

TOWN Reminder

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Serving the town of South Hadley

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Learning the way of the sword with Castle Nitor

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
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BELCHERTOWN – The art of learning new things is quite easy, especially when considering the library is available with its wealth of knowledge, resources, and guides, and its ability to access other libraries' troves of knowledge.

The Gaylord Memorial Library, in the spirit of "Levelling Up" this summer, hosted Castle Nitor, where Allison Pettengail taught the European martial art of the long sword and the basics of using the weapon.

"I think for me, what I like about this as a theme for the libraries, is that reading is

amazing for you, and learning in general changes you and makes you a better person," said Pettengail. "There are so many ways you can take 'level-up,' and it can all be done through your library, and I get to be a part of that."

With the theme of levelling up dealing with video gaming, but also in the realm of Dungeons and Dragons, including an event on learning to wield a longsword, was the perfect match to an adventure-filled theme for the summer.

"I'm a curious person, and I love learning, so keep levelling up and learning more because it's fun," said Pettengail. "Having access through

Please see **SWORD**, page 10



Raising the sword in a guard position and learning the proper footwork.



Turley photos by Emily-Rose Pappas

Raising the sword up is another guard stance.

SHELD announces new \$37 million municipal building project

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
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SOUTH HADLEY – The South Hadley Electric Light Department has been working for the past decade on the construction of a new municipal building, with the need for the new building growing by the day.

Chair John Hine of SHELD shared in the last meeting that the new building plans are underway, and the board is looking to make more motions moving forward with the estimated \$37 million project.

"I think its important to understand where we are in the process," said Hine. "And



"I feel strongly that as a board member, I've got to make some judgment calls and it is important that we deal with this long-term."

JOHN HINE
CHAIR

the numbers have changed." Between 2014 and 2015 there was an effort made by the previous general manager

of SHELD to move forward with planning for a new building. They made a design, and found th total cost was in the \$12 million range, but it never went through, as the original location set to be in the Old Lyman Road area drew opposition from residents.

Now, SHELD is bringing forward those designs to use as a starting point, and there was an effort made to revisit it. Needed land to build on-needed land, hard to find for commercial use. Revisiting the plan, doing updates to meet current needs- in negotiations currently for some land opposite the Big Y building on Wilamansett Street, and

Please see **SHELD**, page 9

Red Fire Farm faces scrutiny over complex septic system, hefty permit fees

By Melina Bourdeau
Correspondent

GRANBY - Local agricultural business Red Fire Farm is under intense Board of Health review for a sophisticated septic system that could require up to eight separate inspections and an unprecedented \$800 permit fee.

The board meticulously examined the farm's intricate wastewater infrastructure, which includes multiple tanks, a grease trap and com-

plex drainage requirements. Board member Richard Bombardier noted the system's complexity.

"I sent out 15 or 16 different items for review," he said.

Board member Bill Shaheen emphasized the regulatory necessity.

"The townspeople shouldn't eat the fees; the applicant should pay," he said.

The board unanimously agreed that the \$800 fee would cover anticipated inspection costs.

The system's design includes a 3,000-gallon two-compartment tank, a 2,000-gallon first container, and a 1,000-gallon second side.

"It's a pretty good-sized critter," Bombardier said.

Shaheen added that the farm must "comply with Massachusetts stormwater regulations," noting they are "pushing back a little bit" on

Please see **RED FIRE FARM**, page 2

Town urges delegation to stand up to health insurance trust

By Emily-Rose Pappas
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SOUTH HADLEY – In a decision made earlier this week, Wednesday, July 30 by the Hampshire County Insurance Trust Advisory Committee, only one of the 73 members voted no to a bill that would raise health insurance rates by 20% effective Oct. 1.

The decision, made just past noon, affects towns, municipalities, fire and EMS, and other areas of the towns and their occupants having to have a health insurance rate increased even more than it was before during the budget season just a few short months ago.

"The claims that just came in were through the roof. When you have \$5 million of unexpected expenses in the last two months, that's what

happens. The health insurance increase is estimated to be about \$10 million," said Town Administrator Lisa Wong.

The Trust was established under Section 12, Chapter 32B of the Massachusetts General Laws in order for the

joint purchase of insurance for municipalities, districts, and CDCs. There are trusts made up of 73 members in the Hampshire, Franklin, Hampden, and Worcester Counties.

The Trust functions with the main goal of delivering the highest level of health insurance benefits possible, for the lowest and consistent price.

However, with a rising number of claims and drug costs rising by the day, the Hampshire County Trust met to vote to consider a 20% increase in rates for in-

Please see **INSURANCE**, page 10

“These increases are straining our capacity to pay for essential services, and is jeopardizing our ability to meet even baseline needs.”

LISA WONG
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

COA hosts BBQ for annual congregante meal

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Write
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SOUTH HADLEY – The Council on Aging held their annual Congregante Meal this past Wednesday, and Delaney's Market catered a delicious BBQ lunch.

Over 100 people came for the Congregante Meal to enjoy cooked-to-order burgers, hot dogs, grilled chicken, pasta salad, potato salad, and baked potatoes with sour cream.

"The Congregante Meal is done through Access Care Partners, and one through Title III funds, and ours is catered through Delaney's Market," said Julie Pearce, the Director of the Senior Center.

Title III funding is from the federal government, which then goes to the state and is then funneled to local governments to fun Meals on Wheels and Congregante Meals and partially funds the

Tech Assistance and Companion Driver Programs.

"Our Congregante Meal is catered to us, and anybody can come, and there is a suggested donation of \$3 with a breakfast they can take home and heat up the next day," said Pearce.

The cafeteria was filled with people ready to enjoy some good food, talk with good friends, and make some new friends, too.

"I love that it provides an opportunity for socialization, while also helping to address the food insecurity amongst the older population," said Pearce.

Rich Poggi, the executive chef at Delaney's, one of the creators of the Delaney's Market, came ready to make and serve food for the lunch time meal.

"It means the world to me. Our partnership with Access Care and Meals on Wheels is a very uplifting thing for us as

a community, and for us as a business," said Poggi. "As everyone knows, eating makes you happy."

This was Delaney's Market's first year working and partnering with Access Care Partners, an organization that works to provide services to help older adults and people with disabilities live independent lives in their own homes and communities.

It provides long-term support, and many other opportunities, as well as engaging with local businesses for meals, like the organization Meals on Wheels, which delivers food to people home-bound.

"Today was really about the executive chef and the owner getting out in public to show our gratitude to them, and how proud we are to be part of the community. It's really important to be out there

Please see **BBQ**, page 5



Lining up to get some delicious food at the buffet, and no party is complete without some balloons.

Submitted photo

August at the South Hadley Council on Aging

Making Moves with NASA
Wednesday, August 6, at 1:30 p.m.

Learn about Bill Barry's role as a historic consultant for films like Hidden Figures, First Man, Apollo 11, and Fly Me to the Moon, and how NASA's history is portrayed in Hollywood. All films will be shown during Monday Movies.

Chair Volleyball Beach Party
Thursday, August 7 at 12:30 p.m.

Join us for seated volleyball fun with a beach theme! Enjoy free refreshments, surprises, and lots of laughs.

Tech Time with Hannah
Thursday, August 7, from 9 to 11 a.m.

Book your Tech Time with Hannah Cox from Northampton Open Media. She's ready to help with all your digital questions.

Our Chemical Romance: Demo with Chef Maggie
Monday, August 11 at 1:30 p.m.

In 1969, space travel soared and processed foods ruled. Chef Maggie revisits a beloved dessert from the era and gives it a healthy, senior-friendly twist. Free demo with samples during "First Man" and take-home recipe ideas featured.

Heart-Centered Convo Circle: Death Café
Wednesday, August 13 at 1 p.m.

What if we welcomed death as a wise teacher, not something to fear? Join us for coffee and open conversation in a warm, supportive space to reflect, share, and listen. No preparation needed- just bring your curiosity. Led by Gina Sabatini, Spiritual Life Coach, Death Doula, Grief Education, and Body Code Practitioner.

Lunch and Learn: Financial Literacy with Westfield Bank
Thursday, August 14, at 11:30 a.m.

We will be offering another "Financial Resource" lunch-and-learn program with Cody Goncalves from Westfield Bank. Sign up for the program by registering for lunch by 11 a.m. on Wednesday, August 13.

Healthy Cooking Demon-

stration and Nutrition Education with Ascentria Care Alliance and SNAP-Ed

Thursday, August 14, 1:30 p.m.

Learn to cook healthy, budget-friendly meals with MyPlate nutrition tips from Ascentria and SNAP-Ed educators. Enjoy free samples and take home practical wellness ideas.

Summer Breakfast
Friday, August 15, 8:30 a.m.

The Gentleman's Breakfast is on summer break, but breakfast is still served! Join us for a delicious \$3 meal - open to everyone. Bring a friend!

Lunch & Movie: Pirates of the Caribbean
Wednesday, August 20, 11:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Enjoy a Caribbean-inspired lunch by Chef Dakota followed by a screening of Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl. Join Captain Jack Sparrow for action, laughs and pirate mischief in this fun food-and-film event! Tickets are \$8 at the Welcome Desk.

Navajo Code Talkers Presentation
Thursday, August 21, 1:30 p.m.

In 1946, a Japanese newspaper stated: "If the Japanese Imperial Intelligence Team could have decoded the Navajo messages...the history of the Pacific War might have turned out completely different." What made the Code of the Navajo so unbreakable? The incredible story of the Navajo Code Talkers presented by Dr. Ed Maxwell, linguist and student of the Navajo language.

Ice Cream Truck Birthday Party
Friday, August 22, 1:30 p.m.

We're celebrating August birthdays and anniversaries with free ice cream from the Batch Ice Cream truck and open mic entertainment! Everyone is welcome, whether you're celebrating or not. August Birthday or anniversary? Enter our drawing! Join us on the patio for the fun, sponsored by the Friends of the South Hadley Seniors. Open to all ages. Don't miss it!

Sounds, Sights & Stories of Hawaii with Aloha Spirit
Tuesday, August 26, 3 p.m.

Join us on a virtual voyage to the Hawaiian Islands and enjoy sounds, sights and stories of the Island' continuing volcanic creation, its peoples, their history, and culture. Learn about the unique origin and sweet melodies of ki'hoalu - slack key - guitar music played with Aloha, born on the cattle ranches of the Big Island, Island-born Ash Hartwell, accompanied by Rob Lak, will play in ki'hoalu style, including a song composed by the law Hawaiian Monarch, Queen Liliuokalani.

Summer Concert Series: Polka Party with Eddie Forman Orchestra
Wednesday, August 27, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Join the South Hadley Travel Club for a lively musical journey to Poland! Enjoy a delicious Polish lunch and dance to the sounds of the Eddie Forman Orchestra. Tickets are \$8 per person and include lunch, live music, and fun surprises. Get your tickets at the Welcome Desk. Don't miss this festive event!

Medicare Supplement Plans or Medicare Advantage Plans? Which Coverage is Best for Me?
Thursday, August 28, 1:30 p.m.

Whether you're enrolling for the first time or reviewing your current plan, it's important to understand your options. This session will cover Original Medicare, Medicare Supplement vs. Advantage plans, prescription coverage, and provide real-life examples to help you choose the plan that best fits your needs. No specific plan details - just clear, helpful guidance.

Board & brush: Make and Take Workshop
Friday, August 29, 1 p.m.

Join us for a summer-inspired crafting workshop! Select one of four pedestal or tray designs, customize it with your choice of stain, and use a stencil to paint your masterpiece - with hands-on guidance from the creative team at Board & Brush. All supplies included.

State Public Health officials announce season's first EEE-positive mosquito sample

REGION - The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) today announced that Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) virus has been detected in mosquitoes in Massachusetts for the first time this year. The presence of EEE was confirmed in a mosquito sample collected on July 21 in the town of Belchertown in Hampshire County.

"This is around the time we would expect to find EEE in mosquitoes in Massachusetts, especially after an active EEE season last year with four recorded human cases," said Public Health Commissioner Robbie Goldstein, MD, PhD. "This is only a first finding and mosquito surveillance will be key to tracking any developing areas of increasing risk. Today's finding is an important reminder for residents to take measures to protect themselves from mosquito bites."

EEE is a rare but serious and potentially fatal disease that can affect people of all ages. EEE is generally spread to humans through the bite of an infected mosquito. There were four human cases of EEE in Massachusetts in 2024 with one death. There were also four EEE-infected horse cases last year. No human or animal cases of EEE have been detected so far this year.

"EEE activity in Massachusetts tends to occur in outbreak cycles," said State Epidemiologist Dr. Catherine M. Brown. "When EEE is found in mosquitoes at this point in the season, the risk

may increase throughout the rest of the summer. We rely on our mosquito surveillance program to monitor for the presence of virus to let people know when and where the risk is occurring."

Avoid Mosquito Bites
Apply Insect Repellent when Outdoors. Use a repellent with an EPA-registered ingredient (DEET (N,N-Diethyl-m-toluamide), permethrin, picaridin (KBR 3023), oil of lemon eucalyptus (p-menthane-3,8-diol (PMD) or IR3535) according to the instructions on the product label. DEET products should not be used on infants under two months of age and should be used in concentrations of 30 percent or less on older children. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under three years of age.

Be Aware of Peak Mosquito Hours. The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many mosquitoes. Consider rescheduling outdoor activities that occur during the evening or early morning in areas of high risk.

Clothing Can Help Reduce Mosquito Bites. Wearing long sleeves, long pants, and socks when outdoors will help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.

Mosquito-Proof Your Home
Drain Standing Water. Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Limit the number of places around your home for mosquitoes to breed by either draining or discarding items that hold water. Check rain gutters and drains. Empty any unused flowerpots

and wading pools and change the water in birdbaths frequently.

Install or Repair Screens. Keep mosquitoes outside by having tightly fitting screens on all your windows and doors.

Protect Your Animals

Animal owners should reduce potential mosquito breeding sites on their property by eliminating standing water from containers such as buckets, tires, and wading pools - especially after heavy rains. Water troughs provide excellent mosquito breeding habitats and should be flushed out at least once a week during the summer months to reduce mosquitoes near paddock areas. Horse owners should keep horses in indoor stalls at night to reduce their risk of exposure to mosquitoes. Owners should also speak with their veterinarian about mosquito repellents approved for use in animals and vaccinations to prevent WNV and EEE. If an animal is suspected of having WNV or EEE, owners are required to report to the Department of Agricultural Resources, Division of Animal Health by calling 617-626-1795, and to the Department of Public Health by calling 617-983-6800.

Learn more about mosquito-borne diseases, including all WNV- and EEE-positive results on DPH's Arbovirus Surveillance Information page, which is updated daily, or by calling the DPH Division of Epidemiology at 617-983-6800.

Fall Book Sale coming to Granby Library

Find new-to-you books, magazines, and more from Sept. 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, encyclopedias, 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.

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.



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RED FIRE FARM from page 1 compliance.

The board plans to conduct multiple site inspections to ensure the system meets all local and state requirements, signaling a rigorous approach to agricultural waste management.

In a wide-ranging session, the Board of Health addressed several local matters, including potential septic system

concerns at the West Street School. Building department representative Bombardier emphasizing the critical nature of the review.

The board also discussed ongoing investigations, including the Dollar General water issue. "Maybe it's worthwhile to go to Dollar General and have Colleen ask them for a report," Bom-

barrier suggested, noting the company's apparent financial challenges.

A local wellness spa, Misfits Wellness and Skin Spa, was asked to appear at the next meeting to explain their cleaning procedures.

"What are they doing with waxing? What kind of cleanliness?" Bombardier said, highlighting the board's thorough approach to public health.

The meeting concluded with a mix of routine approvals and proactive oversight, demonstrating the board's commitment to local health and safety standards.

Key quote from Bombardier summed up the evening's spirit: "We ought to be letting them know that they need a septic investigation before doing any work."

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Resident receives William J. Wagner Memorial Scholarship award

SOUTH HADLEY – Ava Asselin, a 2025 graduate of South Hadley High School, has been awarded a \$3,000 William J. Wagner Memorial Scholarship from the Chicopee Savings Bank Charitable Foundation, an affiliate with Westfield Bank. Ava is one of 12 highly deserving scholarship recipients from 12 local high schools that were invited to participate in the Foundation’s 19th annual scholarship program.

Ava graduated with a 4.33 GPA, having successfully completed an impressive curriculum of AP and honors classes. Ava has been admitted to the Elaine Marieb College of Nursing at UMASS-Amherst. With a strong desire to work with children and offer empathetic care, Ava is pursuing a career as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner or a Registered Nurse Anesthetist. Driven by her love for STEM, Ava’s mastery of various math and science subjects distinguished her as one of her school’s strongest STEM students. Further broadening her academic fortitude, Ava

equally excelled in AP English and Psychology. As an integral member of the varsity basketball and lacrosse teams, Ava garnered individual recognition and contributed to the team’s success in championship games. She puts her heart into all that she does and is known not only as a standout athlete, but also as a positive role model and mentor to younger students. Ava not only participated in a myriad of extracurriculars, she held many leadership roles in afterschool teaching programs, as President of Best Buddies, as a group leader in Special Olympics and as a volunteer at a local animal shelter. Most important to her was her involvement with individuals with disabilities. Ava formed meaningful connections as a peer support through Best Buddies and as a weekend caregiver for a non-verbal Autistic adult for the past five years. Ava as grown to value these friendships immensely. Between school, sports, clubs, community service and her commitment to providing care to an Au-

tistic adult, Ava found time to work as a sitter for many families and also worked in a local daycare teaching toddlers and preschoolers. Her time, patience and dedication in these roles showcased her caring and trustworthy character. Ava’s School Counselor had this to say about Ava, “Ava is an excellent student and compassionate individual who has left a lasting mark on the South Hadley community. Ava is a true academic in all the best ways.”

The Chicopee Savings Bank Charitable Foundation was established in 2006, as a Private 501c3 foundation, through a gift of stock from Chicopee Bancorp, Inc., valued then at \$5.5 million, upon the successful conversion of Legacy Chicopee Savings Bank to a publicly traded company. Now, in its nineteenth year, the Foundation has donated in excess of \$6.3 million back into our local communities. The Foundation grants funding to qualified 501(c)(3) organizations serving the communities of Chicopee, Ludlow, South Hadley,



Submitted photo
Lily Lazeration-Wagner, Karen Lazeration-Wagner, Ariana Adrien, Abby Lazeration-Wagner and Foundation president Guida Sajdak.

Ware, West Springfield and their immediate surrounding communities.

In 2022, the Foundation’s Board of Directors proudly renamed its scholarship to the William J. Wagner Memorial Scholarship in recognition

of the Foundation’s founding President, who served in that capacity until his passing in 2021. Mr. Wagner was a community servant, who was notably passionate about helping youth succeed and lived by the ol’ adage that,

“What you do has far greater impact than what you say.” Through and since Mr. Wagner’s leadership, the Foundation has proudly awarded 160 academic scholarships totaling \$478,000 to eligible high school graduates.

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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.

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 Williman-sett Street, or Adams’ house at 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, shoperationbackpack@yahoo.com, or by calling her at 413-536-5316.



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Opinion

SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor

I'm turning 70. When should I apply for Social Security?

Dear Rusty:

I have a very simple question: I will turn 70 on Sept. 20 and want to start my Social Security benefits in September.

What month should I file my claim? Have there been delays with the reductions in SSA staff? Thank you for your help.

Signed: Ready to Claim.

Dear Ready to Claim:

Social Security allows you to submit your application for benefits up to four months prior to the month you wish benefits to start (you will specify your desired benefit-start-month on the application).

Thus, to have your benefits begin in September (the month you turn 70), you can submit your application as early as May 2025. That will give SS plenty of time to get your benefits started on time.

Remember, though, that SS pays benefits in the month following the month earned, so if you start benefits in September, you will receive your first SS payment in October on the third Wednesday.

And, since you will be turning 70 in September you are entitled to full benefits effective from the first of that month. Congratulations on choosing a strategy, which maximizes your monthly payment. By claiming at age 70, your monthly SS benefit will be about 31% more than it would have been at your Full Retirement Age and you will get that higher monthly amount for the rest of your life.

Re your question about possible delays, Social Security staff reductions have not included "front line" agents, those who handle applications, so the SS recent staff adjustments should not likely delay processing your application.

Although some back-office staffing turmoil currently exists at SSA, they have been moving more people to front-line positions to try to improve their service. Just be aware, however, that it normally takes the SSA about two to three months to process new applications, which is why they allow applications up to 4 months in advance. You will specify the month you wish benefits to start on your application. In any case, although your application should be fine if you submit it this month, rest assured that they will pay you starting with the month you requested, even if they must do so retroactively.

FYI, people can apply for Social Security in person by making a telephone appointment to do so at 1-800-772-1213 or they can apply online at www.ssa.gov/apply. To apply online, they need to have first created their "my Social Security" online account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. Here is a video which explains the online application process: www.ssa.gov/hlp/video/iclaim_r01.htm.

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 ssadviser@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

The Pemi Loop at 60

By Julie Midura
Guest Columnist

Last December, I got this harebrained idea to do something crazy for my birthday this June. It would be my way of proving to myself that 60 isn't as old as it sounds in my head.

The Pemi Loop – called "the second hardest day hike in the United States" by Backpacker Magazine – is a 32-mile hike that encircles the largest wilderness area in the White Mountains of New Hampshire.

With 10 summits and 10,500 feet of elevation gain along with technical climbs and descents-completing this rugged hike in one day would be the hardest endurance challenge I had ever attempted. As such, it would require significant training.

But in January, just one month after the idea took hold, life took a turn when our 1-year-old granddaughter, Charlotte, was diagnosed with inoperable brain cancer. Three months later, in April, our middle daughter's high risk pregnancy with twins became more serious when both babies were diagnosed with heart issues.

The nail in the coffin came in May, when our 160-mile backpacking trip on the Appalachian Trail through New Jersey and New York – my one and final opportunity to train for the Pemi Loop – ended just six days in. Our youngest daughter had been rushed to the emergency room with a life-threatening pregnancy complication and was forced to deliver the baby five weeks early. (Mom and baby are now doing well.)

Over the last six months, our family has needed us, and my time has been better spent being there for the people I love, rather than spending my weekends training for an epic endurance hike.



Submitted Photo

Julie Midura celebrated her 60th birthday on the Pemi Loop.

So I shelved the idea of a solo, single-day Pemi Loop in favor of completing a 'leisurely' three-day Pemi Loop backpacking trip with my husband instead. After all, we wouldn't really need to train for it... would we?

The short answer, as we discovered last weekend, is "Yes, you did need to train for it, you fools!"

Although our bodies most definitely took a beating, weary legs and several falls were a small price to pay for admission.

Because I have no desire to carefully preserve this now 60-year-old body. I prefer to use it up until there is nothing left. To wring out every last bit of my youth on adventures and experiences such as this.

You see, although our bodies most assuredly have a shelf life, there are parts of us that will forever remain ageless. And I plan to carry the best parts of my younger self into my older years.

I plan to worry less about

"acting my age" and spend more time celebrating it. I plan to scramble up steep rock ledges. Watch the sun rise and set from mountaintops. Sleep in the wilderness. Slow dance on summits. Kiss...even when someone is watching.

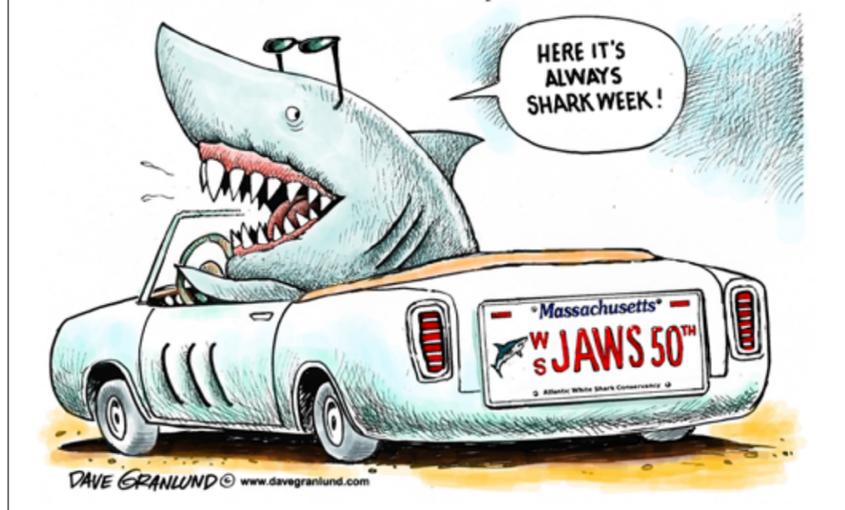
I plan to slide into the next decade, battered, bruised and bandaged, all while yelling, "Dang, what an amazing ride!"

So on our final day of the trip, I was disappointed to hear Tom say, "I hate to tell you this, but this will be my last Pemi Loop."

However, he said the same exact thing two years ago when we completed our fourth Pemi Loop. I'm secretly hoping that hiker amnesia kicks in again in two years when he turns 70. Because don't you agree that there's no better place to become a septuagenarian than on a walk around the largest wilderness area in New Hampshire?

See you in the wild places, my friends!

Massachusetts White Shark lie. plates ...



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

A Brimfield resident reported a common yellowthroat in his yard.

The common yellowthroat as its name implies has a yellow throat. It also has a long tail and round belly. The males have a black mask with a whitish line above, olive upper parts, yellow throat and yellow under its tail.

Females are brownish olive above with a yellow throat and breast. They lack the distinct, black mask of the male. Yellowthroats are small songbirds about 4 to 5 inches long. The males sing a "wichty-wichty-wichty" song. Both sexes give a full sounding "chuck" note. During migration, the yellowthroat is the most common warbler found in fields and along their edges.

These warblers live in open areas with thick, low vegetation ranging from marsh to grassland to pine forests. The females select a nest location, near or on the ground supported by sedge, reeds, cattails, briars and other low plants. Nests in marshy

areas are usually higher off the ground where they are safer from flood-



By Ellenor Downer

ing. Sometimes the nest has a roof like the ovenbird nests. They are one of the species that cowbirds lay their eggs in their nests.

People may designate an area of dense or tangled low-growing grasses and other vegetation to attract common yellowthroats to their yards. Yellowthroats prefer larger yards of at least half an acre or more.

Phoebe nest

I received an email containing a photo of an Eastern phoebe nest filled with phoebe nestlings. Eastern phoebes nest near humans often selecting a spot over a door or in a shed.

Wild turkeys

My grandson and I had

to stop and wait for several hen turkeys with their poults to move them along a backroad in Barre. The largest hen led the way, walking down the middle of the road. Three other hens took up the rear with the poults walking all over the place. Some even stopped to explore the edge of the road, but then ran to catch up. Finally, they headed into the grass and woods on the edge of the road.

More Brimfield birds

The Brimfield resident said he has seen more birds in his yard since his last email. "Baltimore orioles

have been seen more often at the birdbath, probably because of the warm weather we have been having." On a recent day he had a robin, three orioles, cardinals, a titmouse, a chipping sparrow, blue jays, catbirds and a common yellowthroat all stopped by the birdbath and a black and white warbler was seen in the yard.

He said he took down the bird feeders because of bears. "We had a bear make a daytime visit. It was not seen,

but we discovered that it had cleaned out the feeding station. All the black oil sunflower seed, two suet cakes, a "log" of compressed seeds and fruit and suet pellets were all gone. Fortunately the bear didn't damage anything or steal any of the feeders which they often do."

His wife checks a town Facebook page and has seen many reports of bears in town and many of them are in the daytime so he figured it was time to take the feeders down. He still throws a seed mix around in several places like he always has and only put handfuls of black oil and whole peanuts in a small try hanging from a Shepard's crook.

He said, "I've started to see young of the year around the yard. Several days ago two juveniles were following an adult male red-bellied woodpecker around, two juvenile Baltimore orioles were seen at the bird bath and I also saw a juvenile chipping sparrow take a bath."

Bobolinks

He said, "A few years back I took part in a citizen science project monitoring bobolinks at Moore State Park in Paxton. Because the Mass

Department of Conservation and Recreation has failed to maintain two large fields at the park for the benefit of grassland species the bobolink population at the park has declined. Milkweed, multi flora rose, bindweed, crown vetch and other non-grass type vegetation is slowing invading the once grass fields. The first year I monitored the park there were 149 bobolinks seen in the largest field in August but unfortunately the numbers declined every subsequent year."

Osprey

This Brimfield resident visits a pond in Warren often to check on an osprey nest. He said, "The osprey nest in Warren may have only produced one young this year. The nest has gotten bigger over the years so I hoping that there are more young in the nest that have been unseen because the nest is deeper now."

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

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.

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.

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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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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 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

Hampshire sheriff's office earns accolades for opioid treatment program

REGION - On July 23rd and 24th, Dr. Lawrence Mendel and Donna Mayne, BSN, surveyors from the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCCHC), an organization recognized as one of the strictest of the many oversight agencies that monitor correctional practices in the country, conducted a stem-to-stern audit of the Hampshire Sheriff's Office's Opioid Treatment Program (OTP), our second such audit since earning our federal OTP license in 2021, and our first since earning NCCCHC accreditation in 2023.

During their exit interview, Lawrence and Donna made special note of the teamwork and spirit of camaraderie they experienced during their visit, stating that the audit for them was a "wonderful experience,"

adding that they had "no concerns and many more compliments" about our Opioid Treatment Program.

From the positive responses they received from the men in the program, to the excellence of our documentation, to the overall commitment of our Medical and Security Teams to make the OTP work efficiently and safely, Donna said, "You're only as strong as your weakest link, and I don't think we found a weak link."

Lawrence added that our OTP "is the best program I've seen in quite some time."

Donna and Lawrence will file their preliminary report with the NCCCHC Accreditation Committee early next week, and by September, we should receive a renewed accreditation for our OTP.

"You should be so proud of

everything you do at this facility," Donna said. "I'm going to put that at the beginning of my report."

"The goals of our Opioid Treatment Program are saving and improving lives, reducing crime and recidivism, and helping our clients re-enter their communities and re-join their families in better health than when they arrived at our facility," Sheriff Patrick J. Cahillane said. "I appreciate the meticulous review of our program and thank Lawrence and Donna for their efforts and kind words. And I am enormously proud of all our staff, but especially the members of our OTP Team for their outstanding and life-changing work. Our success requires teamwork. I believe the preliminary results of this re-accreditation audit demonstrate that."

School Committee seeking seat filled

SOUTH HADLEY - Due to a recent resignation on 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, Subsections 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@south-hadley.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.

BBQ is here with more summer fun

SOUTH HADLEY - There's still time to enjoy the summer with the weekly events offered at Buttery Brook Park to spend some time enjoying your day.

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

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

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

Friday, August 8 - Cruise Night & Live Music featuring Eavesdrop, from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the front pavilion.

Pickleball Courts - Daily open play on Mondays and Sundays, from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. / Weeknight open play on Mondays to Fridays, 4:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

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

BBQ from page 1

with the consumer and the customers," said Poggi.

Delaney's is dedicated to helping, networking, and assisting their community, and branching out to other towns like Holyoke, Granby, and other neighboring communities to provide home-cooked meals as a part of these two

organizations.

"I loved walking around and talking to all of them," said Poggi. "It's really cool to hear feedback, and what makes this meal special is to engage with them and what their preferences are, and figuring out how to navigate through the program and give them what they want," said Poggi. "We really take this

opportunity to listen to them, and then give them what they want."

The meal time was full of fun and laughter, and of course, some delicious summer BBQ for so many people to enjoy, ensuring that all who came were able to enjoy a meal in an air conditioned and safe space.



Submitted photos

Sharing a meal together is an important part to a thriving community.



Rich Poggi, executive chef at Delaney's greeting some people at the lunch.

Are you feeling the heat? Here are some ways to cope!

South Hadley Sustainability and Energy Commission

SOUTH HADLEY - Does it seem like it's getting hotter? It is! 2024 was the hottest year, worldwide, in recorded history. The ten years leading up to 2024 were the ten hottest years of all time. They also represented the first time ever that ten years in a row all broke records.

This is not just uncomfortable, it can be dangerous. Extreme heat increases energy bills because we need to stay cool! There are ways, however, that we can stay comfortable while saving energy and money.

First, start "pre-cooling" your home. If you don't have AC, open windows at night and then close windows, blinds, and curtains as soon as it starts getting hot outside. If you do have AC, this means using it most during the coolest parts of the day. Why? Your AC has to work a lot harder when the difference between the outside air

and the temperature you set is greatest. This costs you money and increases the wear and tear on your equipment. If you set your AC to a low temperature both at night and during the cool morning hours, your home will stay cool well into the day. When it gets hot out, you can then set the thermostat to the highest temperature you can stand. This technique will work a lot better if you close blinds, pull curtains, and take steps to seal leaks and insulate your home. Free energy audits can help you make your home more efficient.

Second, shave the peak! The times of the day, and year, when we use the greatest amounts of electricity are called "peak" hours. Our electric grid is built so that there is enough energy available for the hottest hours of the hottest days. This is costly, and we pay for the peak-er plants, gas purchases, and

grid charges needed to cover the steamiest hours of the year. How can you help? On hot days between the hours of 4 and 8 p.m., help reduce the load on our electric grid by postponing the use of appliances such as dishwashers and washing machines until a cooler day or time of the day.

Lastly, be mindful of the opportunity to upgrade energy efficiency when you buy new appliances. Energy Star appliances save U.S. consumers an average of \$15 billion dollars a year, with the average household saving \$450 per year. If you need to replace a boiler, furnace, or AC system, consider a heat pump. Heat pumps are the most efficient method of conditioning your air. Incentives are still out there for heat pumps, which both heat and cool your home. Rewiring America's website is a good place to check for rebates and credits.



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<p>Friday, August 8th</p> <p>Ireland the Band</p> 	<p>Saturday, August 9th</p> <p>Jim McArdle & Jerry Murphy</p> 	<p>Sunday, August 9th</p> <p>3-6pm</p> <p>Frank Serafino</p> 	<p>Sunday, August 10th</p> <p>3-6pm</p> <p>Frank Serafino</p> 

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South Hadley defeats Chicopee Comp in summer finale



Martin Dixon advances into the offensive end of the field.



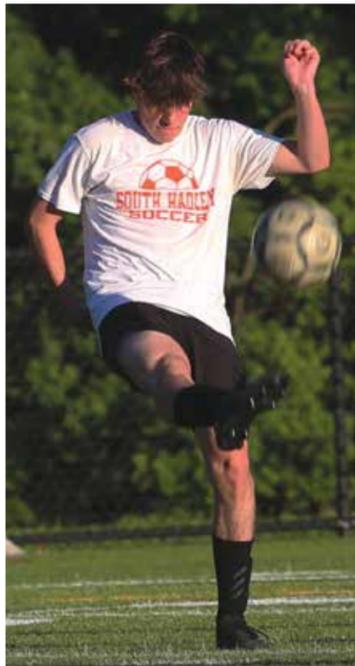
Colin Lumb clears the ball out of South Hadley's end.

SOUTH HADLEY – In a regular season finale, South Hadley defeated Chicopee Comprehensive last Tuesday evening 5-1 on the turf of South Hadley High School. It was the final summer game for both teams. Both South Hadley and Chicopee Comp did not qualify for the PVSSL playoffs this year.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Ben Gillis goes after the loose ball.



PJ Lavelle sends a free kick away.



Kaysen Gauthier watches his kick sail away.

PeoplesBank advances to Tri-County finals



Seth Allen steals second base.

HOLYOKE – In a best-of-three games series, the PeoplesBank Tri-County baseball team swept Teddy Bear Pools in two games to advance to the league championship series. St. Joseph's won its series in three games, two games to one, to face PeoplesBank. That championship series was scheduled to begin earlier this week. PeoplesBank defeated Teddy Bear in both games by a final of 7-2.

Please see **FINALS**, page 7



Brendan Fournier throws a pitch home.

Dave Clark flips a throw to first.

Post 239 upset in rematch with North County

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WILBRAHAM—Todd McDonald is the Vice President of Sales and Strategy for the Springfield Thunderbirds. While hockey is his profession, McDonald has also spent a lot of time on the baseball field.

During the past several years, McDonald has been the manager of the Belchertown Legion baseball team, which

has been very successful.

Belchertown finished first in the District 3 standings with a 12-1 record, which allowed them to host a pod in the state playoffs.

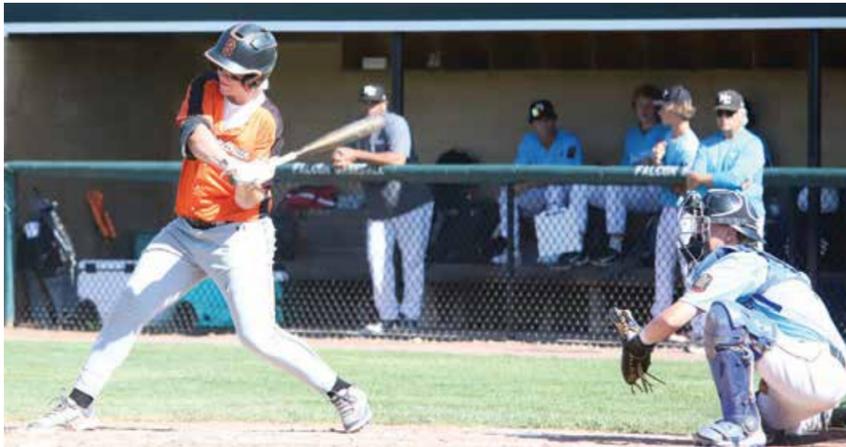
Belchertown's outstanding season came to an end following a 10-5 loss to North County in a state playoff elimination game held at Spec Pond in Wilbraham, last Monday afternoon (July 21).

"Baseball is a beautiful game, and it doesn't always

go your way," McDonald said. "That's part of what makes it so great. There's no clock in baseball, so you've got to play the innings, you've got to get the outs, and we just didn't get enough runs in the end."

It was the second time that Belchertown lost to North County, who finished sixth in District 4, during the double elimination state play-

Please see **POST 239**, page 7



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Jake Waller takes a swing.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Mason Barcomb fields a grounder to short.

POST 239 from page 6

offs. North County posted a 3-0 win in the opening round game, which took place at Belchertown High School.

"When we faced them two days ago, I thought they controlled the game," McDonald said. "We did hit the ball very hard early in today's game, and we kept battling back."

The five Belchertown Legion players who won't be eligible to return next summer are Dom Aloisi, Spencer Waite, Jacob Smith, Evan Ferguson, and Alex West.

"We're losing five outstanding players, but we do have a lot of guys coming back next year, which I'm very excited about," McDonald added. "I wake up every morning during the baseball season looking forward to coming to the field. It was a lot of fun coaching this team and we did win some big games this year."

During the final week of the regular season, Belchertown defeated East Springfield Post 420, 3-2, and Pitts-

field Post 68-1,3-0, which locked up first place in the standings.

Belchertown's lone victory in the state playoffs was a 5-0 shutout against Northampton Post 28, who was the only team to beat them during the regular season.

Just like they did in the opening game of the state playoffs, North County, who plays their home games at the Winchendon School, took the lead in the top of the first inning.

Logan Cormier, who was North County's starting pitcher in last Monday's game, helped himself with a run scoring double to right field. Another run crossed the plate following a throwing error.

While Cormier, who's a righty, was the winning pitcher, righthander Jake Waller was the losing pitcher. He allowed five runs (four earned) on seven hits during the first four innings.

Over the final three in-



Canyon Charron leads off first base.



Alex West squares to bunt.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

nings, righty Canyon Charron also gave up five runs, but only one of them were earned.

Belchertown answered right back against righthander Logan Cormier in the bottom half of the inning.

First baseman Thatcher Rudnik, who went 3-for-4, began the rally with an infield hit.

Rudnik stole second base before the next two batters struck out and fled out. Second baseman Chace Earle, who also had three base hits, drove home Rudnik with a line-drive single to left. Third baseman Josh Misiaszek (2-for-4) followed with a double down the right field line which tied the score.

Belchertown also scored a pair of runs in the second inning.

With one-out, shortstop Ian McDonald knocked

home the go-ahead run with a groundball single that just got past shortstop Aiden LaPointe's diving attempt. Their other run scored when Smith, who was the starting catcher, bounced into a fielder's choice play.

North County scored a run in the third inning before re-taking the lead in the following frame.

Centerfielder Johnny Losordo gave his team a 5-4 advantage with two outs in the fourth following an RBI single to center.

With one-out in the bottom of the fifth, Earle and Misiaszek had back-to-back

singles, but Cormier managed to retire the next two batters.

North County broke open the close game by scoring four runs on four hits in the top of the sixth.

Belchertown also made a costly throwing error allowing two of the runs to score.

Post 129 scored another run in the seventh before Earle's RBI single cut Belchertown's deficit to 10-5 with no outs in the bottom of the seventh.

The returning Belchertown Legion baseball team will be looking to making another run in the state playoffs at this time next year.

FINALS from page 6



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Rey Rivera gets the out at first for PeoplesBank.



Alex Gochinski makes a throw to first for Teddy Bear Pools.



Cam MacDonald sends the ball from third to first.



Chace Earle makes the out at first.



Catcher Jacob Smith catches the foul pop.

Quabbin Valley set to host second over-28 fall league

Following up on the re-sounding 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 make-up rainouts, 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.

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LINE COOK. Fast order wanted for fun, busy family Breakfast and Lunch Restaurant. Good pay, weekends and weekdays. Fulltime. Please come by and fill out application. **Partners Restaurant 485 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills.**

NEIGHBORLY CLEANING & CARE is looking for mature, responsible adults with own transportation, experience and references for a housekeeping position. Hours 7:30- 2:30. Call Nancy today (413)267-4297 or (413) 544-0864.

SERVERS WANTED
Inquire at **Girly's Grill, 1315 Park St., Palmer, MA 01069** or call 413-284-0005.

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES
FRIDAY AT NOON

HELP WANTED

THE TOWN OF HUNTINGTON IS SEEKING A **PART-TIME TREASURER.**
\$20,384 - \$23,110 annual salary based on experience. Approximately 16 hours per week. Application and complete job description are available online at **www.huntingtonma.us** or by emailing **admin@huntingtonma.us**. Position is open until filled. Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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 **sboard@worthington-ma.us**. This posting will remain pertinent until the position is filled.
The Town of Worthington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

TRUCK DRIVER/LABORER

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@townofperu-ma.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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ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

find archives of this local newspaper at www.newspapers.turley.com

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
or call: 413-283-8393

DEADLINES: FRIDAY AT NOON

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40

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Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Number of Weeks: _____ X per week rate = \$ _____
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Amount of charge: _____ Date: _____

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Circulation: 50,500

Hilltowns
Circulation: 9,800

Suburban Residential
Circulation: 59,000

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GREAT VALUE!
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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.
This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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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

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampshire Division
Docket No.
HS25P0425EA
Estate of:
Judith Ann Carrier
Also Known As:
Judith A. Carrier
Date of Death: May 22, 2025
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petitioner of Petitioner **Robert A. Carrier, II of South Hadley, MA** a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Robert A. Carrier, II of South Hadley, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without su-

pervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
08/01/2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampshire Probate and Family Court
15 Atwood Drive
Northampton, MA 01060
(413)586-8500
Docket No.
HS25P0469EA
Estate of:
Melide C Normand
Date of Death: 05/08/2025
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Suzanne R Normand of South Hadley, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Suzanne R Normand of South Hadley, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 08/27/2025.** This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day,

action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Diana S. Velez Harris**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: July 25, 2025

Mark S. Ames,
Register of Probate
08/01/2025

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
Granby Planning Board
07/25, 08/01/2025

SHELD from page 1

it's been a long negotiation "While we're pretty confident that we can reach a successful conclusion, it's not done yet. No building can happen until that purchase and sale agreement is signed," said Hine. The cost for the land is not considered in the total of the \$35-\$38 million price.

In the past month, SHELD hired an Owner's Project Manager, who did another estimate of the project cost, and that's where the estimated construction costs are found now in 2025 to be in the \$25-\$28 million range for the construction of the building itself.

The "soft costs," which include the design and management fees, utilities, furniture, finishes, and contingency costs are estimated to be around \$10 million, and that is how the board got to the total project cost of \$35-\$38 million.

"We are in the process of selecting a design firm that will then complete the design of the building, and we will have final costs when that is figured out, which we hope to have in late fall and early winter," said Hine. "But understand that, to get a sense of building costs are escalating, consider that ten years ago the building cost was \$12 million, and now it's almost tripled."

The Senior Center, which is the most recent "new" building in town, was finished in 2021, and cost nearly \$10 million in total. This new SHELD building will be a lot bigger, and considering the rise in costs through inflation since then, it is a lot more expensive.

"As costs rise and with inflation, to compare this to buildings that were built ten or more years ago needs to be put into context," said Hine. "Things aren't going to stay the same cost, and in five years, the cost may be well over \$40 million if we wait."

The space SHELD is leasing on New Ludlow Road

for the majority of the Fiberspring operations is old, very old, and with the new building, the money that would be used for leasing this space would be used towards the new, bigger space.

"There's a cost to not building a new building, and that cost is remaining in a building that's over 100 years old, and if we stay longer we have costs associated with repaving the parking lot area, redoing the roof, and the building is not ADA compliant and needs an elevator, and those are expensive," said Hine.

There is space being leased on New Ludlow Road for the majority of the Fiberspring operations. With a new building, the money being spent on the space goes towards the new building instead.

"We expect to grow. We've grown a lot since the Fiberspring operation began five years, and we've added personnel, and we expect that to continue. Our current building has no space

to grow," said Hine. "What's critical in all this is that the current building is in a floodplain. This building was damaged in the 30s when there was a significant flood in the Pioneer Valley, so its already been damaged once."

With the current trend of 100-year climate activities slowly shrinking, it is only a matter of time before the area becomes volatile again.

"I feel strongly that as a board member, I've got to make some judgment calls and it is important that we deal with this long-term. I don't feel comfortable not addressing this issue, and we need to move the SHELD and Fiberspring operations to a new building," said Hine. "It's a big project to take on, and there are a lot of issues to take into consideration."

To share your thoughts, ask questions, and get more information about the project, there will be an Open Forum on September 10 at the Senior Center at 6 p.m. You can also find their past meetings recorded at www.shctv15.com.

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- 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.

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Jamie Joslyn
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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 _____

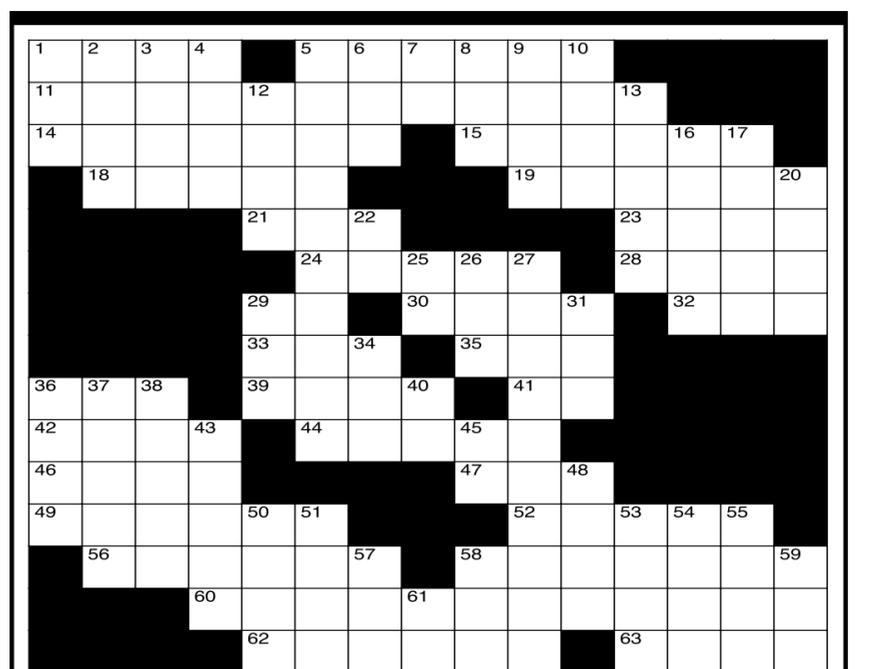
Date/Time _____

Location _____

Description _____

Cost _____

Contact name & phone number for more information _____



CLUES ACROSS

- Popular potato snack
- Guards the Pyramids
- Furnish anew
- Herb
- Preoccupy the mind continually
- The lowest adult male singing voice
- NATO commander (abbr.)
- A major division of geological time
- New Zealand parrot
- Notions
- Lump in yarn
- Indicates position
- Lose hold of
- Hindu honorific
- Former OSS
- Electronic data processing

- Cost per mile
- Snake-like fish
- They start the alphabet
- Taylor Swift's tour
- Intermediate ecological stage
- Scarlett's home
- Of he
- Ohio city
- Breakfast item
- An evening party
- ___ Falls
- Linked together
- Mythological spirits
- Small Eurasian deer

CLUES DOWN

- Earliest human form: ___-Magnon man
- Flavoring
- Notion

- Bundy and Fenwick are two
- Qualities of sound
- One who gets paid
- Expresses surprise
- O.J. trial judge
- Pointed ends of pens
- Shield bugs genus
- Container for shipping
- Upper body parts
- Closes tightly
- Nigerian World Heritage Site
- Volcanic island in Fiji
- Commercial
- ___ denotes past
- They ___
- Confraternities
- A way to gain a point
- Parts per billion
- (abbr.)
- Brew
- Badgers group
- Sailing boat
- ___ Polo, explorer
- Elder citizen (abbr.)
- Frankish law code
- Exclamation of surprise
- Groan
- It presses clothing
- Do not allow
- Gelatinous substance
- Common Japanese surname
- Present in nature
- Electronic countermeasures
- Last or greatest in an indefinitely large series
- Commercials
- News agency



MAIL YOUR LISTING INFORMATION TO: Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or email* them to: jamie@turley.com
*Be sure to indicate "Autumn Event" in the subject line of your email.

