

TOWN Reminder

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Kids learn the art of robotics *with* local high school students

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

SOUTH HADLEY — Being able to work at and share the things you love most in this world is a special privilege, and for the students at Amherst Regional High School that love robotics, Saturday was the perfect day.

Kids got the chance to color pictures of electronics, take a remote control to guide a robot through the tape mazes on the floor, and play with a coded mouse to guide it through another maze to get to the cheese at the end.

The students led a robotics demo for kids and teens at the South Hadley Public Library last weekend, and the room filled with kids getting to direct real robots through challenging mazes, and learn a bit about how they work.

The ARHS Robotics Team competes yearly in the First Tech Challenge, with challenges lovers of robotics to come up with a new robot design for the given prompt and challenge given, then competes with other robots across the state.

Please see **ROBOTICS**, page 12



Sophia Sarage, Gideon Antonowicz, Ella Wong, Libby Smith, Andrew Weston, Holden Castenson, and Uri Davidovitch with their robots.

Turley photos by Emily-Rose Pappas

Scout Pack 303 shares their love for scouting

By Emily-Rose Pappas
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SOUTH HADLEY — The Scouts of America have been around for decades, formerly the Boy Scouts, and have opened its doors to be more inclusive as more people can join Scouts to have fun, and take part in the adventures along the way.

Scout Troop 303 hosted their Popcorn Sale last weekend, and the boys manning their popcorn booth shared with enthusiasm their ideas and goals for the coming years a part of Scouts, and what they want to do to continue to serve the community.

Bryce Holmes shared his goals, as he approaches eighteen and is almost ready



James Brown, Bryce Holmes, Liam Sowa, Finn O'Connor, Matt O'Connor, and Greg Williams selling popcorn at their table at the Liquor Town.

Turley photo by Emily-Rose Pappas

to age out of the program, that he is ready for his Eagle Award. The project, a Gaga Ball Ring for the elementary

school in his town. Liam Sowa is excited for what came this year, and is looking forward to using the

money raised for the camping adventures with other Please see **SCOUTS**, page 6

Mini golf celebrates a successful summer reading end

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

SOUTH HADLEY – The school year begins next week, and libraries are celebrating the end of their summer reading programs with fun and big events to bring smiles to fac-

es before turning in to begin studies.

The South Hadley Public Library hosted Mobile Mini Golf for the second year in a row to play a ten-hole course through the library. Over 100 kids and their parents, fami-

Please see **GOLF**, page 12



Submitted photo

Who will get a hole-in-one first?

From kindergarten to high school: Students share first-day excitement and jitters

By Tina Lesniak
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY - The first day of school is one of those milestones that never loses its mix of excitement and nerves. When South Hadley Public Schools start on Aug. 28 and the following week for kindergartners, hundreds of students will enter a new school. Whether students are climbing aboard the bus for the first time in kindergarten, adjusting to a brand-new elementary school, or making the leap into high school, the back-to-school season carries fresh opportunities, new routines, and the promise of friendships yet to be made.

For ninth grader Lilah Smith, entering high school feels like a new adventure waiting to unfold. "I am most excited to try out the different clubs and activities," she said. "I am curious to see



Submitted photos

Layne Methot will be a kindergartener this year.

how the high school works and how it is different from the middle school. I hope that in my first week there, I will make some new friends."

Classmate Sami Laflesh is looking forward to meeting teachers, though she admits the transition comes with jitters. "I am excited to see our new teachers," she said. "I am nervous about getting lost on the first day."

The bigger workload and larger building are also on the minds of students like Liv Brill. "I'm excited to have more learning opportunities than I did in the middle school," she said. "I'm nervous about finding my new classes and having a bigger workload. I hope the environment is welcoming and not as scary as I think it will be."

While high schoolers prepare for tougher classes and bigger schedules, younger students are experiencing

their own firsts. Kindergartener Layne Methot is most excited about one very big step: "going on the bus." Still, he admits, he's a little nervous about "meeting my new teacher." What he hopes for in his first week is simple: "gym class."

First grader Savannah Herbert, who is starting at Hank Skala Elementary School, is looking ahead with both enthusiasm and worry. "I am most excited about seeing what kind of art projects we will do in first grade," she said. But like many children making a new start, she wonders how her classmates will welcome her. "I'm nervous about people not liking me," Herbert admitted. "I hope I make a lot of new friends."

Second grader Macie Pease is beginning her first

Please see **STUDENTS**, page 6

School Committee addresses budget crisis

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

SOUTH HADLEY – The School Committee met last week to discuss the current crisis regarding health insurance increases, as well as updates for the new transportation system, interest in the Wellness Committee, and several generous donations.

The August 14 meeting was held by Chair Eric Friesner, and he was accompanied by Vice Chair Dan-

ielle Cooke, member Jack Witkowski, and new member Charles Miles. Also in attendance were new Superintendent Jennifer Voyik and new Assistant Superintendent Lyn Jacques.

Health Insurance Increase Discussed

"We received news three weeks ago that there was going to be a meeting held by the Hampshire County Trust about a midyear insurance increase," said Superintendent Jennifer Voyik.

Please see **BUDGET**, page 11

Granby Select Board Selects Deputy Chief Evan Briant as New Fire Chief

GRANBY – Following a regional search, the Granby Select Board has unanimously selected Hadley Deputy Fire Chief Evan Briant as the next Fire Chief for the Town of Granby.

Chief Briant brings more than 20 years of experience in fire and emergency medical services, beginning his career as a dispatcher and

simulated fire incident, delivering a budget presentation, and overseeing employee management. The results of the Assessment Center were then reviewed by the Select Board and the Town Administrator.

The selection process began with seven applicants, five of whom were interviewed by the Chief Selection Committee. Two semi-finalists advanced to an Assessment Center designed to test leadership in critical areas, including managing a

simulated fire incident, delivering a budget presentation, and overseeing employee management. The results of the Assessment Center were then reviewed by the Select Board and the Town Administrator.

The Select Board has authorized the Town Administrator to begin contract negotiations with Chief Briant.

Summer fun isn't over at Buttery Brook Park

SOUTH HADLEY – Get in your last bits of summer fun at Buttery Brook Park, and enjoy the last few Cruise Night Concerts of the season, as well as the Farmer's Market, of course.

Friday, August 22 - Cruise Night and Live Music featuring Acousticca, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. in the front pavilion.

Wednesday, August 27 - Farmer's Market, 2-6 p.m.

Friday, August 29 - Cruise Night and Live Music featuring Moose & the Hightops, 5 to 7:30 p.m. at the front pavilion.

Pickleball Courts - Daily Open Play on Mondays to Sundays, from 8:30 to 11 a.m. / Weeknight Open Play on Mondays through Fridays, from 4:30 to 10 p.m.

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



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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

binders, 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, Westfield 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, shoperationbackpack@yahoo.com, or by calling her at 413-536-5316.

Overdose Awareness Memorial on August 26th at Beachgrounds Park

SOUTH HADLEY— On August 26th South Hadley's Public Health Department and community partners will hold a memorial in recognition of International Overdose Awareness Day (August 31).

The first International Overdose Awareness Day event was held as a small community event in Melbourne, Australia in 2001 to remember friends who died from an overdose. It has since evolved into a global day of remembrance and action focused on offering support to grieving friends, families, and neighbors and inviting community members to learn about overdose prevention. This year, South Hadley joins municipalities throughout Hampshire County and across the state and country to honor the lives of individuals who

have died from an overdose. All are welcome to attend the memorial event on Tuesday, August 26 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Beachgrounds Park, 137 Main Street, South Hadley.

The memorial will be centered around the dedication of a new memorial tree. The tree has been generously donated and planted by volunteer members of the South Hadley Tree Committee. Supplies will be provided for attendees to create memorial stones in honor of those who have passed. Representatives from Hampshire HOPE, Northampton's Division of Health and Human Services Drug Addiction Recovery Team, and Tapestry Health will be present with information about resources for those who have lost someone

to an overdose, want to help prevent future overdoses, or are seeking support services for themselves or someone in their life.

Nationally, 80,391 Americans died from a substance-related overdose in 2024. Massachusetts communities also experience significant impact from substance-related fatalities. 3,692 Bay State residents died from a substance-related overdose from July 2023 to June 2024. Eight of these overdose deaths occurred in South Hadley.

All community members are invited to gather in Beachgrounds Park on August 26 to honor the family, friends, and neighbors who have passed, find support among community, and learn how to help prevent future overdose deaths.

NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for the Town Reminder, please email townreminder@turley.com.

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PHONE: 203-888-8118

EMAIL: jsevers@haynescct.com



August at the South Hadley Council on Aging

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!

age 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.

A pair of bears visit the neighborhood

To the editor,
Two black bears were wrestling and playing in my backyard last week. One of them broke away and climbed over the 6 foot tall wire fence to my vegetable garden. The bear sniffed the vegetables for a little while, and then decided it was not interested and climbed back out of the garden. The bears resumed tussling and eventually scampered off into the thick woods. The fence does need some repairing, which I can do.
Martha Terry, South Hadley



Submitted photo
The pair of bears came to have some fun in the garden.

Multiple boards seeking new members

SOUTH HADLEY - If numbers are your thing, consider applying to the Capital Planning Committee. There is one vacant position available which needs filling - a representative chosen by the Selectboard.

a financial perspective. If you're interested in serving as a member, apply online.

There's also many other boards and committees that have vacancies needing to be filled. Positions are available on the:

- Appropriations Committee
- Bike/Walk Committee
- Commission on Disabilities
- Conservation Commission
- Cultural Council

- Historical Commission
- Human Rights Commission
- Master Plan Implementation Committee
- Sustainability & Energy Commission
- Tree Committee
- Trustees of the Old Firehouse Museum
- Veteran's Council

The Selectboard is seeking citizens with diverse interests and abilities to apply for all of these available positions. There are no special

requirements for any of the boards and committees other than a willingness to serve. However, applicants must be registered to vote in the Town of South Hadley.

Apply by Sept. 5, and learn more on the town website. Applicant interviews with the Selectboard will be scheduled for Sept. 2 & 16. The Selectboard appoints residents to boards and committees three times a year - February, June and October.

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Immaculate Heart of Mary's Summerfest returns Sunday

GRANBY - Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Granby, MA will be having their Summerfest Chicken BBQ on Sunday, August 24, from noon to 4 p.m. Chicken dinner is \$15 and includes a Half BBQ Chicken, Baked Potato and Corn on the Cob, as well as dessert and a bottled water. Hamburgers and Hot Dogs will also be available. Raffle Prizes of \$500, \$250, and \$100, Raffle Baskets, Bake Sale, Kids Games, Prizes, Lottery Trees, and Music! Fun for the whole family!



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Opinion

SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor

I'm still confused about Medicare Part A and Part B enrollment

Dear Rusty:

I'm 64 and still working full time, and plan to continue working at least until I'm 70 ~ it's a good job, and I enjoy it.

My job comes with health insurance, so I don't really need additional coverage, but I understand I will be required to sign up for Medicare Part A anyway when I turn 65 next year. What I don't understand is Part B: A colleague of mine, who is a little older than I am, said she signed up for Part B because a penalty will be incurred if we wait until we retire from our jobs and actually need the additional insurance. I'm not sure she's right. Can you explain what I should do?

**Signed:
Confused About
Medicare**

Dear Confused:

We're happy to assist you with understanding this. First, enrolling in Medicare Part A (coverage for inpatient hospitalization service) is mandatory to collect Social Security after age 65. If you do not plan to take your Social Security benefits yet, you can defer enrolling in Part A until you claim Social Security. But Medicare Part A is also free to those eligible for Social Security, so there is little reason not to enroll in Part A at age 65 and, when you claim Social Security, you will be automatically enrolled.

Part B, which is coverage for outpatient healthcare services (doctors, medical tests, etc.), is different. Part B is always optional because there is a premium associated with it (standard premium is \$185/month in 2025), but nearly everyone over age 65 requires healthcare coverage. If, however, you are employed and have "creditable" healthcare coverage from your employer ("creditable" is a group plan with more than 20 participants), then you can defer enrolling in Medicare Part B until your creditable employer coverage ends. And you can do so without incurring a "late enrollment penalty" for enrolling in Part B outside of your Initial Enrollment Period. When your creditable coverage from your employer ends, you will enter an 8-month Medicare "Special Enrollment Period," which permits you to enroll in Part B without penalty.

Thus, as long as your

employer coverage is "creditable," you can defer enrolling in Part B without penalty. FYI, you can also enroll in Part B a couple of months prior to your employer coverage ending, asking that your Part B coverage starts when your employer coverage ends, to avoid any gap in healthcare coverage. Note you will likely need your employer to provide you with proof of creditable coverage when you later enroll in Part B.

A couple of extra thoughts:

If you require prescription drug coverage when your employer coverage ends after age 65, you only have 63 days to acquire that drug coverage without incurring a "Part D" (drug plan) late enrollment penalty. So, if needed, you should not wait to get insurance coverage for prescription drugs after you employer coverage ends.

If you now have a Health Savings Account through your employer, you should discontinue any HSA contributions well before (perhaps as much as six months before) your enrollment in Medicare Part A. That's because Part A is not considered a "high deductible" insurance plan (a "high deductible" plan is a requirement for having a Health Savings Account). If you do not have an HSA, you need not be concerned about this. If you do, we can also provide you with more info on this.

I hope this answers your questions, but we are always here to assist if you need anything further. Contact us at SSAdvisor@amacfoundation.org or at (800-750-2622).

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.

Rust is no joke

This time of year I always get a few questions from gardeners who wonder what type of disease is afflicting their treasured hollyhocks.

Sadly, it's affecting mine too. Read on for more information on this malady.

Two years ago I planted Hollyhock seeds indoors. The plants grew wonderfully that first year with nice deep green basal foliage.

Being biennial in nature, year two is when they came into their glory with incredibly beautiful pink flowers on towering six to seven foot spikes. Now it's year three – a gift when biennials are concerned.

The plants started out fine and then I noticed a few raised orange-brown spots on the leaves. By season's end, the plants are pale in color and covered with the rusty orange spots.

Most of the lower foliage has been destroyed and has dropped to the ground.

My hollyhocks are suffering from a fungal problem by the name of rust. It first appears as waxy orange blisters, known as "pustules" on the undersides of the lower most foliage. On the surface of the leaves small, orange-yellow spots form.

Hollyhock rust rarely kills its host, but it can make plants look quite unsightly. In a severe infestation like mine,



by Roberta McQuaid

premature leaf drop occurs.

Next spring, if I dare to grow hollyhocks again, I'll have to do it in a different part of my landscape and escape any spores that the soil is harboring.

The best way to control hollyhock rust is to remove infected leaves and discard them in the trash. The quicker you act, the better.

Other members of the hollyhock family (Malvaceae) are prone to this disease as well, so scour your perennial bed for spotted leaves on Lavatera and Malva (Tall Mallow and Musk Mallow) and dispose of them.

A common weed that goes by the name "cheese weed" or "cheeses" is also a Malva and likewise is susceptible. Cut down on the chance of infestation next year by removing all foliage and debris from these plants prior to winter. Even go as far as to remove the bark mulch beneath them to further reduce the spore population. Proper cultural practices also make a difference in combating hollyhock rust and most plant diseases. First, give perennials adequate space from one another to allow for good air flow.

In the case of hollyhocks, I'd recommend about 18 inches. We can't control when and how often it rains, but when we supply the moisture timing and application count. Water around the base of the plants, without it touching the foliage, and do so early in the morning so that leaves have a chance to dry before nightfall.

Apply new bark mulch each spring to cover spores that may be waiting in the soil. And lastly, when planting new seedlings, locate them as far away as possible from previously grown plants even if they didn't have a serious infestation.

Although I've never tried this myself, I have read a few testimonials from gardeners who had luck applying corn meal to their soil in an effort to control soil borne fungal diseases such as rust. Reportedly it stimulates beneficial organisms that feed on pathogens. Two pounds per one hundred square feet is recommended.

Even if it doesn't work, it probably won't hurt!

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.



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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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Granby library's August and September programs

GRANBY – This August and September, the Granby Free Public Library has many different events and activities to enjoy before school begins, and after.

Fly Away With Books!
Finished Summer Reading and want another challenge? Pick up a "Fly Away With Books!" sheet. Read 5 picture books or 1 chapter

book at home & write the title(s) on the lines in the hot air balloon. Color your hot air balloon, then return the sheet to the library for a small prize by August 29. For kids up to age 11 years.

Going Back to School? Starting School? Check out our large selection of starting school books to help your child's transition go more smoothly whether it's preschool, kindergarten or other grades.

CFCE PLAYGROUPS
Summer Playgroups are held once weekly on Wednesdays through August 6. Playgroups the last week of August; August 27 Playgroup (regular, drop in) and Friday August 29 Pre K Readiness Playgroup (registration required.) No Playgroup September 3 & 5. Fall Playgroup

dates: September 10 on, every Wednesday and Friday 10:30 a.m. to noon. Join us for this free playgroup, where you & your child (birth- 5yrs.) can enjoy playtime, an activity, and story circle time with Marti.

Playgroups are made possible with funding from a Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CFCE) grant from the MA Department of Early Education and Care, administered by the Collaborative for Educational Services.

Reading Buddies with Bright Spot Therapy Dogs
Thursdays 3:30 to 5 p.m.

Dates: September 4 and 18, October 2, 16, and 30. Children in Kindergarten and up will enjoy reading aloud to gentle, comforting Reading Buddies with Bright Spot Therapy Dogs as they practice their reading. **Pre-register for a time slot.**

Be a Kid Spy! August. 26 – September 13

Check out an I Spy or Look & Find type of book and get a DIY mini "I Spy" bottle kit *while supplies last - Ages 4 and up.

Play I SPY Look in our I Spy terrarium, find and count the items on the Find Sheet as

you go. When you've spied everything on this sheet, then you receive a little toy/treat! September's Read for Treats "Apples" Sheets

Pick up a sheet & get a treat for reading! Read 5 picture or 1 chapter book at home, then write the book title(s) on the lines inside the apple. Color the apple & return the sheet to the library to redeem for a treat/toy. Ends September 23.

Meet a Balloon Artist – A Sensory Friendly Experience with Brie's Balloons September 25th 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Sign up for a 15-min. one-on-one balloon twisting session with Brie's Balloons. Spaces are limited, please pre-register.

Choose between 2 experiences with Brie's Balloons when you register:
***Exploration session (ages 3-4 years)** is great for those getting comfortable with different sensory experiences or as an introduction to balloon twisting.

***Balloon twisting teaching session (youth ages 5 years and up)** is good for those who are ready to learn how to twist 1 to 2 balloon animals.

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten - At Home Program

Make sure your child is as ready as they can be for one of the biggest moments of their little life - starting school. Read them 1,000 books before kindergarten & keep track with this nation-wide program. Sign up and get a folder at the library. Read a book (any book) to your newborn, infant, or toddler. The goal is to read 1,000 books (yes, you can repeat books) before your child starts kindergarten. Visit www.1000booksbeforekindergarten.org for more information.

To Granby Library patrons,

I am retiring at the end of September. As a Youth Service Librarian I have been able to combine my love of youth and libraries in the perfect setting, Granby. The years flew by and now it is time to embark on a new adventure - Retirement! I have been touched by so many memories. It has been a pleasure to get to know you and to foster a love of reading. I will miss you all and wish everyone well as you continue your library adventures!

With sincere thanks and gratitude to everyone who has touched my life,

Miss Janice (Janice McArdle, Youth Service Librarian)

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, 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.

Gaylord Memorial Library to host annual Wine Down event

SOUTH HADLEY – Join the Friends of the Gaylord Memorial library in celebrating the opening of Wine Down Season on Friday September 12, 2025 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. We are celebrating back to school with a special guest, Sheila Adams, from Operation Backpack. The library is a door off spot for needed school items including: Zip drives, binders (1,

1.5 or 3 inch) 1 subject notebooks, glue sticks, post it notes, yellow highlighters, calculators, and backpacks... Sheila says if you can't get shopping consider donating cash/check. Come meet Sheila Friday September 12. There is a \$10 entry fee for this event. We are at 47 College Street, join us for food, libations, and friendship.

Compass Recovery to host Whoopie Pie Waddle

LUDLOW - Compass Recovery's second annual Whoopie Pie Waddle 5K Run/Walk, held in May at Forest Park in Springfield, was a resounding success - raising over \$23,000 in support of the Michael J. Dias Foundation's efforts to open a new sober-living home for women in Western Massachusetts. This year's race, organized in partnership with Joey's Deli, drew hundreds of participants from across the region, united by a shared commitment to recovery, wellness, and community. Runners and walkers of all ages and abilities took to the park's scenic course, followed by a festive finish line celebration complete with delicious whoopie pies generously donated by event sponsor Joey's Deli.

The event blended energy and purpose, helping raise vital funds while also raising awareness for the need for more recovery resources for women in the area.

"\$23,000! Together, we are making a difference! Thank you to everyone who sponsored, donated, volunteered or laced up. We appreciate you," shared Joey's Deli, a major sponsor of the event.

All proceeds from the Whoopie Pie Waddle II were donated to the Michael J. Dias Foundation's capital campaign for a women's sober home. The non-profit foundation currently has two sober homes and one transitional home in Springfield for men and is working to open its first sober-living home for women.

These funds will help cover critical start-up costs such as securing housing, staffing, and providing essential day-to-day support for residents. The home will offer a struc-

tured, safe, and supportive environment for women rebuilding their lives in early recovery.

"We're incredibly grateful for the turnout and generosity shown by our community," said Dino Bedinelli, Chief Operating Officer at Compass Recovery. "Though Compass Recovery is not affiliated with the operation of the sober home, we recognize how urgently resources like this are needed. We're proud to stand behind the Michael J. Dias Foundation and do our part to help make this home a reality."

The event's success was made possible by widespread community involvement, including corporate sponsors, local businesses, volunteer groups, and families. Sponsorship levels ranged from individual team entries to Platinum-level contributors who gave \$5,000 or more. Every contribution-large or small-helped push the fundraiser beyond its goal, demonstrating how powerful collective action can be in addressing addiction and

supporting recovery.

"The need for sober-living opportunities for women in our region is tremendous," said Isabel Martins, Vice-President of the Michael J. Dias Foundation Board. "We are so grateful to Compass Recovery for hosting the Whoopie Pie Waddle II and to every single participant, sponsor, and donor who made this event such a success. This support brings us significantly closer to opening a home that will provide women in recovery with stability, dignity, and hope."

To learn more or donate to the Michael J. Dias Foundation's capital campaign for a women's sober home, please visit, <https://www.mdiasfoundation.org/capital-campaign>, or contact the Foundation directly at 413-304-0715.

About the Michael J. Dias Foundation The Michael J. Dias Foundation is here to offer support. Our dedicated volunteers and staff are passionate about transforming lives, assisting

individuals and families, and fostering drug-free communities through addiction recovery and housing support. We aim to educate and aid those grappling with substance use disorders, celebrating sobriety milestones and the power of positive relationships. Our mission is to guide individuals toward independence and success on their recovery journey. Headquartered in Ludlow and located in Springfield, MA, we extend our services across Western MA. As a nonprofit, we're committed to providing affordable recovery options for those in need. Join us in supporting families and empowering those seeking hope and renewal through our services. Together, we can make a significant impact, leading the way to a brighter, sober future.



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Beat the heat this August at the libraries

SOUTH HADLEY – Beat the heat this summer with the cool (and always free) programs happening at the South Hadley Public and Gaylord Memorial libraries. We offer programs & services, books & other materials to borrow, for all ages and interests. Families are welcome to spend quality time in our air-conditioned buildings. Library cards are free. We hope to see you soon.

Adult Programs at SHPL
The South Hadley Chess Club is a place for beginners and experienced players alike to learn, play, or compete. The Chess Club is a casual place for anyone to enjoy the game of kings! The next two meetings will be held on Saturday, September 6 at 3:30 p.m. in the Community Room.
Our Spanish Conversation Circle meets Saturday, August 16 at 10:30 a.m. in the Trustees Room. This monthly

group is an opportunity for Spanish speakers to practice their language skills. Participants should have some basic conversational skills to join the group. This is not a language class.
Two groups continue to meet weekly: The Tuesday Night Knitters can be found each Tuesday evening at 6 p.m. in the second floor Mandracha Study Room. The online Gatehouse Writers Group meets via Zoom each

Friday morning at 10 a.m.
Two programs this month already have full registration lists: Organizing Your Home on August 23. You can call the library the day before to see if any seats have become available.
Interested in joining a book group? Pick up a book in August, take your time reading it, and come to the next meeting in September. The Hello Sunshine Book Club is reading Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus and our Between the Covers Romance Club is reading The Wedding Planner by Danielle Steel. We also have books for the discussion groups that meet at the Senior Center. Check out the full selection near our new book area.
Online Author Programs (click each program for more information)
How to Thrive in a World of Constant Chaos with Organizational Psychologist Dr. Tasha Eurich. New York Times Bestselling Author and International Keynote Speaker. Thursday, August 28 at 2 p.m.

Children's Programs at SHPL
Stuffed Animal Sleepover is back! Drop off your stuffed animals on Monday, August 25 between 1 and 5 p.m., and pick them up on Tuesday, August 26. They'll have a fantastic time overnight in the library! See last spring's fun here.
All of our regular programs continue as usual: Lego & Games, Rhyme Time, Storytime, Playgroup, Baby Lapsit (August 29), Read to a Dog (August 27).
For personalized book recommendations, fill out a Book Bundle form. Questions about children's programs or materials? Contact Jenny (jarch@cwmar.org).
Teen Programs at SHPL
This month in Teens we continue with Crafternoon, Snackternoon and Xbox1. Snackternoon, Thursday, August 28 at 4 p.m. will feature Smoothie Making! Please sign up online. Thank you to the Friends of the South Hadley Public Library for sponsoring our Teen Snackternoon. Crafternoon features

paracord crafting this month.
Our Teen Takeaways continue this month with Sea Glass Turtles. Sign up once and get a new Takeaway every month! We end the month with our Teen Night Craft Tuesday, August 26 at 6:30 p.m.
Our Teen Book Club Book-troverts continues and this month features The Knockout by Sajni Patel. There is no in-person meet up. Enjoy the book on your own time. Copies are available in the Teen Room to check out.
Any questions please email Bethany (broberts@cwmar.org).
Gaylord Memorial Library Programs
For kids we also have our usual Story Times (Fridays at 10:30 a.m.). Join us on Friday, August 22 at 10:30 a.m. for Mindful Music with Mr. Ryan, an exploration of mindfulness, music, Indian culture and PLAY!
We have three Saturday family events: Sidewalk Chalk on Saturday, August 23 at 10:15 a.m.
Drop-In Crafts Thursday, August 28 from 3 to 6 p.m.

STUDENTS from page 1

year at Mosier Elementary. For her, meeting her teacher tops the list of things to look forward to. "I'm most excited to meet my teacher," she said. "I'm curious about what the food will be like. I hope I make a new friend."
First grader Eliza Smith, new to the district, is also preparing for big changes. "I'm excited to see my teach-

er, Ms. Macey, and try gym class," she said. "I'm a little nervous about going into a new school. I hope I see my friends."
Whether it's joining clubs, navigating hallways, riding the bus, or picking up a lunch tray for the first time, each student's experience is shaped by a blend of anticipation and uncertainty. But woven through all the voices is a common hope: making

friends, feeling welcomed, and starting the year with confidence.
From kindergarteners just beginning their journeys to high school freshmen stepping into a brand-new world, students across the community are carrying their hopes and jitters into classrooms—ready to discover new opportunities and create memories that will last well beyond the first week.



Submitted photos
Macie Pease starts at Mosier Elementary School next year.



Lilah and Eliza Smith are ready to wrap up summer and start a new school.

SCOUTS from page 1

troops in the summer.
Finn O'Connor has goals and an eagerness to learn more about archery and rifling for his marksmanship practice.
"They really work hard, and you know they love what they're doing, too," said Greg Williams, the Committee Chair for the troop.
Troop 303 is composed of over 40 members, ranging in ages from 11 to 18, where boys and girls learn their stuff, sell popcorn, perform community services, and get the chance to go on adventures like hiking and camping.
"What I love about scoring is just being able to escape from the electronics and the world and into the woods to camp," said Holmes.
"I love most being able to help lead, help, and mentor the younger scouts with what they need while camping, like if they need help setting up their tents," said Sowa.

"I love being able to help people, going on camping trips, and escaping electronics for a week. It's nice to do that every now and then," said O'Connor.
Half of the troop is currently on a biking and backpacking camping trip at Martha's Vineyard, where some of the boys and Scout Master Jeffrey Holmes where they take the ferry to explore, bike, and camp around the island.
The boys have all been in scouts since Cub Scouts, like Holmes, who's been in scouts since Cub Scouts, and his dad is the Scout Master. The boys have grown up together, learning from one another and rising through the ranks, and making life-long friends.
"I joined as a Tiger in first grade at first to get out of the house, and then I met Bryce's family, and I've been here ever since. Their family and my family are really good friends," said Sowa.
"I joined scouts because I love the outdoors, and I want

to be involved with the community, but also really like learning new things about the plants, too," said O'Connor.
The popcorn sales are listed for support levels, with prices of the popcorn ranging from \$10 to \$30 in increments of support, 73% of the sales from each bag or box of popcorn going back to the troop.
You can find Troop 303 around South Hadley at various locations, including Liquor Town on August 30, Cumberland Farms on August 31, September 7 also at Cumberland Farms, and back at Liquor Town on September 13. All popcorn sale times are from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
The Scouts are a loyal, hard working, and dedicated group of young people who work hard as they learn more about themselves, and the world around them. A little bit of popcorn surely goes a long way when you think of the positive change and effects these sales have been able to help bring to the community.

Tuesday Night 6:30pm
Pitch Night
\$5 per person

Wednesday Night 5-7pm
Smoked BBQ Dinner
\$10 per person

Thursday Night 7-10 pm
Karaoke by New England Disc Jockeys

Saturday Night 4-6 pm only
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South Hadley enters T-Mobile Friday Night Lights program

T-Mobile is proud to announce that South Hadley High School has been selected as one of the first 450 schools nationwide to receive a \$5,000 prize through the T-Mobile Friday Night 5G Lights program — a major initiative investing in high school football communities across America. They are one of only four high schools from Massachusetts to win the \$5,000 prize so far and the second one from Hampshire County - Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School in Northampton was a winner during the first week of the program.

South Hadley High is not only among the 450 schools to receive this support — it's now in the running for the \$1 million grand prize, which would transform the school's football experience and ultimately benefit the entire community. Here's how last year's winner in Inola, OK won the grand prize: <https://www.t-mobile.com/news/un-carrier/t-mobile-crowns-inola-high-school-champion-in-friday-night-5g-lights-competition>

This is the social media post that the school shared announcing their participation <https://www.instagram.com/p/DMjGdOytfde/>, and community engagement is key to winning the grand prize. The more local participation the more it can help elevate the school's chance to win. More information is available at: www.FridayNight5GLights.com.

Last month, T-Mobile announced year two of its commitment to small-town sports by announcing \$4 million in total prizes — including a grand prize football field technology makeover — as part of this nationwide campaign. In total, T-Mobile will award:

One \$1 million grand prize for a complete field tech upgrade, a renovated weight

room from Gronk Fitness, an all-expense-paid trip to the SEC Championship and more 25 \$25,000 finalist prizes for football programs 450 \$5,000 prizes for schools like South Hadley

Other area schools can still enter - the submission deadline is Sept. 12. Please let me know if you'd like to speak with a school representative or T-Mobile spokesperson.

Last year, Ware High School was a finalist in the program.



Lincoln Belsky tries to evade the defense.



Griffin Soderbaum plays in one of South Hadley football's home games last season.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Allison Fluery makes a pass. The Tigers host several night games every fall in multiple sports.



Katherine McArdle makes her way across the field under the lights.



Olivia Athas punts a ball away during a night game last season.

Valley Blue Sox season ends with big win, no playoffs

HOLYOKE - Although Valley will not return to the playoffs after appearing a season ago, the Blue Sox culminated their 2025 campaign on a high note.

On a humid July 30 evening in which they hosted the Upper Valley Nighthawks, the Blue Sox played one of their most important games yet with major playoff implications - although their fate was ultimately out of their hands. Movement in the out of town standings mathematically eliminated Valley from postseason contention late Wednesday night, but that did not stop the Sox from ending the season with one last offensive explosion.

"It definitely was the elephant in the room," said Blue Sox manager Endy Morales on the playoff implications of tonight's game. "But at the end of the day it's still the same game. You go into it with the same expectation to go out and compete, and to-

day our goal was to put up a lot of runs, and that is exactly what we did."

Valley outpaced the Nighthawks early, scoring 11 runs over the first three innings. Nicholas Spaventa opened the scoring in the bottom of the first with a two run double, and was brought home later in the inning on a Wyatt Hunt single.

A pair of singles from Isaac Wachsmann and Michael Elko scored two of the three Valley runs the following inning, with the third resulting from an Upper Valley error.

The outpouring of scoring didn't end there for Valley, as five runs came across in the third inning. Spaventa, Elko, Chris Carson and Kai Cunningham all brought in runs. The fifth run scored on another Nighthawk error.

These scores provided more than enough insurance for Valley, but the Blue Sox kept the bats going. They

scored an additional 12 runs in the sixth, seventh and eighth innings en route to a 23-1 win.

The Blue Sox amassed 18 hits over the course of Wednesday's matchup. Kozar, an Amherstburg, Ontario native, enjoyed five hits and five RBI in six plate appearances. Carson added three hits and five RBI. Elko, Wachsmann, Spaventa and Hunt all had two hit performances, bringing in nine total runs. Andrew Ciaglo, a typical pitching option for the Blue Sox, picked up a hit and RBI in just his second at bat of the season.

The Nighthawks bats stayed relatively quiet over the course of the evening. A total of four hits were highlighted by an Anthony Brotz double in the top of the fifth that scored Upper Valley's lone run.

Andrew Basel started for the Blue Sox, and threw three

Please see **BLUE SOX**, page 8

Short-handed Villa FC captures PVSSL Men's Championship

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—After being forced to play the final 20 minutes of regulation with only ten players, the chances of winning the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League men's championship title for the second consecutive year didn't look very promising for third-seeded Villa FC.

The defending champions, who were trailing 1-0, managed to tie the match against top-seeded Cap & Hitch of New England with less than a minute remaining in the second half.

The score remained tied during the two 10-minute overtime periods.

During the ninth round of the penalty shootout, Villa goalie Lucas Morales-Fernandez made an outstanding diving save giving his team an exciting 1-1 (9-8 PK's) win over Cap & Hitch at Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow earlier this month.

"This is our second championship in a year, and it feels excellent," said Villa player/coach Mike Lima following the match, which lasted more than two hours. "We're one of the better teams in this league, so everybody always wants to be beat us. We were trailing late in second half, but we were able to battle back."

Lima, who shared the coaching duties with Ruben Sousa, is one of the Villa FC players who graduated from Ludlow High School.

The other former Ludlow High School soccer players listed on the Villa FC roster



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Anthony Basile, an Agawam High School graduate, poses with the trophy and league co-president Dianna Kolodziej.



Kamer Nuhiu, of Agawam, possesses the ball for Cap & Hitch.

are Kyle Tomas, who received a red card during the 60th minute, Brandon McCarthy and Enzo Botta.

A year ago, Villa FC, who play their home matches at

Minnechaug Regional, defeated Lusitano White in the men's finals. They also took home the championship trophy.

Please see **VILLA**, page 8

Basketball Hall of Fame releases enshrinement schedule

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame has announced additional details, including start times for key events, regarding the Class of 2025 Enshrinement Weekend.

The Class of 2025 celebration will culminate with the Enshrinement Ceremony on Saturday, Sept. 6, in Springfield – the Birthplace of Basketball.

Revealed in April, the Class of 2025 includes nine honorees, WNBA legends Sue Bird, Sylvia Fowles, and Maya Moore; and NBA stars Carmelo Anthony and Dwight Howard. Other inductees include two-time NCAA championship coach Billy Donovan; legendary NBA referee

Danny Crawford; Miami Heat owner Micky Arison; and the 2008 USA Basketball Men's National Team.

Enshrinement Weekend will tip off at Mohegan Sun on Friday, September 5, starting with the always-popular autograph session, followed by a re-formatted Media Availability, and concluding with the headlining Tip-Off Celebration and Awards Gala. The evening will also include special recognition for the 2025 Curt Gowdy Media Award recipients, George Blaha, Clark Kellogg, Michelle Smith, and Adrian Wojnarowski, as well as longtime Boston Celtics executive Jeff Twiss, the recipient of the John W. Bunn Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Class of 2025 and over 40 returning Hall of Famers will then journey to Springfield, Mass., for the annual celebratory events taking place at the acclaimed Marriott Springfield Downtown as well as Springfield's Symphony Hall. Fans and guests are also encouraged to tour and visit the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame on Enshrinement Weekend, where special events such as the Ice Cube Impact Award and SuperFan presentations will take place.

Details of the schedule of events for Enshrinement 2025 are as follows:

Friday, Sept. 5
Class of 2025 Autograph Session at Mohegan Sun

(Uncasville, Conn.)
11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Meet the Class of 2025 at their first public Enshrinement Weekend event! Each ticket to this event grants you the opportunity to receive one autograph per class member.

Enshrinement 2025 Media Availability at Mohegan Sun
2 to 4 p.m.

The Hall of Fame will implement a new media availability format, offering structured interview stations and podium access to the inductees to facilitate in-depth coverage.

Enshrinement Tip-Off Celebration and Awards Gala at Mohegan Sun
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.: Reception

tion
6:30 to 7:30 p.m.: Red Carpet
8-10 p.m.: Gala Program

The Class of 2025 and the Hall's prestigious annual award recipients will be celebrated at this televised Enshrinement event at Mohegan Sun. This event will feature the unveiling of the Class of 2025 rings, presented by Baron Championship Rings, and the awarding of the Class of 2025 Hall of Fame jackets, provided by Reveal Suits. The program will also include the presentation of the Hall's annual John W. Bunn Lifetime Achievement Award and the Curt Gowdy Media Awards, and recognition for the National Wheelchair Basketball

Hall of Fame Class of 2025.
Saturday, Sept. 6
Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame Museum Hours
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Jr. NBA Clinic at Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame (Springfield, Mass.) 9 to 11 a.m.

Young athletes will take part in a high-energy Jr. NBA basketball clinic that focuses on fun, skill development, and teamwork. Participants will work with trained coaches on fundamentals such as dribbling, shooting, passing, and defense, while also learning the core values of the game, sportsmanship, respect, and effort.

Please see **HOOPHALL**, page 9



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Villa FC captured the PVSSL Men's Championship earlier this month.

VILLA from page 7

phy in 2017 with a 3-2 win over Pros Malaca.

Anthony Basile was selected as this year's MVP award winner. He was also the M.V.P. of the 2017 championship match.

"This is a very special team with a lot of very special players," said Basile, who's from East Longmeadow. "I'm very happy that I'm still able to be a part of it."

Villa FC, who finished the regular season with a 9-1-2 record, advanced into this year's finals after defeating sixth-seeded STCC Alum in a penalty shootout in the quarterfinals, and Lusitano Red, 6-2, in the semifinals.

Cap & Hitch (11-1) joined the prestigious sum-

mer league a year ago. They dispatched eighth-seeded Empower Health, 5-0, in the quarterfinals and the White's 6-2 in the semifinals.

"This was just an unbelievable match by both teams. It's tough that someone had to lose," said Cap & Hitch head coach Bennett Walsh. "I've never been involved in a match where they were 18 shots in the penalty shootout. I'm very proud of my guys."

Both teams had chances to take the lead during the first half, which was 40 minutes long.

Cap & Hitch had the first opportunity during the 26th minute.

Ethan Czapowski, who played soccer at Belchertown High School, weaved around a couple of defenders inside the box before firing a shot

that deflected off the crossbar.

Another former Belchertown player listed on the Cap & Hitch roster is Shay O'Neill, who's father, Devin, is the longtime men's soccer coach at Western New England University.

A minute later, Gabriel Ganzer, who plays for Villa, had a breakaway opportunity, but his shot attempt bounced off the left post.

Ganzer, who's a former member of the Western Mass. Pioneers, recorded a hat-trick in last year's finals. He was also selected as the 2024 MVP winner.

This year's championship match was still scoreless at the half.

Cap & Hitch was given a penalty shot by referee Fabio Cardoso following a foul in the box twenty minutes into

the second half.

Kamer Nuhui, who graduated from Agawam High School, stepped up to the line and fired a shot into the net past Morales-Fernandez.

During that sequence, Cardoso gave Tomas a red card leaving Villa with only ten players on the field.

Cardoso continued to issue yellow cards like they were parking tickets, which kept the match from getting out of control.

Basile tied the score at 1-1 after putting a shot into the net past goalie Alberto Truoliolo with only a couple seconds remaining in regulation.

"I just saw an opportunity," he said. "I just swung my foot and watched the ball roll to the back of the net. It just felt great."

At the end of the second

overtime period, Bryant Keeney had a chance to be the hero for Villa, but his line-drive shot hooked wide.

The nine Villa players that made PK's during the shootout were Andre Morrison, Joao Miranda, Shane Sewell, Andrew Ortiz, Quin Serafino, Mason Perham, Mike Willis, McCarthy, and Ganzer.

The eight PK's made by the Cap & Hitch players were Simba Pelletier, Bennett Walsh Jr., John Senn-McNally, Dominic Cirelli, Connor Weslocki, Czapowski, O'Neill, and Nuhui.

Morales-Fernandez finally ended the match by making a save on a shot attempt by Nathan Sanchez.

It was another memorable summer for the members of Villa FC.

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Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching "turleysports." We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow and share with your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.

BLUE SOX from page 7

no hit innings before allowing a run in the fourth. Jake Andrews, Beau Elson and Andrew Wertz closed the game out, shutting down the Nighthawks.

For Upper Valley, Jack Ruditzky started and struggled. He gave up nine earned runs and 11 hits across 2.1 innings of work. The Nighthawks bullpen suffered a similar fate, allowing 12 more earned runs to close the game out.

Valley's postseason hopes end tonight, but the memories from the season will carry on. Making the transition from player to coach, Morales looks back fondly on his inaugural season managing the Blue Sox.

"You start day one, and then you see the guys that stay here all summer and are really taking in the full experience. Doing an overnight trip in Newport and Cooperstown, just kind of seeing that come together, and then how quick the guys who joined us a little bit later get acclimated to the team," said Morales.

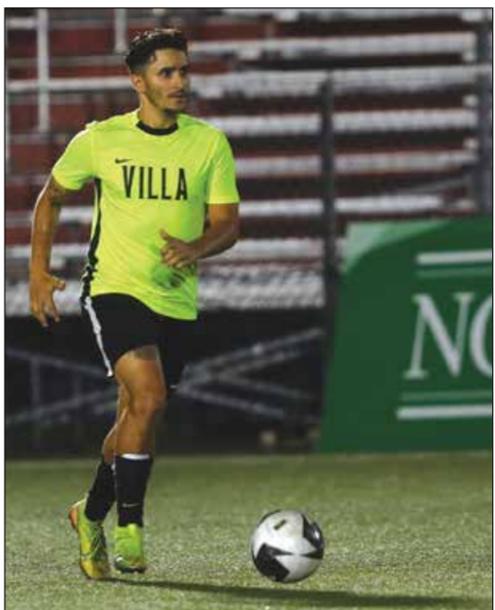
"That's always one of my favorite things, you know, there's that saying boys will be boys. There's never any hesitation to them accepting each other. I just think seeing the togetherness of these guys this summer was pretty cool," he continued.



Shay O'Neill, of Belchertown, heads up the field with the ball.



Mike Willis, of Ludlow, heads the ball for Villa.



Brandon McCarthy, heads up the field.

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HOOPHALL from page 8

Coaches Circle Presentation at Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame (Springfield, Mass.)

1 to 2 p.m.

Join us in celebrating the exceptional coaches who will be honored with benches in the Naismith Coaching Circle. Established in 2015, the Naismith Coaches Circle program was created to pay tribute to basketball's first coach, Dr. James Naismith, and to uphold the core values he instilled in his players: teamwork, determination, self-respect, leadership, initiative, and perseverance.

Ice Cube Impact Award Presentation at Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame (Springfield, Mass.)

2 to 2:30 p.m.

Jalen Rose, former player, TV analyst, and philanthropist, will be honored in a ceremony on the Jerry Colangelo

Court of Dreams. This award recognizes individuals making substantial contributions to their communities through basketball.

Note: Ice Cube is scheduled to present the award in person

SuperFan Presentation at Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame (Springfield, Mass.)

2:30 to 3 p.m.

Several NBA SuperFans will be honored in the James F. Goldstein SuperFan Gallery. This special space is dedicated to celebrating the most iconic and passionate fans of the game.

NOTE: The 2025 SuperFan Class will be announced at a later date

Enshrinement Ceremony Reception at the Marriott Springfield Downtown (Springfield, Mass.)

4 to 5:45 p.m.

Toast the incoming Hall of Fame Class of 2025 at the Marriott's rooftop prior to the

sport's ultimate recognition. The party is limited to select ticket holders for the Enshrinement Ceremony.

Enshrinement Ceremony Red Carpet Show at Symphony Hall (Springfield, Mass.)

6 to 7 p.m.

The Class of 2025, returning Hall of Famers, and many of the sport's icons walk the red carpet in a live NBA TV broadcast from outside Symphony Hall and down East Columbus Avenue.

Enshrinement Ceremony at Symphony Hall

7 to 9 p.m.

One of the most elite events on the basketball calendar, the Hall of Fame Class of 2025 will be formally enshrined into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame in a nationally televised ceremony on NBA TV. The stars of basketball will gather to celebrate the newest group of the sport's iconic figures.

More teams wanted for Quabbin league

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

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

Those same four teams are set to return and each team tends to have openings on them. Additionally, the league is open to welcoming more teams in to the league if it finds enough interest.

The league is looking for at least one full team to join

the league. If you play in an adult league in the region and have most of your team comprising of players over the age of 28 and would like to enter the league, please get in touch as soon as possible. The league is looking to finalize its schedule by Aug. 25.

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

season was eight games and that is the goal for this year. Free and low-cost fields are used as well as just one umpire in an effort to keep the costs lower for players. The cost to play will likely range from \$40 to \$60 for the eight-game schedule. Players from outside the Quabbin League may also pay a small fee for insurance as well.

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

Schedule 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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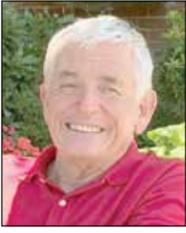
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Obituary

Richard Steiner

In Loving Memory of Richard Steiner, February 14, 1944 - May 23, 2025.



Richard Steiner passed away peacefully on May 23, 2025, at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, MA, after a courageous battle with cancer and other illnesses.

He was surrounded by his loving wife Annie, daughter Michaela, son Alex, and "adoptive" son Keith. Born and educated in England, Richard led a vibrant life filled with professional achievements, global travel, and deep devotion to family and community. His career took him from lab research at Pfizer in England to roles in marketing, sales, and ISO at Westinghouse Electric in Belgium and the U.S., later joining Turbocare in Chicopee, MA. He also taught Business Systems at Holyoke Community College and served on the Belchertown EDIC Board and with BNI. In partnership with Annie, Richard co-founded the Mucky Duck B&B in Belchertown and later welcomed international students into their home through McDuffie Preparatory School, experiences that brought them

lifelong friendships and joy. Richard was a triathlete in his younger years and found great happiness in his dog-walking community later in life. He was known for his gentle spirit, generous heart, and the warmth of his ever-present smile. Above all, he was devoted to his family, proud of his children and grandchildren, and loved sharing in their accomplishments.

He is survived by Annie, his wife of 56 years; his children Alex and Michaela; grandchildren Zachary and Abigail; his sister Helen and her husband Mike; as well as his brother-in-law Freddy, and extended family across the UK, Australia, Belgium, and France.

In his final days, Richard left us with these simple, powerful words: "Life is short. Be kind to everyone."

A celebration of Richard's life will be held on Saturday, August 23, 2025, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Willits-Hallowell Center, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA. RSVP: steiner_annie@yahoo.com

DEATH NOTICE

Richard Steiner
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Services August 23, 2025
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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.

BUDGET from page 1

There was originally an 18% increase at the beginning of the year, and there was a vote for a 20% increase in health insurance, meaning the town of South Hadley now owes an additional \$1.2 million, and the schools have been asked to cover \$250,000 of that sum.

"The next step... is that we are going to need to go back in and look at the budget, and figure out a way to cut \$250,000 from the current budget," said Voyik.

Because 19 positions were already cut this budget season, Voyik shared they would look at other areas first, like the vocational tuition lines, the new transportation department, and Voyik will be meeting with each of the schools' administration teams.

"My plan would be to come to all of you on September 4 with some suggestions of potential items that the school committee can look at to review to cut that \$250,000 from the budget," said Voyik.

Danielle Cooke shared that they are looking at another increase in the health insurance to come, and the effects this will have on the schools in the coming months.

"Another thing that has been mentioned to me by the town... is that the school will have 9c cuts in the middle of the school year, and that's another thing we're gonna have to look at, if it ends up coming to be," said Voyik.

The Committee will be looking at other ways to figure out a solution to this new problem to bring to Town Meeting in the fall.

Updates on Specialized Transportation

"As you all know, at the Town Meeting, the purchase of vans was approved, and as part of our budget, we are starting a new specialized transportation department," said Voyik. "That has been going really well."

New transportation director, Mandy Dowers, came to the meeting to share some information for the upcoming transportation department, and shared a bit about what this new transportation system will look like.

They began hiring drivers in July, and they now have all drivers needed. Dowers also shared that the assistants will be trained as well, and that all vehicles are being inspected and will be ready for the first day of school.

"Everything is looking really good for the first day of school," said Dowes.

They also shared that the DPW has graciously given them space for the vans to be parked, and the Committee is looking forward to having this new system in place for the district.

Update on Wellness Committee

Voyik provided an update on the Wellness Committee, which was brought back in the spring by Mark McLaughlin, with a request for interest in people joining the new committee.

"We weren't expecting such a great response in our first call for volunteering," said Voyik, sharing that the Committee had already received interest from 15 applicants.

With the positive response from the community and readiness for it to begin, the Committee voted to move forward with reviewing applications.

Voting on donation acceptances

The School Committee received a donation from the Ladies Landscaping, LLC to the Henry J. Skala School, in the amount of \$500 for purchasing items for the new sensory room. The committee made a mo-

tion, and all accepted the donation unanimously.

The committee reviewed a donation from SHMPA, the South Hadley Music Parents' Association has put forward a donation of \$4,703 for the two marching band positions that had to be cut after this year's budget.

The condition they asked for it to be applied as \$3,253 for the Assistant Marching Band Director, and \$1,450 for the Fall Percussion Arranger. The donations were collected from the community, family, and friends crowdfunding within a few days.

Voyik and other members of the board shared concern about the specific numbers, that it depends on the person who applies and their skillsets, and that they would be able to address that should the need for more funds present itself.

The committee made a motion to accept the donation on the condition that it "covers the full expense of the positions while following any and all contractual obligations in the unit of contract," said Friesner. The motion passed unanimously to accept the donation.

There was also a donation to the Michael E. Smith Middle School in the amount of \$125 from the American Online Giving Foundation, Inc., and Principal Louis Martinez requested it to go into the school's General Gift Fund. The donation was accepted unanimously by the committee.

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

Public Notices

Town of Granby Massachusetts

Conservation Commission
The Granby Conservation Commission will hold Public Hearings pursuant to the Wetland Protection Act (MGL Chapter 131, Section 40) on **Tuesday September 09, 2025** to be held at 1 Library Lane-Old Carnegie Library-Top Floor to consider the following:

1. **7:30 PM-NOI**-filed by Laura Stamborski, applicant, Jason Lafleur, owner, for a proposed construction of a single-family dwelling within the 100' buffer to a bordering vegetated wetland including an onsite septic system, well and driveway and associate grading. Closest work proposed greater than 50' of BVW, with regards to property located at Cold Hill Road and known as Map 3-Block A-12.5, in the Town of Granby.

Members of the public can attend virtually by phone at +1 (312) 757-3121 using **Access Code: 282-289-421** or by visiting <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/282289421>.

Anyone wishing information and/or to be heard on this matter should appear at the time and place designated. The complete materials (including text and maps) relative to this "NOI" are available for inspection during regular business hours at the Selectmen's Office located in the Granby Senior Center Building, 2nd Floor, 10-B West State Street. Additionally, copies of the application may be inspected on the Conservation Commission's web page at www.granby-ma.gov.

William Shaheen, Chair
Granby Conservation Commission
08/22/2025

TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF HYBRID PUBLIC HEARING Route 202/33 Proposed Zoning Bylaw and Zoning Map Amendments

The Planning Board will hold a hybrid public hearing on **Monday, September 8, 2025 at 6:00 PM** to consider proposed amendments to the zoning map and zoning bylaw relative to properties in proximity to Route 202 (Granby Road) and Route 33 (Memorial Drive/Willimansett Street) to change the existing

zoning to one of two new zoning districts identified as Residential Core and Residential Mixed Use.

Proposed zoning bylaw changes would add new language to § 255-10 Terms Defined; add new language to § 255-11 Establishment of Districts; add new zoning districts and uses to § 255 Attachment 1 - Use Regulations Schedule; add new zoning districts and uses to § 255 Attachment 2 - Dimensional Regulations Schedule; add new language to § 255-15 Overlay districts; modify language to § 255-31 Flexible development; modify language to § 255-47 Multifamily and multiple dwellings; modify language to § 255-34 Professional business uses; and create a new chapter § 255-XX Route 202/33 Corridor Design Guidelines Overlay District.

Proposed Zoning Map changes include property near Route 33 (Memorial Drive/Willimansett Street) at the Chicopee city line northward toward the intersection of Route 202 and 33, including Willimansett Street, then progressing eastward on Route 202 (Granby Road) to the Granby town line, and including the following streets: Yale Street, Dartmouth Street, Columbia Street, Harvard Street, Cornell Street, Oakwood Circle, Brigham Road, McDowell Drive, Forest Drive, Green Acre Road, Ridge Road, Glenn Drive, Karen Drive, Hickory Place, Benger Avenue, Lois Avenue, Victoria Lane, Sunset Avenue, and East Street. The existing zoning of subject properties are proposed to change from Residence A-1 and Business A to the proposed Residential Core; and Residence A-1, Residence A-2, Business A-1, Business A, and Business C to the proposed Residential Mixed Use.

The public hearing will be held through hybrid format with in-person attendance to be located in the multipurpose room of the South Hadley Senior Center, 45 Dayton Street South Hadley MA 01075. Virtual attendance will be hosted through the log-in information below:

URL to join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89436769760?pwd=NmdO704KxaoBW1sqUHP07RcfSoKcN.1>

Or join by phone: +1 (646) 558 8656 **Webinar ID:** 894 3676 9760 **Passcode:** 765579

Materials relative to this proposal are on file in the Planning

& Conservation Department Office (Room U6) in Town Hall and are posted at www.southhadley.org and on the Planning Department page under **'Route 202 & 33 Corridor Re-Zoning'** or can be viewed at: <https://www.southhadley.org/1400/Route-202-33-Corridor-Re-Zoning>

Any person interested in, or wishing to be heard, should appear/join the hearing at the time and in the manner designated.

Brad Hutchison, Clerk
South Hadley Planning Board
08/22, 08/29/2025

Town of Granby Massachusetts

Conservation Commission

The Granby Conservation Commission will hold Public Hearings pursuant to the Wetland Protection Act (MGL Chapter 131, Section 40) on **Tuesday, September 09, 2025** to be held at 1 Library Lane-Old Carnegie Library-Top Floor to consider the following:

1. **7:30 PM-NOI**-filed by Rachel Lemieux, applicant, Tessa Morneau, owner for the proposed construction of a single-family dwelling and an assessor dwelling unit within the 100' buffer to a bordering vegetated wetland including an onsite septic system, well and driveway and associate grading, with regards to property located at Lot 19, Kendall Street and known as Map 7-Block A-21, in the Town of Granby.

Members of the public can attend virtually by phone at +1 (312) 757-3121 using **Access Code: 282-289-421** or by visiting <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/282289421>.

Anyone wishing information and/or to be heard on this matter should appear at the time and place designated. The complete materials (including text and maps) relative to this "NOI" are available for inspection during regular business hours at the Selectmen's Office located in the Granby Senior Center Building, 2nd Floor, 10-B West State Street. Additionally, copies of the application may be inspected on the Conservation Commission's web page at www.granby-ma.gov.

William Shaheen, Chair
Granby Conservation Commission
08/22/2025

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Mongolian politician
5. Coconut palms
10. Rounded knob
14. Japanese city
15. Covers in soft material
16. Walk around
17. Ancient region in Syria
18. French painter
19. Grandmother
20. Cow part
22. Rocky peak
23. Secret plan
24. Sings to one's lover
27. More (Spanish)
30. Father
31. Chinese philosophical principle
32. Hat
35. In agreement
37. A person's brother or sister
38. Evil spirit
39. Monetary units
40. Partner to cheese

CLUES DOWN

1. Two-toed sloth
2. Cooking ingredient
3. Iranian city
4. Publicly outs
5. Steep-sided hollow
6. Spoke
7. General law or rule
8. Extravagantly theatrical
9. Very fast airplane
10. Arm bones
11. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
12. ___ fide: legitimate
13. Gemstone
21. Counsels
23. Top exec
25. Cool!
26. Touch lightly
27. Extract money via taxation
28. Dyes
29. Cloying sweetness
32. Soft drinks
33. Capital of Guam
34. Chemical compound
36. The bill in a

CLUES ACROSS

37. restaurant
37. Car mechanics group
38. Late comedian Newhart
40. Health care for the aged
41. Wise individuals
43. A passage with access only at one end
44. Trim
46. Former OSS
47. The upper surface of the mouth
49. Edible lily bulbs
50. Type of reef
51. Vaccine developer
52. Mottled citrus fruit
53. A place to store lawn tools
54. Rare goose native to Hawaii
57. Hollywood pig
58. Musician Clapton
59. Take a chance
61. Spanish soldier
62. Mark Wahlberg comedy

ROBOTICS from page 1

“We’re really lucky to have the robotics club we have,” said Libby Smith. “We care a lot about building a community in the school.”

During the challenge, the students present their robot to the judges, and also share their passions and what they love most about the art, and have won the Motivate Award with their matching T-shirts in pink, The Hare Bears, after their beloved teacher.

After budget cuts, many schools and their students may not have access to science curriculum, and this program of outreach helped to bring science and knowledge about the engineering industry to students all over the community.

“We do a lot of team building, and we’re all really close friends, which is awesome,” said Ella Wong. “We get together and it’s always so much fun.”

“This club has been a really great jumping-off point for me because it helps me learn

more about the design and coordination process,” said Gideon Antonowicz. “The reason why robots are so difficult is because of the work that goes into them, but they are so much fun.”

Many of the students are participating at internships at UMass Amherst. Gideon Antonowicz is spending time in the Mechatronics and Robotics Research Lab, Ella Wong in the Stem Cell Culture Lab, and Uri Davidovitch is studying in the Building and Constructing Research Lab.

Libby Smith is studying in the Food Science Lab, with a grad student where she is studying coffee, and it’s pH, as well as how to make it shelf stable in order to minimize food waste in the coffee industry.

“It’s a lot of trial and error, and we really learn a lot about each other, as well as coordinating how to get people together,” said Wong about the Robotics Team.

Each of the members of the Team have different roles, whether it’s organizing and planning the events, coding,

or directing the group, each of these students brings in their strengths to the team to help lift up all parts of it.

“It’s been one of the best learning experiences I’ve ever had because we’re learning through building, coding, and seeing how it all works,” said Antonowicz.

While most of the students have an eagerness to go into one of the many sub fields of engineering, whether it’s chemical engineering, bioengineering, food engineering, or building and coding robots and machines, the Team served as an excellent starting point for all of its young learners looking to find their thing.

“We just really love the group, and being able to participate in things like this, sharing what we love with the kids, is the best part,” said Wong.

The students are preparing for their next challenge to be issued on September 6, and are looking forward to more in the coming years.



Turley photos by Emily-Rose Pappas

William and Wade Selkirk having fun controlling their robots, racing to the finish.



Maisie Ahern directing the robot Gertie through to the end.



Phoebe Geary and her dad figuring out how to code the mouse to get through the maze.

GOLF from page 1

lies, and friends chose their golf club and ball, and went off to have some fun to try and get a hole-in-one.

“Mini-golf in the library is so fun, and weather-proof! Joe, who runs the program, really transforms the space for a couple of hours, and families love playing through the course. This year we had over 100 people come through in two hours,” said Children’s Director Jenny Arch.

The owner of Mobile Mini Golf, Joe Buckley, has created courses and brought them to schools, companies, and libraries for the past fifteen years.

He has constructed over five full courses, and the one he took with them was his fifth iteration, showing the constant growth and evolution of these courses. People who have attended past mini golf events with him have returned to play more, having a great time at each one, finding new holes to try and new courses to experience.

As always, [my favorite part is] just seeing more people in the library in the summer months is great, and connecting people with books to read on their vacations and road trips during the summer, helping people find an audiobook that the whole family will enjoy,” said Arch.

The library’s Level Up-themed summer reading program also featured great events, including Mass Capoeira, hula-hooping, and more up to the mini golf adventure last Friday.

“I loved connecting with families at the South Hadley Farmers’ Market,” said Arch. “There are two more Farmers’ Market storytimes, on September 3 and October 1 at 4 p.m.”

Over 230 kids and 60 teens took part in the summer reading program this year, and 50 kids have turned in completed reading logs so far, which means each child read books for 14 hours or more.

“I hope kids develop or maintain an identity as readers - as people who love to read for fun and for information,”

said Arch. “I hope they feel empowered to choose books they’re interested in and motivated to learn about whatever they’re curious about.”

Mr. Liam, Liam Hurley, will be coming back to the South Hadley Public Library once a month from September through December with his music programs for kids, with instruments, puppets, and ten-second dance parties.

There will also be a Halloween Costume Swap on October 11, and a Toy Swap on December 6. Susie with the Poop Museum will be coming on November 8, and be sure to sign up for the Kids Graphic Novel Book Club, and a spot to read with a Bright Spot therapy dog.

“Reading is a muscle that strengthens with practice, and in this time of wild misinformation and AI slop, having books on all topics, and all kinds of stories, is a valuable resource. And, you know, I hope they had fun building with Lego, playing board games, or coming to Rhyme Time or Storytime, too,” said Arch.



Submitted photos

The library was packed with people going through the twisting courses around the room.



There are plenty of fun and unique holes along the course.



Kids making their way through the different courses.



Picking out your favorite color club and ball is one of the best parts.