fest Supplement which will be published September 10, 2025. Total circulation of 85,000 which reaches over 200,000 readers in the Pioneer Valley. Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

FREE Calendar Listings Reaching over 200,000 Readers in the Pioneer Valley

Event Name _____

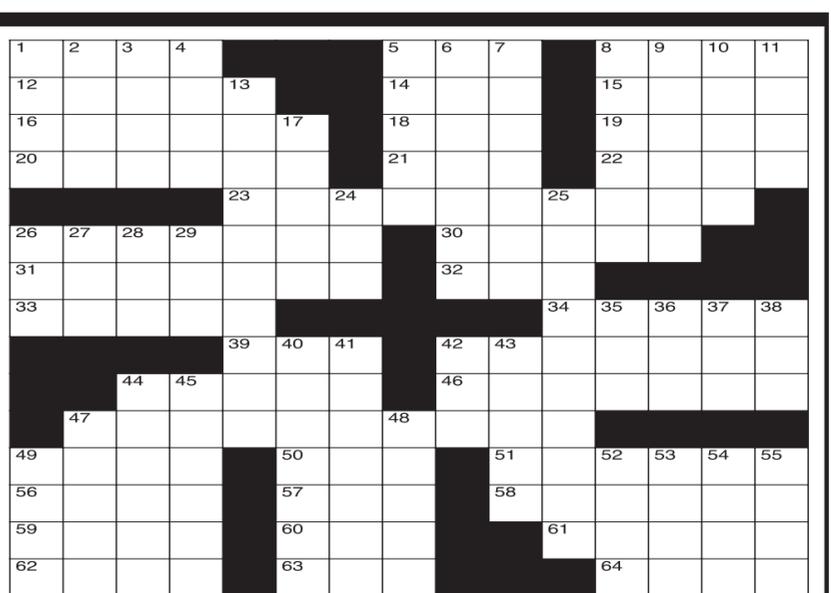
Date/Time _____

Location _____

Description _____

Cost _____

Contact name & phone number for more information _____



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|--|--------------------------------------|---|
| CLUES ACROSS | CLUES DOWN | CLUES DOWN |
| 1. 50 percent | 34. Hip joints | 1. Snakes do it |
| 5. Records electric currents | 39. A place to bathe | 2. Hormone |
| 8. Charlie Theron flick "___ Flux" | 42. Evading | 3. The standard monetary unit of Turkey |
| 12. More frosty | 44. Minute, one-celled unit | 4. Fixed charges |
| 14. Disfigure | 46. Losing one's hair | 5. Electronic communication |
| 15. Sky color | 47. A country in W Africa | 6. Artilleriers |
| 16. A thoroughfare in a town or city | 49. One point north of northeast | 7. "Strangers on a Train" actor Farley |
| 18. Actress de Armas | 50. Pointed end of a pen | 8. Burning |
| 19. Spend time in a relaxed way | 51. Extreme | 9. Makes ecstatically happy |
| 20. California peak | 56. Norse personification of old age | 10. Greek liqueurs |
| 21. Lodging option | 57. Doctors' group | 11. Tropical Old World tree |
| 22. Small amount of a thing | 58. Member of U.S. Navy | 13. Someone who takes vengeance |
| 23. Expresses sorrow | 59. Mens' fashion accessories | 17. Style of cuisine |
| 26. Keeps an ear warm | 60. A way to allow | 24. Select |
| 30. Babies (Spanish) | 61. Gloomy | 25. Immunized against disease |
| 31. A conceited and self-centered person | 62. Grads wear one | 26. Old world, new |
| 32. No seats available | 63. Between south and southeast | 27. Honorable title (Turkish) |
| 33. Pouches | 64. Jaguarundi cat | |
| | | 28. Court case: ___ v. Wade |
| | | 29. Supervises interstate commerce |
| | | 35. Not divisible by two |
| | | 36. Twelve |
| | | 37. Commentator |
| | | 38. Coulter |
| | | 40. Plumbing fixtures |
| | | 41. Early |
| | | 42. One point north of due east |
| | | 43. King of Thebes |
| | | 44. Short-tailed martens |
| | | 45. Impose a penalty on |
| | | 47. Consort of Poseidon |
| | | 48. A way to lessen |
| | | 49. Brooklyn hoops team |
| | | 52. Female of a horse |
| | | 53. Do as one is told |
| | | 54. A way to prepare meat |
| | | 55. Unit of measurement |



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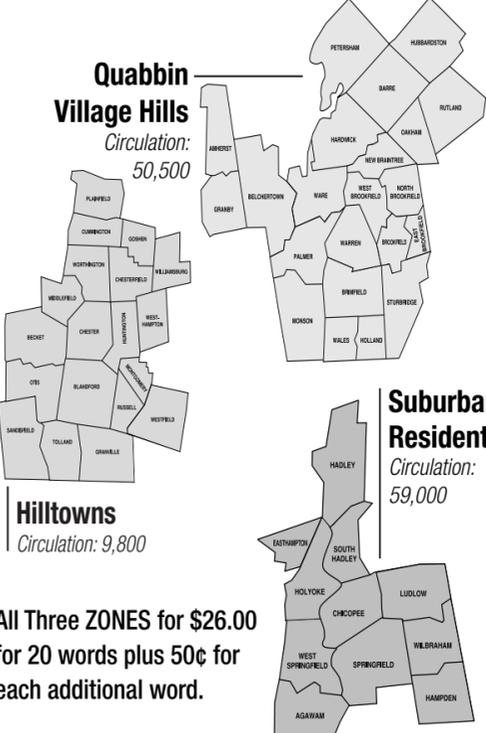
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Region

Freedom Credit Union collecting cash for food donations for the Food Bank

'Month of Giving' campaign extends from June 1 through August 31

REGION – Food insecurity continues to affect families across western Massachusetts, with inflation driving up the cost of everyday essentials. That's why Freedom Credit Union is again rallying support for its summer campaign benefiting the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts. From June 1 through August 31, the community is invited to contribute to a stronger community by donating nonperishable food, personal care items or monetary gifts at any Freedom branch.

"Thanks to the generosity of our members, staff and

entire community, this campaign has grown annually, and so has its impact," said Freedom Credit Union President Glenn Welch. "Last summer, we collected more than \$3,350 in donations, along with nearly 1,435 pounds of food and personal care items. This year, we're aiming even higher. By simply adding an extra item or two to your grocery cart each week, you can make a lasting difference without stretching your budget."

Suggested donations of non-perishable food and personal care items include:

- Baby formula
- Beans in cans or dried in bags
- Bread mixes
- Canned chicken, fish and

- meat
- Cereals
- Coffee and tea
- Cooking oils and spices
- Diapers, wipes and toilet paper
- Dried or canned fruit
- Evaporated/powdered milk
- Granola bars and crackers
- Feminine sanitary products
- Instant potatoes
- Pasta and noodles
- Peanut butter and nuts
- Rice and grains
- Sauces
- Shampoo and body wash/soap
- Soups, stews and chili in cans
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Vegetables in cans

Legal Notices

Sale Of Motor Vehicles Under G.L. C.255 Sec. 39A

Notice is hereby given by Hampshire Towing, 650 New Ludlow Rd., South Hadley, MA 01075, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. C. 255, Section 39A, that a **SEALED BID** auction with bids due **Monday, July 14, 2025 at 8 a.m.** Vehicles can be viewed **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY** by calling **413-534-5373**.

The following motor vehicles will be sold to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles:

2012 Hyundai Sonata
VIN: 5NPEB4AC7CH490959
Walter Rivera
75 Bexhill St
Springfield MA 01119

2006 Toyota Camry
VIN: 4T1BE32KX6U143657
Guillermo Rosado
886 Dwight St., Fl 1
Holyoke MA 01040

2001 Toyota Camry
4T1BF22K31U124514
Darius Keitt
2 Lewis St., Apt 1
Westfield MA 01085

2007 Buick Lucerne
VIN: 1G4HR57Y6U232781
Osborne Shaw
116 Druids Ln
W. Springfield MA 01089

2002 Jeep Grand Cherokee
VIN: 1J4GW38N92C190892
Joseph Whitman
2 Arbor Way, Apt C
Holyoke MA 01040

2002 Honda Odyssey
VIN: 2HKRL18602H510237
Wanda Mejias
767 Main St., Apt 306
W. Springfield MA 01089

2008 Hyundai ELANTRA
VIN: KMHDU46D88U501001
Grace Vicente
70 Walnut St., Apt 304
Holyoke MA 01040

2006 Honda Odyssey
VIN: 5FNRL38466B401392
Luis Felipe Carrasquillo IV
6426 Stag Trl
Wendell NC 27591

2005 Chevrolet Malibu Maxx
VIN: 1G1ZT64875F100093
Timmeka Patterson
56 James St., 2nd Fl
Springfield MA 01105

2010 Mazda Mazda5
VIN: JM1CR2W36A0373237
Bersai Micael Roblero Gomez
226 Center St
Manchester CT 06040

2007 Chrysler Aspen
VIN: 1A8HW58257F518755
Tania Soltren
70 Chestnut St., Apt 102
Holyoke MA 01040

2005 Toyota Tundra
VIN: 5TBDD44185S473726
Wayne Temple
288 West St
Rutland VT 05701

2003 Honda CR-V
SHSRD78883U151004
Owner Unknown

2004 Nissan Maxima
VIN: 1N4BA41E64C848529
Rodney Dillard
180 Easton Ave., 2nd Fl
Waterbury CT 06704

2009 Ford Focus
VIN: 1FAHP36N99W116882

Kelly Rippy
121 N. Main St., Apt K3
Belchertown MA 01007

2012 Chevrolet Cruze
VIN: 1G1PP5SC7C7216269
Maria Lopez
111 Gridley St., 2nd Fl
Bristol CT 06010

2011 Nissan Altima
VIN: 1N4AL2AP3BN400911
Claritza Baez
6 Brown Ave
Holyoke MA 01040

2009 Ford Fusion
VIN: 3FAHP08129R119165
Jessica Ceil
43 Massachusetts Rd
Oakdale CT 06370

2011 Buick Enclave
VIN: 5GAKVBED3BJ317108
Myriam Burgos Fernandez
6 Temple St., Apt 2L
Holyoke MA 01040

2014 Chevrolet Malibu
1G11E5SL3EU146136
Darrell Davis
636 Woods Edge Ct
West Lafayette IN 47906

2006 Acura RSX
VIN: JH4DC54876S009893
Santiago Soltren-Ramirez
197 High St., Apt 302
Holyoke MA 01040

2001 Chevrolet Suburban
VIN: 3GNFK16T11G154863
Raul Avalo
1439 Worcester St
Springfield MA 01151

2004 Mitsubishi Endeavor
VIN: 4A4MN21S54E014587
Ada De Leon Valentin
2 Resnic Blvd., Apt C
Holyoke MA 01040

2007 Audi A4
VIN: WAUDF78E97A106599
Claralee James
15 Lafayette St
Springfield MA 01109

2014 Dodge Grand Caravan
VIN: 2C4RDGCG9ER206508
Melissa Wilker
48 Elizabeth St., Apt 206
Pittsfield MA 01201

1997 Toyota Corolla
VIN: 2T1BB02E5VC195280
Michael Nicklaw
330 S. Middleton Dr. NW, Unit
1407
Calabash NC 28467

2016 Mitsubishi Lancer
JA32U8FWXGU004176
Ashley Haas
497 E. Pleasant St., Apt 105
Amherst MA 01002

2006 Nissan Sentra
VIN: 3N1CB51D56L604728
Commerce Ins. Co.
2 Going Rd
Shirley MA 01464

2018 Ford Escape
VIN: 1FMCU9HD4JUC38338
Imran Kamal Tariq
11 Robbins LA., Apt 11A
Rocky Hill CT 06067

2002 Mercedes-Benz E-Class
VIN: WDBJH82J32X067332
Mary Chapman
49 Old South St., Apt 201
Northampton MA 01060

2005 Dodge Dakota
1D7HW48N95S287543
Daniel Reyes
68 Cabot St., Apt 504
Holyoke MA 01040

2013 Toyota RAV4
VIN: 2T3ZFREV7DW041788
Miguel Toro Hernaiz
400 Saint James Ave., Apt 3
Springfield MA 01109

2007 Ford F-150
VIN: 1FTPW14557FA27923
Nathan Stevens
134 Gelinias Dr
Chicopee MA 01020

2016 Ford Escape
VIN: 1FMCU9GX0GUA85901
Kiel Guptill
72 Barrett St., Unit 110
Northampton MA 01060

2014 Ford Explorer
VIN: 1FMSK8GT6EGC54241
Merilyn Bermudez
147 Santa Barbara St
Springfield MA 01104

2014 Infiniti Q50
VIN: JN1BV7AR0EM688746
Nissan Infiniti LT
PO Box 254648
Sacramento CA 95865

2014 BMW 5 Series
VIN: WBA5B3C58ED539326
Carmen Menendez
13 N. East St., Apt 4A
Holyoke MA 01040

2009 Nissan Versa
VIN: 3N1BC13E69L397973
Shubhada Rella-Brooks
13 Meadowbrook Dr
Hadley MA 01035

2014 Ford Fusion
VIN: 1FA6P0H70E5405928
Progressive Casualty Insurance
Company
PO Box 94523
Cleveland OH 44101

2012 Ford F-150
VIN: 1FTFX1ET2CFC15332
Jeffery Neal
36 Kosta St
Worcester MA 01607

2023 Ram 2500
3C6UR5JL2PG548723
Jobson Cardoso Da Silva
482 Noble Ave
Davenport FL 33837

Car Trailer
VIN: 1T9AS362XNB540227
Owner Unknown

2007 Dodge Caliber
VIN: 1B3HB28B87D328009
Elijah Freeman
82 Meadowbrook Rd
Holyoke MA 01040

2008 Suzuki SX4
VIN: JS2YC415385100111
Wesley Perez
17 George St., Apt 2
Springfield MA 01105

2006 Toyota Sienna
VIN: 5TDZA23C36S535688
Jose Mendez Velez
PO Box 2591
Holyoke MA 01041

2013 Nissan Rogue
VIN: JN8AS5MV4DW608208
Erin Poulin
370 Mill Valley Rd., Trlr 36
Belchertown MA 01007

2015 Hyundai ELANTRA
VIN: 5NPDH4AE7FH558886
Distany Ross
70 Shumway St., Lot 26R/C
Springfield MA 01119

2012 Ford Fusion
VIN: 3FAHP0HA4CR100589
Monique McKnight
60 Virginia St
Springfield MA 01108

2004 Infiniti FX35
VIN: JNRAS08W84X215324
Frank Andino
12 Royce Ct
W. Springfield MA 01089

2002 Honda Civic
VIN: 1HGEM22522L081424
Gabriela Carrero Negron
51 Milton St
Indian Orchard MA 01151
06/27, 07/04, 07/11/2025

Summer Eats is Back-Fueling Kids and Teens All Summer Long!

Join Project Bread in Summer Eats Awareness Week: June 23-27

BOSTON – Summer Eats - the Massachusetts Summer Food Service Program - is kicking off across the Commonwealth, providing free meals to all kids and teens, ages 18 and under. In 2024, more than 2.8 million meals were served across over 1,450 sites statewide through the Summer Eats program. During Summer Eats Awareness Week, Project Bread is encouraging community members to help spread the news about this free program statewide, with free promotional materials available online.

Throughout the school year, children in Massachusetts rely on free school meals to meet most of their daily nutrition needs. Summer Eats closes the gap when the school year ends, helping to ensure children and teens continue to grow, learn and thrive over school vacation. On an average day in July 2024, 70,000 kids ate at least one Summer Eats meal.

Participating meal providers operate and staff meal sites, often in conjunction with activities and educational programming at schools, libraries, local park and recreation areas, and more. Kids and teens are required to eat onsite at most Summer Eats sites. Grab & Go meals are available in select rural communities. All are welcome. No registration or ID is required. In 2024, more than

2.8 million meals were served across over 1,450 sites statewide through the Summer Eats program. Another summer food resource is SUN Bucks (Summer EBT), which is a federal food benefit providing additional funding for groceries for low-income families with school-aged children.

For more than 20 years, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and statewide food security nonprofit Project Bread have partnered to support communities in offering Summer Eats meals to children in Massachusetts. Throughout the school year, the nonprofit and DESE also partner to expand access to and participation in school meal programs. This year, Project Bread has granted a total of \$236,482 to Summer Eats sponsors statewide for their program development and capacity-building, such as equipment to transport meals or increase kitchen efficiency and meal quality, as well as staffing support and items to enhance site engagement, outreach and promotion efforts.

"We hear from families all the time who are finding ways to stretch their budgets during the summer months, who are unsure about what resources are available to them, and who are just trying to put food on their tables each day," says Erin McAleer, President & CEO of Project Bread, the leading food security organization in Massachusetts. "Food is not a luxury. The

Summer Eats program is a vital resource that makes sure that every child can have their basic need of hunger met and can simply focus on learning, growing, and enjoying summer fun."

Summer is better with full bellies and big smiles. For more information about Summer Eats, including meal site locations, visit www.projectbread.org/summer-eats, text FOOD or COMIDA to 304-304, or call 1-800-645-8333 for help in any language. A personal contribution to support Summer Eats can be made at www.projectbread.org/donate.

About Project Bread

Project Bread connects people and communities in Massachusetts to reliable sources of food while advocating for policies that make food more accessible-so that no one goes hungry. Summer Eats is one of the many nutrition programs they support. Any resident of Massachusetts struggling to afford food or worrying they might run out before they have money to buy more can call Project Bread's FoodSource Hotline for help in 180+ languages (1-800-645-8333) or send a confidential chat on www.gettingsnap.com for compassionate, personalized assistance. Counselors are available Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There is also a dedicated line available to those who are hearing impaired. For more information, visit: www.projectbread.org.

Help fight childhood hunger: Feed the Kids online auction now open to the public

Community invited to bid July 1-15 to help fight childhood hunger in the Pioneer Valley

SPRINGFIELD – The online auction for the 8th Annual Feed the Kids Charity Golf Tournament officially opens to the public on Tuesday, giving community members a chance to support local efforts to end childhood hunger-no golf skills required.

Hosted by Feed the Kids, a local nonprofit dedicated to fighting food insecurity among children in the Pioneer Valley, the online auction will run from July 1 to July 15, the day after the golf tournament at Springfield Country Club that routinely sells out.

Auction proceeds will benefit organizations that provide food assistance to local children, including Square One, the Holyoke Weekend Backpack Program, Pioneer Valley Powerpacks and Team No Kid Hungry.

"This auction allows anyone in the community to get involved-even if they're not swinging a golf club," said Dr. Frederick Kadushin, co-founder of Feed the Kids. "Bidding on these great items is a fun way to support a very serious mission: making sure no child in our community goes hungry."

Since launching in 2018, Feed the Kids has raised nearly \$500,000 to benefit programs helping children in need throughout Western

Massachusetts.

Bidders can access the auction and browse available items at feedthekidsgolf.com/auction. The auction closes on the evening of July 15.

About Feed the Kids

Feed the Kids is a local nonprofit group consisting of volunteers throughout the Pioneer Valley who are committed to ensuring that children in the region don't go hungry. Through its annual charity golf tournament and online auction, the group raises funds to support the local efforts of other organizations, such as Square One, Holyoke Weekend Backpack Program, Pioneer Valley Power Packs and No Kid Hungry®. Learn more at feedthekidsgolf.com.

Town Reminder OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

ADVERTISING SALES HELP WANTED

- Do you want to work in your community helping local businesses connect with their customers?
- Do you want a career supporting local journalism, which tells the unique stories of our communities?
- If so, then join our team! Turley Publications is looking for an outgoing, energetic person interested in selling advertising for our community newspapers. The right candidate will assume an established territory with a portfolio of customers.

You must be a self-starter with excellent communication and organizational skills. Basic computer skills are required. Previous print sales experience is preferred but we will train the right candidate.

Turley Publications, a locally owned family business, offers a competitive commission structure, 401k, and health plan.

Send resume & cover letter to:

Turley Publications, Inc.

Jamie Joslyn
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069
Email: jamie@turley.com



Chris Towne and Cameron Barnish with the South Hadley fire District 2.

FIREWORKS from page 1

Manuel Amusements arrived with their carousel, swing ride, mini rollercoaster, arcade games, and snack spots with all the fan-favorites, including candy apples, popcorn, cotton candy, and fried dough and Oreos.

Countless food trucks were there as well, including Batch Ice Cream and Rustic Fusion with its delicious and unique egg-roll flavors.

"It is really cool that I get to be part of the town's largest community event every year, and that I get to partner with other departments such as Fire Districts 1/2, SHELDT, Police, DPW, Schools, BoH, Community Band, our vendors and all of our sponsors," said Rogers. "I grew up here and have met so many wonderful people over the years. It is truly a great place to live!"

The South Hadley Fire Department and Police Department were there too, with a mini touch-a-truck, where kids could get into and explore a fire truck and a cruiser.

"[What makes these fireworks unique is] how close people are to the actual display. I heard about 10 "best fireworks ever" comments. I am also told there are a variety of other viewing spots across town that people enjoy; however, nothing beats being up close," said Rogers.

The South Hadley fireworks display gave the opportunity for people to witness the display up close, seeing the lights sparkle above them, and spend some time enjoying the company of their family and friends, despite the heat.

Sponsors for the night included the Major Corporate Sponsor, PeoplesBank, Platinum Sponsor Fiberspring, Gold Sponsor IGM, and the South Hadley Cultural Council.

Vendors included Bruisers BBQ, Manuel Amusements, Batch Ice Cream, All purpose bakery, Crazy Arepas, JND Amusements, Dev's Mac N Eats, Rustic Fusion, NicNats Bakery, Happy Face Painter, United Methodist Church, Smith College Mind in Development Lab, Rescom Exteriors, Edward Jones, and Central Maine Pyrotechnics.

"[My favorite part of my job is] that I get to make people happy and give them lots of awesome things to do! Events like this, our park renovation at Buttery Brook Park, our upcoming summer concerts, and sports leagues are all so popular," said Rogers.



There go the fireworks!

Turley photos by Emily-Rose Pappas



Brooke, Jacob, and Lucas Liguori, and Robert and Benjamin Adams with Engine 2.



Myriam Shea making it to the top and hitting the buzzer on the rock wall.



Grab a Lego set from the South Hadley Police Department while you wait for the fireworks to start.



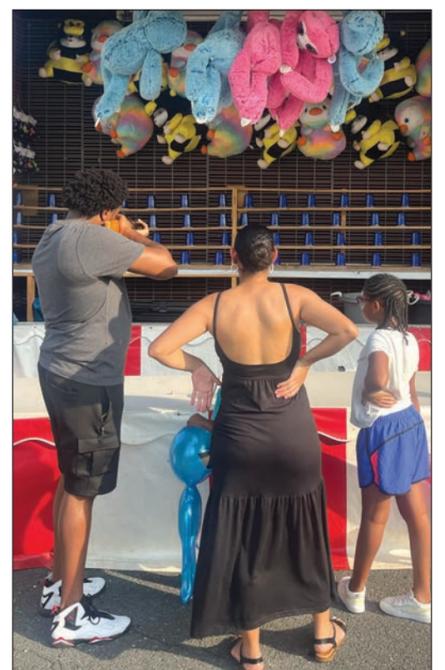
Zoe Plasse and Isabell Bouchard-Cottrell dressed in their festive red, white, and blue.



Serving some delicious lemonade.



Maya Sulekoglu and Kailee Kim enjoying their night out together.



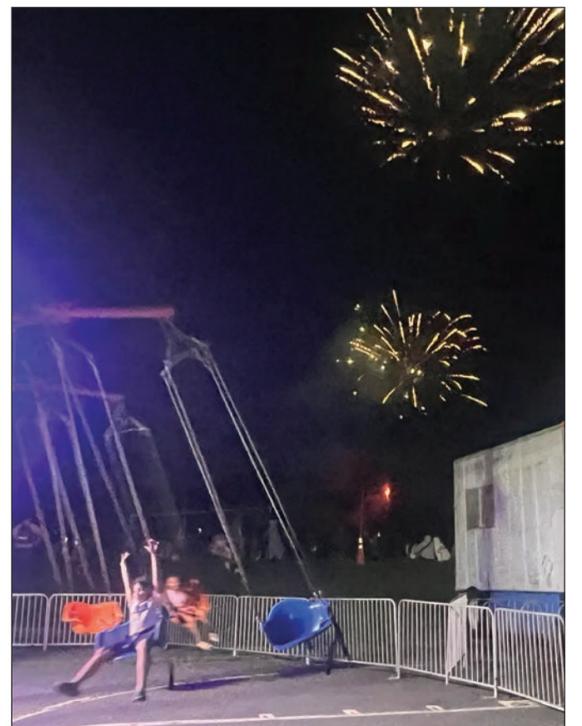
Will dad win us a fluffy sloth?



Kayleigh and Emma showing off their giant blow-up gummy bears they won.



Everyone stopping to watch the fireworks.



Riding the swings is an even cooler way to experience the fireworks.