

TOWN Reminder

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Buttery Brook Park opens brand new disc golf course for community



Turley photos by Emily-Rose Pappas

Senator Jake Oliveira, Representative Homar Gomez, and Assistant TA Chuck Romboletti standing with Kim Prough and Maddy Venancio and other members of the advisory group as the ribbon is cut.

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

SOUTH HADLEY – Buttery Brook Park was filled to the brim with people came to enjoy the weekly Cruise Night, as well as a Grand Opening of the new Disc Golf Course.

“We were thrilled with the turnout of support for the new course and were glad to have both Senator Oliveira and Representative Gomez,

along with South Hadley Assistant Town Administrator Chuck Romboletti, and the South Hadley/Granby Chamber of Commerce join us for the ribbon cutting ceremony and the opening “first toss,” said event organizer Kim Prough.

Over 350 people came to the grand opening, enjoying the beautiful weather, and see the opening of the 9-hole course, which was also celebrated with live music from the Wonder Yearz band, and

Boomer from the Springfield Thunderbirds came by to visit.

It began with an advisory group of about eight people, and grew from there, with more and more people joining in to help either donate or make it possible for the course to run through their skills in digging, planting, or landscaping.

The course planning began in mid-March with Chris Barden from New England Disc Golf Center, and by early May, the team was purchasing the supplies, including artificial turf for the top of the tee pads, and began the process of building the

Please see **DISC GOLF**, page 6



There's a color disc for everyone that wants to play.

Big Rig Day returns for 4th year of fun

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
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SOUTH HADLEY – For many years, Big Rig Day at Buttery Brook Park has been a highlight for summers for the residents of South Hadley, and in neighboring communities.

Big Rig Day has been a staple event to the community since it was started by the Plains School and SHEL D before moving to Buttery Brook Park in 2009.

Big Rig Day is a free, kid-friendly event that is co-hosted by SHEL D and Fiberspring, the Friends of Buttery Brook Park, All Star Dairy, and the South Hadley Recreation Department

The event featured all kinds of trucks and vehicles from SHEL D, Fire Districts 1

and 2, the South Hadley Police Department, Water Department 1, the South Hadley DPW, Marion Excavating, the 911 Trailer, USA Waste and Recycling, Hampshire Towing, and the Council on Aging Van.

All Star Dairy was also present with free ice cream, and the Children's Advocacy Center, the Smith College Mind and Development Lab, and the Board of Health had tables.

“The Friends of Buttery Brook always ran in previously (not sure how long), and we combined for a variety of reasons,” said Andy Rogers, Director of the Recreation Department. “It has been a very nice partnership and we have really done a great job expanding this event. It is fun

Please see **BIG RIG**, page 10



Turley photo by Amanda Munson

Visitors of the South Hadley Big Rig event were thrilled to be featured in the newspaper.

COA hosts new Science Fiction Club

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
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SOUTH HADLEY – Calling all sci-fi fanatics to the Council-on-Aging for a new club that has everything you want that has to do with Science Fiction and Fantasy Series.

Whether your thing is Star Trek, Star Wars, or Doctor Who, there is a place for you in this group of all ages, ready to talk about their favorite fictional universes.

Wendy Farley, who started the club, is an ardent fan of all things Science Fiction, and loves Star Trek, having



Submitted photo

Christine White, Wendy Farley, and Sue Goldstein at the first meeting for the new Sci-Fi Club.

members will watch an episode of a science fiction TV series, talk about the series, and then enjoy a snack, and it is open for all ages and all who love science fiction at 10 a.m. on the third Monday of the month at the Senior Center on Dayton Street.

This past Monday, at their first meeting, they “watched the 1961 Twilight Zone episode It’s A Good Life with Bill Mummy, followed by a Cameo of Bill Mummy telling our club about what it was like being the lead and a terrifying monster as a 7-year-old in that episode,” Farley said.

Please see **SCI-FI**, page 6

South Hadley kids’ trail races inspire young runners and build community

By Tina Lesniak
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY - The last couple of summers, the South Hadley Recreation Department has transformed the town’s scenic trails into a vibrant and welcoming racecourse for kids. Now in its third year, the South Hadley Kids Trail Races have become a beloved local tradition, drawing over 100 young participants to lace up their sneakers and hit the trails.

The idea for the races originated with South Hadley resident Laura Friesner, who noticed many local families attending a similar event in a neighboring town. “Laura

brought the idea to us, suggesting we start something similar right here in our own community,” said Danielle Bachand, South Hadley’s community programs director. “In our first year, we had about 70 participants register, and in the past two years, we’ve seen that number grow to over 100—a clear sign the event is gaining momentum.”

The races are open to children ages 15 and under, with course options ranging from 0.5 miles to 2.2 miles. “Participants can choose between a shorter and a longer course depending on their ability and

Please see **RACES**, page 5

Commission spotlights Energy Center ‘misconceptions’

By Walter Hamilton
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY – The town Sustainability and Energy Commission, in a July 8 letter to the Board of Health, has addressed “misconceptions” by critics of a now-delayed Mount Holyoke College plan to build an Energy Center on Woodbridge Street. The letter was also for-

warded to the Planning Board which had been scheduled to consider a site plan review for the center before the college, citing national economic uncertainty, postponed its application.

“The Sustainability and Energy Commission is tasked with promoting energy efficiency and helping the town to guard against the effects of climate change. It

is therefore part of our core mission to weigh in on the Geothermal Energy Center/Geothermal Hub proposed by Mount Holyoke College for 9 Woodbridge Street. We are strongly in support of the project. We would like to explain why as well as provide helpful information that may dispel misconceptions about the project’s impacts,” the commission wrote.

The commission stated that “the project is not a power plant” as it has been characterized by opponents at public meetings and on lawn signs around town.

“We believe that this description in the media and conversations is leading to mistaken ideas about what the building will house,” the

Please see **ENERGY**, page 5

Fall Book Sale coming to Granby Library

Find new-to-you books, magazines, and more from September 2 to the 30.

GRANBY – Book lovers! Bargain Hunters! The Friends of the Granby Free Public Library will host their annual Month-Long Fall Book Sale during September in the Community Room of the Library. You will be able to choose from a large assortment of used and like-new hardcover, softcover, paperback books,

teen books and children's books, along with a selection of CDs, DVDs, video games and audiobooks. The sale will run during regular library hours from September 2 through 30.

The Library is now accepting donations of hardcover and paperback books, DVDs, music CDs, playable video games, and audiobooks in good condition acceptable for resale. The Library does not accept donations of: Textbooks, encyclo-

dias, Reader's Digest books, or books with smoke, mold, mildew, or water damage. Donations are accepted at the Library during open hours. Please do not leave donated books outside the library or in our book return. Donations accepted until August 28. Thank you for your support!

The Granby Free Public Library is located at 297 E State St. Granby, MA 01033. Visit granbylibrary.org for hours and more information.

Operation Backpack seeking donations

SOUTH HADLEY/GRANBY – Operation Backpack, which has been providing backpacks full of school supplies from grades Pre-K to 12 is in need of donations of school supplies and backpacks to beat previous year's numbers to reach over 220 backpacks.

The program needs backpacks for grades Pre-K to 12 for boys and girls. Supplies needed include rulers, colored pencils, crayons, yellow highlighters, scissors, pencil sharpeners, colored markers, subject dividers, 1" ring bind-

ers, lined wide-ruled filler paper, calculators, zippered pen and pencil holders, USB zip drives, black composition books, 1, 2, and 3 subject notebooks, and colored portfolio folders with pockets.

You can find drop-off boxes at several locations around South Hadley.

Drop-off boxes can be found at Berkshire Bank at 74 Lamb Street, St. Patrick's Church at 30 Main Street, and Neighbors Helping Neighbors at 30 Carew Street. More include Newton Street Dental at 488 Newton Street, West-

field Bank at 32 Willimansett Street, or Adams' house a 36 Chestnut Hill Road, and please call her ahead of time or for pick-up at 413-536-5316.

"Remember, investing in our students now will lead to a better future for all of us. Let this be my 12th year of doing this, the greatest year ever," said Adams.

You can contact Sheila Adams via her email, shopoperationbackpack@yahoo.com, or by calling her at 413-536-5316.

SH Band to host documentary viewing

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 23rd at 1pm at the South Hadley High School auditorium. 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.

South Hadley Community Television (SHCTV15) will simulcast the documentary on Channel 15 for South Hadley Comcast subscribers. People without a cable subscription or outside of town can access a livestream on www.SHCTV15.com or by downloading the CableCast app which can be found

on Roku, AppleTV, FireTV or through the GooglePlay and Apple Store. Open the app and search for South Hadley Community Television, where you will have access to both livestreams. The documentary will be available on the SHCTV15 Livestream. For further information please contact Charlene Malanowski Mahoney at cmahoney192@gmail.com or Karen Kawalec Quinn at jkequinn@gmail.com.

Belchertown VFW to host 2nd annual motorcycle ride

BELCHERTOWN – The Belchertown VFW will be hosting its second-annual Motorcycle Benefit Ride on Saturday, August 9, 2025, to raise money to benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Registration is from 10 to

11 a.m. at the Belchertown VFW, and the two stops will be Atlas Pub in Chicopee, and the American Legion in Granby.

For riders only, including a t-shirt, it is \$25, and is \$15 for a passenger. You can purchase your tickets in advance

at the VFW, and shirts will be limited at the door.

There will also be food provided by the North Elm Butchers, live music by the Bermudez Triangle, and raffles to follow at the VFW.

Murphy cheers on Belchertown PD at Battle of the Badges



Officer Murphy from South Hadley cheering on his fellow police officers at Belchertown's Battle of the Badges softball game. Go police!

What's happening at BATTERY BROOK PARK?

SOUTH HADLEY – There is plenty to do this week, featuring fun performances, including one for just for kids on Wednesday morning. Stop by the farmers market, and cool off at the spray park this week.

Friday, July 25 - Cruise Night & Live Music featuring TJ & The Peepers, from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the front

pavilion. Wednesday, July 30 - Kid's Summer Performance: Circle of Life Drum & Dance, at 10 a.m. at the front pavilion.

Wednesday, July 30 - Farmer's Market, from 2 to 6 p.m.

Friday, August 1 - Cruise Night & Live Music featuring It Takes Two with Joe &

Amanda, from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the front pavilion.

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

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

School Committee seeking seat filled

SOUTH HADLEY – Due to a recent resignation of the South Hadley School Committee, the elected body has a vacancy, which needs filling.

The Town of South Hadley is proceeding to address that vacancy immediately. This process is consistent and within MGL Chapter 41, Sections 10, 11 and other applicable policies or regulations.

All parties interested in applying for the position are asked to submit a letter of interest to Executive Assistant to Administration Kristin Maher via email at kmaher@southhadley.ma.gov or through the mail to: Selectboard Office, 116 Main St., South Hadley,

MA, 01075. Applicants may submit a resume but it is not required.

Letters of interest and any additional documents must be received by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 25, 2025. Once received by Selectboard administration, a complete packet for each candidate's submission will be made publicly available.

The chairs of the School Committee and Selectboard will decide on a suitable date to have a joint meeting of remaining School Committee members and members of the Selectboard to conduct interviews. Board members will make an appointment at the public meeting scheduled

for the interviews or a subsequent public joint meeting in September.

Applicants will not be required to be interviewed if they choose not to be, but still may be considered. The joint committee, by way of nomination and subsequent vote to appoint, will fill the vacancy on the South Hadley School Committee for a term from the date of appointment to the next annual town election on April 14, 2026. There will be a position on the annual town election ballot to fill the remaining term of this specific School Committee vacant position.

Get ready for the class of 1975's 50th reunion

SOUTH HADLEY – Save the Date! South Hadley High School Class of 1975 50th reunion will be held on Oc-

tober 4, 2025. For more information and to be added to our email list, please contact either Karla (Koenig) Zukow-

ski at kzukowski57@comcast.net or MaryPat (Fenton) Krumsiek at mpkrumsiek@ahoo.com.

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| <p>Friday, July 25th Jack & His Guitar</p> | <p>Saturday, July 26th Floyd Patterson</p> | <p>Sunday, July 27th 3-6pm Charlie Bongiovi</p> |
| <p>Friday, August 1st The Healys</p> | <p>Saturday, August 2nd Dee Reilly</p> | <p>Sunday, August 3rd 9 Volt Radio 3-6pm</p> |

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Summer at SHPL and Gaylord Memorial Library

SOUTH HADLEY – The Summer Reading Program is in full swing at your libraries. Be sure to register for your age group to become eligible for some great prizes. There are so many events happening at SHPL and Gaylord, be sure to check the calendar regularly to see what's going on.

On a more somber note, statewide research database offerings were significantly reduced on July 1 due to the elimination of the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services. Twenty-one online resources are no longer available, including the Boston Globe, Heritage Quest, and Transparent Language. Patrons will continue to have access to Britannica Escolar, Library, and School editions; Gale Academic OneFile + OneFile Collections; Gale in Context: Opposing Viewpoints; and PebbleGo.

Adult Programs at SHPL
This July, we invite you to Level Up at Your Library with a series of dynamic programs designed to inspire, rejuvenate, and spark creativity.

To round out the month, unleash your creativity with local pop artist Carla on Wednesday, July 30 at 6 p.m., where you'll craft vibrant coffee filter flowers to brighten your space and your spirit, sign up online. Whether you're looking to calm your mind, grow your skills, or simply have fun, there's something here to help you level up this summer!

Online Children & Teen & Adult Author Programs:
The Stories, Science, and

History of Birds with Smithsonian Biologist Jay Falk. A Library Speakers Consortium and Smithsonian Institution Collaboration. Tuesday, August 5 at 2 p.m.

Children's Programs at SHPL

Remember to color in a square on your reading log for every day you read. If you haven't signed up yet, there's still time! And the summer scavenger hunt is up too - find all the caterpillar's favorite foods and get a sticker or temporary tattoo!

All of our other regular programs continue this month as well: Lego and Games, Pajama Storytime (July 28), Rhyme Time, STEAM (July 29), Story Time, Playgroup, and Graphic Novel.

Check the online calendar for any updates!

Teen Programs at SHPL

This month in Teens we continue with Crafternoon, Snackternoon, and Xbox1.

Crafternoon features Perler Beads this month. Our Teen Takeaways continue this month with DIY Tetris Magnets. Sign up once and get a new Takeaway every month! We end the month with our Teen Night Craft Tuesday, July 29 at 6:30 p.m.

Our Teen Book Club Booktroverts continues and this month features Warcross by Marie Lu. There is no in-person meet up. Enjoy the book on your own time. Copies are available in the Teen Room to check out.

This summer we introduce our Reading Buddies Program. Teens read to kids ages 4 and up. Counts for

community service hours for those that need it. Runs Tuesdays from 6 to 7 p.m. and Thursdays from 3 to 4 p.m. through the Summer Reading program.

Finally we end the month with our popular Night Rave. Friday, July 25 from 6 to 9 p.m. Sign up and permission slips are required. This is an after hours teen event. There will be pizza and ice cream. A big thank you to the Friends of the South Hadley Public Library for sponsoring this program!

Any questions please email Bethany
Gaylord Memorial Library Programs

We have a busy month of programs for all ages at Gaylord! Michele Lyman of Serenity Yoga will be teaching Outdoor Yoga at 4 p.m. on Thursday, July 31.

If you want to Level Up Your Baking with Cocoa Powder Variety, sign up online, and come pick up your cocoa packets to take home to experiment on Thursday, July 10 at 6:30 p.m. (We'll meet up on Thursday, August 7 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss our findings!)

And Castle Nitor returns to Gaylord to teach a class on Long Sword Basics! For ages 12 and up, this class will give you an introduction to a historical martial art, Friday, July 25 from 2 to 4 p.m. Sign up online!

We also have our usual Story Times (Fridays at 10:30 a.m.) and Drop-in Craft (Thursday, July 31).

Jacob Humiston to join 5th annual AGC MA Building Advancement Externship

MA-based high-school and vocational teachers, counselors, and administrators will gather for week-long immersion into construction industry to better understand future STEM-based career opportunities for students

REGION — Associated General Contractors of Massachusetts (AGC MA) will present its fifth annual Building Advancement Externship (BAE) program from Monday, August 4 – Friday, August 8. The program exposes educators to a wide array of STEM-based careers in the construction sector and prompts greater awareness of professional work opportunities for young people. **Jacob Humiston, carpentry teacher at South Hadley High School, is one of 15 educators to be selected for the program.**



Jacob Humiston, carpentry teacher at South Hadley High School, is one of 15 educators to be selected for the program.

- * Josh Greeley, Upper Cape Cod Regional Technical School
- * Grace Haggstrom, Randolph High School
- * Jacob Humiston, South Hadley High School
- * Timothy Lavin, Charlestown High School
- * Joseph Migliore, Greater Lowell Technical High School
- * Maureen O'Donnell, Boston Community Leadership Academy
- * Julie O'Leary, Framingham High School
- * Keith Powers, Bristol Plymouth Regional Technical High School
- * Tracey Schryba, Franklin County Technical School
- * Mario Sousa, Salem High School
- * Melissa St. Pierre, BMC Durfee High School
- * Heather Toomey, Lynn Vocational Technical Institute
- * Jason Welch, Watertown High School

The 2025 Building Externship is supported and presented by BOND, Colantonio Inc., Collier's Engineering & Design, Columbia, Consigli Construction, Dimeo Construction Company, Erland

Construction Inc., Fontaine Brothers, Inc., North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters, Turner Construction, and Walsh Brothers, with support from Building Mass Careers, Building Pathways, Center for Smart Building Technology at Roxbury Community College, Fitchburg State University, Franklin Cummings Technical College, Mass CEC, Christa McAuliffe Center for Integrated Science Learning at Framingham State University, Wentworth Institute of Technology, Worcester Polytechnic Institute of Technology, and YouthBuild Boston.

For more information, visit <https://www.agcmass.org/agc-ma-building-advancement-externship/>
About Associated General Contractors, Massachusetts
AGC MA is a chapter of the national Associated General Contractors of America, which began in 1918 with the goal to assist the government in building up the nation, an objective that AGC has been fulfilling since that time. AGC MA was founded in 1935--representing 90 years of Building Excellence. Currently, the chapter works closely with all facets of the industry to offer fair business practices for 200 members from Cape Cod to the New York border.

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Opinion

SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor

What is the formula for deciding when to claim?

Dear Rusty:

I am curious about the “formula” to decide when to take Social Security while still working.

I am past the Full Retirement Age. How do you best address such? Should we schedule a call?

Signed: **Wondering When**

Dear Wondering:

Well, you can always contact us by phone on 1-888-750-2622 to speak to one of our certified Social Security Advisors or you can send your questions to us via email at SSadvisor@amacfoundation.org. You don't need to pre-schedule a meeting, as we have multiple advisors answering the phone on most normal business days. If they all happen to be busy when you call, simply leave a voicemail and an Advisor will return your call promptly.

For starters, since you have reached your Full Retirement Age, know that your work earnings will no longer negatively affect your Social Security benefits. You can earn as much as possible and your monthly SS amount will be the same, based on your average lifetime monthly earnings for your highest 35 years and based on your age when you claim. Since you have not yet claimed SS, you are already earning Delayed Retirement Credits, which increase your monthly SS amount by .667% for each month you continue to delay. That's 8% for each full year you delay past your FRA. You should not, however, wait longer than age 70 to claim because that is when you will get your maximum SS benefit amount. For you, that means that your age 70 amount will be 28% more than the amount you would have received at your FRA of 66 years and 6 months in October 2023 and about 15% more than if you were to claim now.

Note too, that if your more recent income is among the highest of your lifetime, Social Security will automatically increase your monthly SS retirement amount to account for that event. They will check your work earnings each year to see if you are entitled to a larger SS amount because

of your recent earnings.

Since (according to your AMAC member record) you are married, you may also wish to consider whether your wife will get a spousal benefit from you when you claim. If your wife's personal SS retirement amount at her FRA is less than the amount you were entitled to at your FRA, then she will get a spousal boost when you claim. With her spousal boost (if claimed at her FRA), her total SS benefit should be about 50% of your FRA benefit amount not half of the higher amount you will get because you waited longer to claim. But your wife cannot get a spousal boost until you are collecting your SS.

And here is something else to think about: received SS benefits will become part of your overall income taxed by the IRS when you submit your income tax return. If you file your income tax as “married/jointly” and your combined income from all sources is more than \$32,000 then some of your SS benefits will become taxable income. If your combined income is between \$32,001 and \$44,000, then half of the SS benefits you received during the tax year becomes part of your taxable income. Or, if your combined income from all sources exceeds \$44,000, then about 85% of your received SS benefits will become part of your income taxed by the IRS. Just something to keep in mind, especially since you are still working.

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.

Revisit wildflower gardening

After driving by an exquisite wildflower border, I was prompted to revisit and update a column I wrote some years back on the topic of wildflowers.

If you wish to give the natural look a go, preparation is the key. Read on for more useful advice.

Wildflower or meadow gardens can be beautiful, even breathtaking, if properly cared for. Besides being pretty, they are low maintenance and environmentally friendly, and they often attract butterflies, bees and other pollinators.

Our goal at the time of sowing is a grass-free, weed-free seed bed. Since wildflower seed is sown in winter or early spring, we have lots of time to achieve that goal.

At summer's end rototill the spot intended for your wildflowers. If the grass is especially thick you may need to go over it several times. Allow what is left of the grass to decompose.

Pull any weeds that sprout, or lightly cultivate the soil – don't go too deep or you'll expose more weed seeds to the light! You can also skip the tiller, and eradicate the grass by use of black plastic or a tarp of course you'll have to look at it for several weeks!

If that's okay, then start now by mowing the grass as close as possible. Lay the black plastic or tarp on top and secure it in place with bricks or rocks. The heat, coupled with the absence of light will

kill the grass underneath.

By early fall you will be able to rake away any debris that remains. Plan to sow your seeds in early spring.

There are many wildflower mixes to choose from. I'd rec-

will prevent trees and shrubs from establishing themselves in your meadow. The mower will do a fair job of chopping up spent stems and leaves – just let them fall where they will.

First, they will act as winter mulch. Then, over time they will break down and add organic matter to the soil – just as leaves and twigs do in the woods. In the absence of a mower you can go the old-fashioned route and cut the meadow with a scythe or hedge clippers.

In all instances care should be taken not to damage the crown of the plants, this can severely weaken or even kill perennial wildflowers.

As far as fertilizers go, wildflowers generally don't need it! In fact, rich soil does more harm than good, causing weeds to thrive and compete with your flowers for sunshine and water. Speaking of water, once your meadow is established it will only require water in cases of severe drought or if you plan to re-sow annual seeds in bare spots the following spring.

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.

commend selecting one that is suited to the northeast.

A mix that contains both annual and perennial flowers is a good option – the annuals providing you with color the first year while the perennials are establishing themselves.

Don't skimp on the seed. In fact, use up to three times more than the packet says you need to ensure you'll end up with lots of blooms. To avoid bare spots, divide your seed in half and sow the entire area with the first half, then go to the second.

Don't cover the seed at all, just firm it into the soil. A lawn roller works great!

Gently water until your seeds have sprouted and your plants are up and growing – this will usually take at least a month. Watch now, as the season unfolds in all of its beauty!

At the end of the growing season, after the plants have gone to seed, you should mow the entire field with your mower on its highest setting. This



A Month Into Summer, Let's Not Forget About Adolescent Mental Health

By **Shelley Zimmerman, MPA, MHM, BSN, RN, Hospital Administrator, MiraVista Behavioral Health Center**

It's been a month since school let out for the summer. The daily grind of early alarms and packed lunches has been replaced by late mornings, camps, part-time jobs, and plenty of screen time. For many teens, summer brings a welcome break. But for others, especially those facing emotional or mental health challenges, these unstructured weeks can be anything but carefree.

We talk often about “learning loss” during summer break. But what about the loss of structure, connection, and routine that schools provide? For adolescents, these aren't just conveniences, they're lifelines. Teachers, counselors, and trusted adults offer stability, and their absence over the summer can leave vulnerable youth feeling isolated and unsupported.

Recent national data highlights what many parents and providers already know: youth mental health is in crisis. According to the CDC, more than 40% of high school students report persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness. And

anxiety and depression diagnoses among adolescents have risen sharply in the past decade, with anxiety increasing by more than 60% and depression by nearly 45%.

At MiraVista Behavioral Health Center, we see the effects of this seasonal gap firsthand—and we're here to help fill it.

“We want families to know that help is available—and accessible,” says Shelley Zimmerman, Hospital Administrator at MiraVista. “Our direct admission process allows adolescents in need of inpatient mental health care to be admitted without the delays and stress of an emergency department visit. It's a more compassionate, streamlined approach to care.”

Our adolescent inpatient program, serving youth ages 13 and older, remains fully open and active throughout the summer months. Because we know that mental health doesn't take a break—and neither do we.

Parents, caregivers, pediatricians, and community leaders: If you know a young person who's struggling emotionally, please don't wait. Early support can make all the difference.

To learn more about our

services or to refer a teen for care, visit www.miravistabhccare.com.

Mental health matters in every season. A month into summer, it's worth remembering: when school is out, support must stay in.

About MiraVista Behavioral Health Center

MiraVista Behavioral Health Center opened in April of 2021 in Holyoke, Mass. MiraVista offers inpatient psychiatric care services for both adults and adolescents, as well as an array of outpatient addiction treatment programs.

MiraVista cares for thousands of individuals from across New England and is a leading provider of mental health and addiction treatment services, dedicated to empowering individuals to overcome challenges and achieve their full potential. With a commitment to excellence and compassion, MiraVista offers a comprehensive range of evidence-based treatment programs tailored to meet the unique needs of each patient. Through personalized care and support, MiraVista inspires hope and healing, helping individuals reclaim their lives and embrace a brighter future.

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 defamation 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.

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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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Freedom Credit Union collecting cash and food donations for the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts

'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 do-

ating 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

Learn more 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.harmonyhouse-wma.org/volunteer-1 or email us at admin@harmonyhouse-wma.org.

ENERGY from page 1

commission wrote. "The geothermal hub will not produce power except in rare outages and, in fact, will take its electrical power from SHELD," referring to the town's municipal utility, which distributes electric power, nearly all of which is generated by nuclear plants.

"A conventional power plant burns fossil fuels to turn water into steam which, in turn, drives turbines that generate electricity. In our homes and businesses, we combust fossil fuels to heat our homes more directly. Our boilers and furnaces are mini power plants, in a way!" the letter stated.

"The combustion of fossil fuels is never 100% efficient, and in older boilers uncombusted fuel is released along with the combustion products carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, smog-causing nitrogen oxides, disease-causing fine particulate matter, and more. 'Natural' gas (methane) itself contains 21 hazardous pollutants, including cancer-causing benzene and formaldehyde. Ultra-efficient gas and oil boilers hover around 90% efficiency. Older boilers can have efficiency levels as low as 60%. Mt. Holyoke has been polluting the local and global air for many years to keep its students warm during the winter, as have the rest of us," the commission wrote.

"They (MHC) are now in the process of replacing their 100-year-old system with the single most advanced and efficient technology available for heating buildings: geothermal heat pumps. Moreover, they are making this switch in exactly the way that energy experts advise: upgrading a system for efficiency when the

old one reaches its end-of-life. Area residents will be exposed to far fewer hazardous chemicals after the project is completed, not more," the letter stated.

"The system to be built at the College is a geothermal system that is more efficient than an air-source heat pump because it takes advantage of the stable temperatures underground and the heat-holding capacity of soil and rock. A set of pipes containing water plus a small amount of antifreeze captures heat from underground in the winter and releases that heat into buildings. In the summer, the fluid is cooled when it travels underground. The Mt. Holyoke system contains an additional and ingenious feature in which heat captured in the summer can be stored and used for heating when winter returns."

The commission also addressed critics' concerns about possible remaining contamination at the site, a long-ago shuttered gas station, despite a declaration by the state Department of Environmental Protection that remediation measures had achieved "a permanent solution."

"The College has taken steps to assure that gases seeping from soil do not enter the building or the surrounding air. The building itself will have a vapor barrier. In addition, it will be built over an 8-inch thick concrete pad. Beneath the pad, there will be a 12-inch thick gravel bed vented with a pipe that will extend above the height of the building. The engineering firm has recommended that the soil beneath the gravel bed be "densified" (compacted) to increase its load-bearing properties. The compacted soil and concrete pad together are barriers to migration of gases from the soil below the ten-foot depth that

was remediated. The content of gases vented from the pipe will be monitored, in any case. If hydrocarbons from the site are detected, the College will install an activated charcoal filter," the letter stated.

The commission also addressed concerns, especially by neighbors, about potential increase in noise pollution from the building. Engineers measured existing sound levels near the proposed site without additional traffic noise and fire sirens. The engineers used a computer model to estimate noise levels in the "rare event" that all (the center's) equipment is operating at once. They found those levels would be 40 to 50 decibels.

The commission, citing the "complicated nature of sound" found that noise is not "additive," in the same way "one cup of water, plus three cups equals four cups."

"The calculator at this site yields surprising answers. If you add 80 decibels, which one of us measured at 80 decibels on Woodbridge Street, to 40 additional decibels (from the geothermal center), the answer is ... 80! This is because the added sound has a value closer to zero than to one," the commission wrote.

The letter also stated that the "physics of sound is extremely complicated."

"Sound moves differently through different substances, absorbed by some and reflected off of others. Multiple sources of sound will interact with each other," the commission wrote.

"We measured sound levels on that stretch of 116 at noon and got a reading of 80 decibels. We think it unlikely that heat pumps in the Energy Center will be audible over the rest of the noise in the area," the commission wrote.

"Many have also asked

why the college has chosen this site rather than other land it owns. We would like to point out that there are a number of constraints on the location. The building must be located in a place that is accessible to the underground system as well as near the buildings it heats. We hope that town residents and board members are able to understand that siting of the building must be a decision that was made after considerable thought."

Finally, the commission addressed design concerns.

"We were moved by (administrator) Carla Youngblood's statement that the College wanted a building that would be an emblem of the marvelous ingenuity within its walls. If the world were to transition quickly away from polluting sources of energy, many lives would be saved. We think that's worth celebrating."

"Lastly, we would like to say that the College's commitment to spend considerable time and other resources on this geothermal system is an act of commitment, responsibility, and loving concern for the young people who walk its campus."

"The Mt. Holyoke geothermal project replaces the very large and familiar risk posed by the use of polluting and climate-destroying fossil fuels to heat a campus with the unknown risks associated with a site contaminated with those very same fossil fuels. We have grown accustomed to destroying our climate and to breathing fossil fuel combustion products and uncombusted fossil fuels. The result has been catastrophic for our health and for the life support systems on which we all depend for our very existence," the commission concluded.

RACES from page 1

interest, and they're welcome to switch it up week to week," said Bachand. For the youngest racers—some as young as a year and a half—caregivers are encouraged to run alongside them, especially through the wooded sections.

Safety and fun go hand in hand, with directional arrows marking the course and volunteers stationed along trail turns. "For our youngest runners—especially those under age 5—we recommend a caregiver join them," said Bachand.

Beyond physical fitness, the trail races aim to instill confidence and foster a love for the outdoors. "We hope kids come away with a sense of accomplishment, confidence, and a positive association with being active outdoors," Bachand said. "For families, we hope it's a chance to spend time together, explore the town's trails, and build connections with other families in the community. Ultimately, we want this to be a fun and welcoming experience that encourages a lifelong love of movement, nature, and community involvement."

The races are a true grassroots effort. Friesner not only proposed the idea but continues to lead the program each week—mapping out courses,

organizing volunteers, and ensuring each event runs smoothly. This year, the event also gained support from local sponsor Mainline Tool & Grind.

The community has responded with enthusiasm, and there's growing interest in expanding the program. "We've even had people ask if we might continue the races into the fall—something we're considering for future seasons," Bachand said.

Bachand believes the event's success lies in its accessibility. "Events like this are perfect because they're low-key, non-intimidating, and don't require a big time commitment—making it easier for families to get involved," she said. "They help kids stay active, get outside, and explore some of the beautiful trails in South Hadley that they might not have discovered otherwise."

Thanks to the dedication of volunteers, supportive families, and a shared community spirit, the South Hadley Kids Trail Races continue to grow—one joyful step at a time.

"This program has been a wonderful addition to our summer offerings, and we're so grateful to Laura for bringing the idea forward and making it a reality," said Bachand.

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DISC GOLF from page 1

course with Omasta Landscaping doing the preliminary work.

“Once Omasta Landscaping completed the preliminary course work in late May, the volunteers began the work of designing and constructing signs, clearing around the tee pads and baskets, raking mulch, and getting the course ready for play,” said Prough.

The advisory group raised funds to purchase the artificial turf for the tee pads, create the tee sign designs, purchase materials for signage, and had some funds available for future maintenance needs and concerns.

“My favorite part of putting the course together was applying my experiences from other courses that I’ve played,” said Maddy Venancio. “Taking some of the best design ideas that I’ve seen and implementing them at Buttery Brook.”

“This course would not be as beautiful as it is without the tremendous volunteer efforts together with the hard work and support from Bill Simard, Corey Mercier, and the rest of the DPW Parks Department,” said Prough.

“John Chrisant and Mark

Dansereau put in countless hours installing signs, fixing the bridge, and clearing brush around the fairways. Jeromie Whalen was on hand to help with the final push before we opened the course, and Kim Prough was out recently on one of the hottest days, painting the footbridge. Some true dedication from these individuals,” said Venancio.

The nine-hole courses are more beginner and kid-friendly, where anyone between the ages of eight and 80 can come out and play a few rounds and get the hang of it to go on to take on more challenging courses, or for people who play regularly and just want to relax.

“I am not a disc golfer (yet), but I have enjoyed learning about the sport and meeting a whole new community of people,” said Prough. “It’s beautiful and offers a feeling of serenity for all who visit and play,” said Kim.

“We both want to grow the disc golf community. Especially with children and families. It’s a great game with many health benefits. I hope to see many people of all ages enjoying the course. Anyone from 8 to 80 can play, although it can be difficult to

master,” said Venancio.

“And we would like to thank the advisory group of Maddy Venancio, Kim Prough, Sean McGlynn, John Chrisant, Josh Powers, Jeromie Whalen, Chad Cunningham, Kevin Drozdowski, and Neil Ruggiero,” said Prough. “And finally, without our sponsors, we would not have all the elements needed to finish the course, such as tee pads and signage.”

The sponsors included: Baltazar Dental, Class Grass, Diamond Automotive, Ebenezer’s, Flavors of Cook Farm, Friends of Buttery Brook Park, Hampshire Towning, Realtor Joni Fleming, Luis Builders, Morning Crew Disc Golf, New England Disc Golf Center, Rita Petitory Graphic Design, Route 33 Pizza, Sok’s, SVG Athletics, Vanished Valley, Westfield Bank, Whiskey Barrel, and Yarde Tavern.

You can learn more about the art of disc golf and check out disc golf sets to borrow at both the South Hadley Public Library and the Senior Center. You can also find them on Facebook, and for any additional information, email them at butterybrookdiscgolf@gmail.com.



Turley photos by Emily-Rose Pappas

Mark Dansereau, John Chrisant, Maddy Venancio, Kim Prough, Jeromie Whelan, and Andy Allen, the members of the advisory group who put together the disc golf course.



People got to “christen” the course by throwing some discs into the net.



Kim Prough and Maddy Venancio with Representative Homar Gomez and Senator Jake Oliveira with a certificate of congratulations.



And, the course is open!



Posing for a photo, proud of their work.

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UPCOMING DATES:

- 9/8 PLANING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
- 11/4 SPECIAL TOWN MEEITNG

SCI-FI from page 1

“We followed with a discussion about the episode and a daring taste test of out-of-this-world treats, including Russian Cosmonaut Chicken Nuggets in a tube on Ritz crackers. Only two members were daring enough to try it, and they both were surprised at how delicious it was,” said Farley.

With fun and interesting snacks to eat that feel straight out of an old science fiction film, it truly is the perfect opportunity to really get “into” the movies and realms of space and adventure.

“I am most excited to share the love of Sci-Fi with other fans. To share my specific love and experience of being a Star Trek and Dr. Who fan, my love of science and mystery, my thrill of adventure,” said Farley. “There is a certain fabulous energy that only occurs when Sci-Fi fans gather. I would love to create that. I would love the group to be intergenerational so we can share the best of Sci-Fi - old and new.”



Submitted photo

The COA's new club t-shirts.

The time to spend with people who have the same or similar interests as you is truly wonderful, and the people who get together are even more so.

“There is an interest in a Build Your Own Alien workshop, which was inspired by

the Star Trek Cruise,” said Farley. “At the workshop, you can create your alien by drawing it, writing a story about it, or creating it in 3-D. After members who want, will share their alien with the rest of the club.”

Members can pick out the next science fiction film, TV series, or book, or come in ready to experience and discover something new.

“One of my goals is to offer a place, a space, if you will, to invite Sci Fi fans to celebrate their love of the genre. A place where people of all ages can gather and swap movie, podcast, book, and event ideas,” said Farley. “It is about creating a community within our community. So, when we want to go on a new Sci-Fi adventure, we do not have to go alone. Unless, of course, we want to.”

The next meeting will be on Monday, August 18, at 10 a.m., and the theme will be Star Trek, where Ensign Farley of the USS Voyager (NCC-74656) will be hosting. Sign up for the club at the COA ahead of time so seating and planning can be made for your arrival.

Park Administrator

Full-time Park Administrator for a large, over-55 mobile home community. Responsibilities include overseeing facilities and maintenance crew, as well as enforcement of cooperative rules. Individual would be expected to take an active role in day-to-day operations, in coordination with President, Board of Directors, maintenance crew and office staff.

Requirements include previous management experience; general knowledge of building, property and vehicle maintenance; excellent organizational, communications, and time-management skills.

Resumes can be sent to:
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Mustangs squeak by Rams in summer tilt

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

MONSON—Many outstanding soccer players have played for the Monson girls' varsity soccer team over the years. You can certainly add Hannah Murphy's name to that list.

During last Friday night's Pioneer Valley Summer Soc-

cer League B-Division match-up with Granby, Murphy recorded a hat-trick as the Lady Mustangs squeaked out a 3-2 victory at Larry Tassinari Field in Monson.

"We were very excited about playing tonight's game because we play in the same league as Granby during the regular season," Murphy said. "It gave us an opportunity to

see how they'll be in the fall. We were missing a couple of key starters, but we were still able to pull off the win. We're just getting ready for the fall."

Murphy will be the only senior listed on the Monson varsity soccer roster.

"It's my last year playing for the varsity soccer team," Murphy said. "I just want to leave my team off in a good

place. I really like helping the younger players on the team."

Granby and Monson are members of the Central Division.

A couple of Monson's younger key players are Avery Beaudoin, and Emma Maziarz.

The Lady Mustangs en-

Please see **MONSON**, page 9



Turley photos by David Henry
www.sweetdogphotos.com

Kaelynn Slapski sends a pass away.



Caroline Koziol watches a pass go away.



Kaylee Vincelette looks to trap the ball.

Pioneers grab win in playoffs

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Four days after giving up a pair of stoppage time goals and having to settle for a tie against rival Vermont Green FC in the regular season finale, the Western Mass. Pioneers hosted

the Long Island Rough Riders in a USL League Two play-in match.

Once again, the Pioneers held a two-goal advantage late in the second half, but this time there wouldn't be any miracle comeback by the opposing team. The Pioneers advanced into the Eastern Conference quarterfinals with

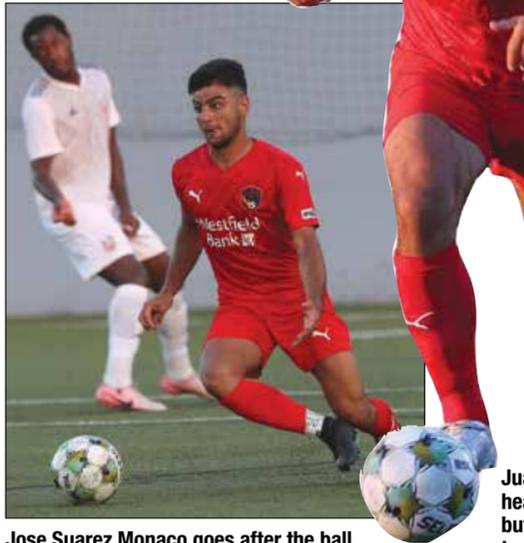
a 2-0 shutout victory before a large crowd at Lusitano Stadium, last Tuesday night.

"We're very happy with this result, especially after what happened on Friday

Please see **PIONEERS**, page 9



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Gustavo Barbosa gets a leg on the ball.



Jose Suarez Monaco goes after the ball.

Juan Hernando heads up the field but eyes an open teammate.

Western Mass. softball captures gold

DEVENS – Earlier this month, the entrant from Western Massachusetts captured the gold in this year's Bay State Summer Games for softball.

The tournament began this year with West team actually suffering a loss 3-0 in the opener playing in the Willard Field Complex in Devens. The tournament started on July 8 with two games. Following an opening loss, the West bounced back with a 4-3 win over the Northeast team.

Action continued on Wednesday July 9 as the West scored two wins in the game. They defeated Metro 2-1 and then trounced on the Central Mass. team 10-2 to earn a spot in the gold medal game, which took place on Thursday, July 10. The West found itself in a rematch with Coastal and this time prevailed in a slugfest, winning 11-7.

Among the players on this year's team from Western Mass., Chelsea Hull of Monson High School, Agawam's Alexina Lentas, and Holyoke's Mia Bauer were on the team.

Catalano scores win at Monadnock

WINCHESTER, New Hampshire – For Tommy Catalano, watching his brother Trevor earn his first NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour victory at Monadnock Speedway last year was emotional for several reasons.

Trevor's triumph came in only his eighth NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour appearance. Entering Saturday's Duel at the Dog 200 at Monadnock Speedway, Tommy had 96 career starts on his resume, none of which had resulted in a win despite several

close calls.

Years of patience and hard work brought a second Catalano to Monadnock's Victory Lane in thrilling fashion.

Tommy was tasked with fending off Patrick Emerling during an overtime restart while on older tires. Emerling briefly took the lead from Tommy, but a nudge to Emerling's back bumper knocked him out of the groove just enough for Tommy to earn an emotional breakthrough victory by the slimmest of margins – .007 seconds.

"I didn't really want to get [Emerling] like that into [turn three]," Tommy said. "I was hoping to kind of move him up the hill a little bit. Everyone was kind of tight right there. Justin [Bonsignore] was right on my bumper. It's unbelievable."

"Hopefully this isn't the last one."

After starting 12th, Tommy cycled to the second position after electing to stay on track during a caution with 42 laps remaining that, ironically, involved his brother

Trevor.

Tommy lined up second behind Luke Baldwin for the ensuing restart, with Tyler Rypkema providing the two a buffer between Emerling, who led the remaining lead lap cars off pit road. Knowing he needed to move quickly, Tommy dove underneath Baldwin in Turn 1 to take the lead, which also pinned Emerling on the top line.

By the time Emerling worked his way back to second behind Tommy, another caution would trigger an

overtime restart. The fastest car at Monadnock all evening would now be lined up to Tommy's outside for the final two-lap sprint, but even with the odds against him, the seasoned veteran was not ready to surrender the win just yet.

Emerling led at the white flag. Through determination and sheer will, Tommy led at the checkered flag, albeit just barely.

The scene in Victory Lane was nearly identical to last year's Duel at the Dog 250, with the only difference being

the role reversal of the brothers.

As the Catalanos celebrated, Emerling felt a mix of frustration and disappointment with his second-place effort. He was critical of the maneuver Tommy pulled on him to take the victory but does not plan to linger on Saturday's defeat for long.

"We had the best car today," Emerling said. "We led basically the whole race and the whole team executed really good. We were doing ex-

Please see **RACING**, page 9

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TOWN OF WORTHINGTON HIGHWAY POSITION OPENING

The Town of Worthington is soliciting letters of interest and resumes from qualified candidates for a **full-time Equipment Operator/General Laborer** position within the Highway Department. Valid MA CDL operator, Hydraulic Hoister's licenses and OSHA-10 certification is preferred.

More in-depth information can be found on the Town's website: www.worthington-ma.us
 Questions will be answered by the Highway Superintendent at 64 Huntington Road, Monday - Friday, 7 AM to 3 PM; the telephone number is 413-238-5830 or send letter of interest, resume and three (3) references with relevant contact information to highway@worthington-ma.us and board@worthington-ma.us. This posting will remain pertinent until the position is filled.
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The Town of Peru Highway Department is now accepting applications for the position of **Truck Driver/Laborer**. Preferred applicants will have a valid Class B CDL, Class 2A Hoisting license, and a current DOT Physical card. Construction and mechanical experience preferred. Must be able to work in all weather conditions. Position is full time 40hrs/week with mandatory overtime during snowstorms. Excellent benefits.
 Email resume to: townadmin@townofperuma.com or mail to **Town of Peru, Board of Selectmen, 3 East Main Rd. Suite 107, Peru MA 01235.** For additional information contact the Highway Superintendent at (413) 655-8224. *(The Town of Peru is an equal opportunity employer).*

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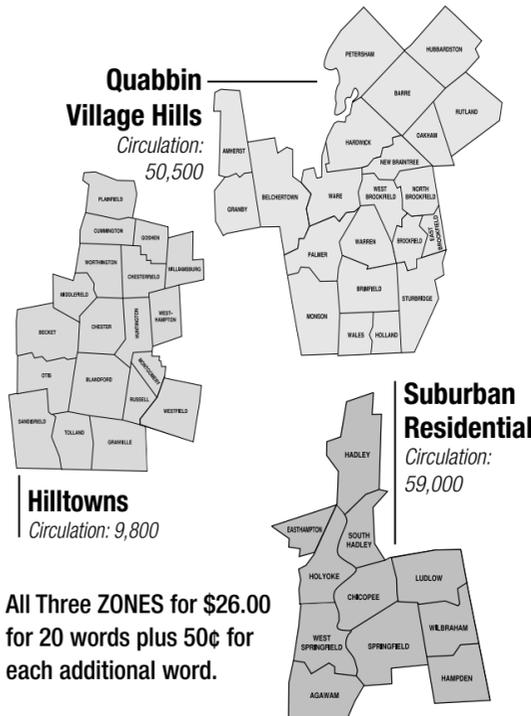
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PIONEERS from page 7

night,” said longtime Western Mass. Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari. “It was in the back of my mind during tonight’s game. You just hope it doesn’t happen again.”

The Pioneers, who finished the regular season with a 10-1-3 record, played their last home game of the season.

Pioneers’ goalie Trey Sheppard, who made his first home start of the season against Vermont, was feeling much better after posting his first shutout against the Rough Riders.

“I didn’t sleep very well the other night, but I received a lot of support from my teammates,” said Sheppard, who’s from Columbus, Ohio. “I just forgot about the past and focused on tonight’s game. I’m really looking forward to playing for this team

again next year.”

Sheppard is also one of the goalies listed on the Amherst College men’s soccer roster. The Mammoths are the defending NCAA Division 3 National Champions.

Sheppard, who’s going to be a sophomore in the fall, missed most of the Pioneers regular season because the Amherst men’s soccer team made a trip to Europe where they played several matches.

“It was definitely a very cool experience,” he said. “We played a few games over there, but I’m very glad they gave me an opportunity to play here.”

Sheppard certainly enjoyed having a solid defense in front of him led by Pioneers captain Aidan Kelly, who’s a member of the UMass-Amherst men’s soccer team.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Rees Sheppard socks a free kick away.

“Aidan is a great defender,” Sheppard said. “He makes all of the plays.” The other three Pioneers

starting defenders in the home finale were Jaiden Willems, Juan Hermoso, and Gustavo Barosa.

Willems suffered an injury in the middle of the first half against Long Island (9-3-1). He was replaced by Jared Smith.

“I thought Jared was the man of the match,” Sheppard added. “We have a very good defense.”

The play-in match was scoreless until the 26th minute of the opening half.

That’s when Mamadi Jiana, who graduated from Chicopee High School, received a pass from Israel Neto before blasting a shot into the net.

“I felt very good after scoring what turned out to be the game winning goal in front of the hometown crowd,” said Jiana, who

mostly likely played his final match wearing a Pioneers jersey at Lusitano Stadium. “It’s always very special whenever we’re playing at home.”

A couple of minutes later, Neto fired a shot from the top of the box, but Long Island goalie Ethan Wood

managed to knock the ball over the crossbar resulting in a corner kick.

The Pioneers held a 1-0 halftime advantage.

In the middle of the second half, Neto chipped a pass from the right side of the box to a wide Santiago Blasco Gomez, who put the ball into the net giving the Pioneers a 2-0 advantage.

Unlike what happened in the regular season finale, Sheppard and the defense didn’t allow the Rough Riders to make a late comeback.

RACING from page 7

actly what we had to do and had the race won in the last corner but got smashed out of the way. That’s not the type of racing that I do, but I guess that’s how it goes.”

If Emerling had edged Tommy at the line, he would have snapped a streak of different winners to open 2025, having previously won at New Smyrna Speedway. Austin Beers’ victory at Lancaster Motorplex last weekend tied the record for seven different winners in seven events that was set in 1999.

Instead, Tommy’s valiant effort during the final laps set a new NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour record; eight winners in the first eight races.

Building up Catalano Motorsports has been a prolonged, methodical effort not only by Tommy, but his mother Amy, his father Dave, his brothers and every member of his team. That elusive first victory finally arrived on Saturday, a day Tommy wasn’t sure would ever materialize.

“It’s just nuts,” Tommy said. “You see all the people that have won so far this

year and if you said any of them were going to win their second race [this year], that wouldn’t have surprised me at all. To come here and do what we did is phenomenal.

“You start getting down thinking it’s not meant to be, but you keep plugging away and keep at it.”

Kyle Bonsignore finished third in his 100th NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour start, followed by his cousin Justin Bonsignore and Beers. The rest of the top 10 included Rypkema, Baldwin, Stephen Kopcik, Craig Lutz and Anthony Nocella.

Legal Notices

GRANBY PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with MGL Ch. 40A, Sec. 11, the Granby Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **August 11, 2025, at 5:50 PM, at 1 Library Lane, Old Carnegie Library, Top Floor, Granby, MA.** The nature of the hearing is to consider the petition of Marilyn Iannaccone c/o 185 W State Street, LLC (Owner/Applicant), seeking a Special Permit with Site Plan Approval for a Fast Food Establishment without Drive-Through under Sections 6.2 and 6.3 of the Granby Zoning Bylaws and applicable of Section III – Use Regulations, 3.5.6 – Fast Food Establishment without drive-through at 185 West State Street, and known as Assessors’ Map 3-D-1 in the town of Granby, MA.

The complete applications and plans are available for public inspection during regular business hours (9:00AM – 3:00 PM, Monday-Thursday, and 9:00AM – 12:00 PM Fridays) at the Select Board’s Office located in the Granby Senior Center Building, 2nd Floor, 10-B West State Street, Granby, MA 01033.

Anyone wishing information and/or to be heard on this matter should appear at the time and place designated.

James Trompke, Chair
Granby Planning Board
07/25, 08/01/2025

TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting pursuant to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Local Wetlands Bylaw and Regulations to consider a Request for Determination filed by 136 Newton St LLC c/o Gerald Coderre to determine whether the boundaries of resource areas are accurately delineated at 136 East St (Map 35, Parcel 6).

The meeting will be held on **Wednesday, August 6, 2025 at 6pm virtually.** Login information will be provided with the posted agenda on the Town website. A copy of the request is on file in the Conservation Commission office, Room U6, in the Town Hall, and is available to the public for inspection between the hours of 8:30am to 4pm Mon - Fri. Plans are also available online at www.southhadley.org/603/Project-Plans.

Any person interested or wishing to be heard should appear at the time and place designated.

April Doroski
Conservation Chair
07/25/2025



GRANBY PLANNING BOARD NOTICE FOR SITE PLAN APPROVAL APPLICATION

In accordance with MGL Ch. 40A, Sec. 9 and Town Zoning Bylaw, the Granby Planning Board will consider a Site Plan Approval application at its **August 11, 2025 meeting, at 5:40 PM, at 1 Library Lane, Old Carnegie Library, Top Floor, Granby, MA.** The nature of the meeting item is to consider the petition of Five Corners LLC (Owner) and Genia Frazzin-McGinnes and April Allain (Applicants), seeking a Site Plan Approval for a day spa, under Section 6.3, Site Plan Approval, of the Granby Zoning Bylaws and applicable of Section 3.5.3 Services, at 61 Pleasant Street, and known as Assessors’ Map 3E-A-4 in the town of Granby, MA.

The complete applications and plans are available for public inspection during regular business hours (9:00AM – 3:00 PM, Monday-Thursday, and 9:00AM – 12:00 PM Fridays) at the Select Board’s Office located in the Granby Senior Center Building, 2nd Floor, 10-B West State Street, Granby, MA 01033.

Anyone wishing information and/or to be heard on this matter should appear at the time and place designated.

James Trompke, Chair
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07/25, 08/01/2025



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Margo Healey gets ready to clear the ball.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Bri-Anne Kraus dribbles up the field.

MONSON from page 7

tered the final week of the PVSSL regular season sitting in first place in the B-Division standings with an 8-1 mark.

The Lady Rams (6-3) were tied for third place with the Chicopee Pacers, Frontier and Ludlow.

In the second meeting of last season between the two squads, which was also played at Tassinari Field, Murphy scored a late goal giving her team an exciting 2-1 senior day victory.

Murphy, who has been playing for the varsity team since she was an eighth grader, has compiled 150 career goals. She netted 49 of those goals as a junior last fall.

After graduating from Monson High School in the spring of 2026, Murphy plans to continue playing college soccer at the Division 1 level. She has made a verbal commitment to join the women’s soccer team at Sacred Heart University, which is in Fairfield, Connecticut.

Murphy’s older sister, Emma, is a member of the UMass-Dartmouth women’s soccer team.

Monson took a 1-0 lead in last Friday’s summer league match in the fifth minute of the opening half.

After receiving a pass, Murphy made a move around Granby goalie Meredith Bartosz before firing a shot into the open net.

A little more than ten minutes later, Murphy weaved around a couple of defenders before putting a low shot into the left corner giving the home team a 2-0 advantage.

Then a shot attempt by Eleanor Szlosek was saved by Monson goalie Audrey Gregoire, who’s entering the

seventh grade.

The Lady Mustangs normal starting keeper is Grace Berry.

Granby managed to cut the deficit in half when Carli Zobka delivered a pass to Sofia Marsh, who scored a goal, with a couple of minutes remaining in the opening half.

The score remained 2-1 until the middle of the second half when Murphy completed her hat-trick.

With about ten minutes remaining in regulation, Marsh netted her second goal, which made the score 3-2.

Margo Healey had a shot on goal for the visiting team, but Gregoire made the save, which helped the Lady Mustangs keep the lead.

The two regular season meetings between the Granby and Monson girls’ soccer teams are scheduled to take place on Sept. 19 and Oct. 9.

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AUGUST EVENTS

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Wednesday, August 6 | 6 PM | Community Room

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Level Up Your Fitness with Jessica Carey

Wednesday, August 13 | 6 PM | Community Room Limited to 15 participants for personalized guidance

Sign up: <https://tinyurl.com/LevelUpSelf>

Stronger starts here. Ready to take your fitness routine to the next level? Certified personal trainer Jessica Carey of Fitness Rx will guide you through a beginner-to-intermediate class designed to help you level up with confidence. This small-group session focuses on proper form, realistic goal-setting, and building strength—no matter where you’re starting from. * Learn safe, effective moves, * Get expert tips tailored to your fitness level, * Walk away feeling stronger and more empowered. Spots are limited—grab yours now!

Level Up Your Cleaning: Organize Your Home Without Spending a Dime

Saturday, August 23 | 10 AM | Community Room

Sign up: <https://tinyurl.com/LevelUpClutter> – Limited to 20 participants!

Sick of clutter? Overwhelmed by bins and boxes you swore would fix it all? Join organizing expert Bonnie Borromeo Tomlinson for a practical and refreshing take on home organization that doesn’t require a trip to the container store. Bonnie was the principal of Bonnie Lia Interiors, a home organizing and interior decorating firm with clients in Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia. She now serves as the Virtual Merchandiser for the UMass Amherst Store—her alma mater. In this fun, no-nonsense session, you’ll learn how to: downsize for life changes without losing your mind, profit from your castoffs (emotionally and financially), build an organizing system that works for YOU, stop overbuying and start using what you already have, live an organized life without 24/7 upkeep. Declutter your space, your habits, and your thinking—without buying another bin.

BIG RIG from page 1

to be able to show off the new renovations at the park."

This year, Madd Eatz came with a food truck, making their food available at the event for the first time in a long time.

"[My favorite part is] how much fun everyone has and how many smiles you see! I have parking duty during the event, and working with our volunteers, it is always a fun challenge to fit as many cars safely in the park and on Wayne Walton's farm across the street," said Rogers.

The Big Rig day is a day of fun, designed for kids to explore giant trucks with their friends and family, and also get a chance to see and ex-

plore the hard work that has been put into the park over the past year.

Organizations volunteer their time and their vehicles, making the event truly community-centered, and a generous donation helped to cover the Police Department detail for the event.

"[It's special because it gives us] the opportunity to do something different in the summer months and explore the trucks, get the giveaways from various groups, get their face painted (Happy Face Painter), or other fun stuff," said Rogers.

South Hadley received a PARC Grant as well as funding from the town towards the project to update the park, and The Friends of Buttery Brook

Park, a 501 (c)(3) non-profit, has been working on a fundraising campaign to fill in the gap.

"There is so much to love about Buttery Brook Park, which is an incredible asset to the community of South Hadley," Kim Prough said. "We're excited to bring more improvements to the park and we're grateful for the public and private support from our fundraising campaign."

"It is a great partnership between the companies, the Friends of BBB, town departments and everyone else that helps with the event," said Rogers. "[It's the] willingness to work together to make things happen."



Turley photos by Amanda Munson

South Hadley Fire Districts No. 1 and 2 displayed the firetrucks that allowed guests to hop in the truck and take a look around.



Alongside the firetruck was a mock display of kids using the fire hose to blast the fake fire in the windows.



South Hadley Public Health Georgina Maende, Fiona Cioch, Sharon Hart, and Hannah Durham provided resources and helpful advice.



In front of the cement truck were Reagan, Norah, and Ann-Marie, who were excited to climb on top of the truck and take in the view.



James, Declan, and Meghan were all smiles after learning how to honk the airhorn!



School Resource Officer Joshua Helems, with son Henri, and Patrol Officer Ray Faginski showed off the vehicle from the School Resource Office.



Devontae was happy to be exploring the controls of the loader vehicle.



Interns Hector Aponte and Carliegh King, Lead Education Coordinator Erica Crawford, with Field Advisor for Mass Equipment Distribution Program (Mass EDP) Marguirete Szczawinski, in front of the MA State 911 Department truck.



USA Recycling were in attendance with John, Kim, and Edgar showing off the recycling truck and all its mechanics.

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