

TOWN Reminder

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Town discusses new dire changes to the budget

Level Service Budget now \$4.9 million, an increase of \$1.6 million since Town Meeting

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

SOUTH HADLEY – The town employees held a meeting on Aug. 26 to address the upcoming changes to the budget, which are coming as of Oct. 1, after rising health insurance costs from the Hampshire Group Insurance Trust.

Town Administrator Lisa Wong shared a presentation on the realities of the current budget, as well as what it will

look like for the town in the coming months.

“The only way we’re gonna get through this is to get through it together,” said Wong. “But I want to let you know that this is all hands-on-deck, and it’s got our full attention.”

Historically, the town has sought to keep the revenue and expense growth under \$2 million, and more often under \$1 million. However, this is proving to be quite difficult at this time.

**“This is a huge, huge, huge budget buster,”
“Again, these are just projections, and we
are going to try our best not to make these
projections a reality.”**

– Lisa Wong

The school budget has increased by \$200-\$250,000, health insurance by \$300,000 and retirement by \$100-\$300,000.

“We have seen some of

the historic deficits, just not as large as we’re seeing right now,” said Wong.

The school budget will be losing six to seven figures in non-budget grant funds,

and its budget is going up by \$250,000 at the same time. Health insurance has also increased by over \$2 million alone.

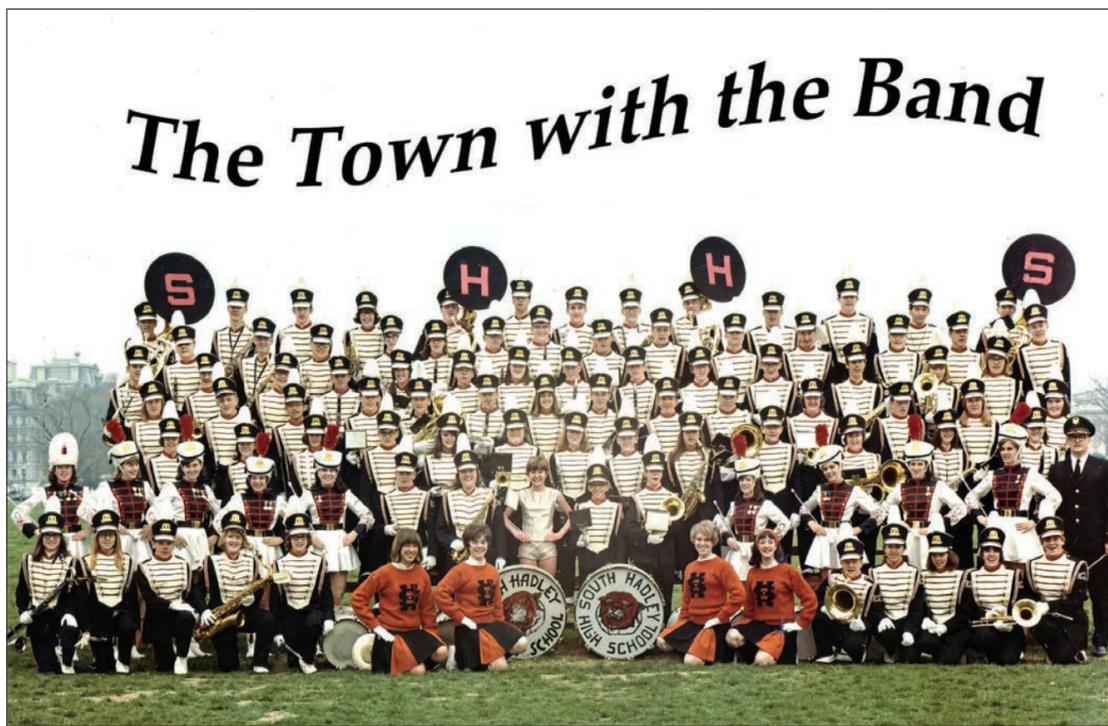
Because we are now in a budget deficit, it means there is an expense increase that is more than the revenue, resulting in circumstances that services and staff reductions will have to be considered, deferred maintenance and less capital expenditures, and it may even compound each year.

For examples of the increases, the Level Service Budget is now at \$4.9 million, with a budget increase of \$1.6 million since Town Meeting in May.

Between 2018 and 2024, there has been an increase of between 4.21% to 8.09%, but drastically, it has jumped in FY25 actual increase to be 9.86%, followed by an estimated 40.20% for FY26.

“This is a huge, huge,

Please see **BUDGET**, page 11



The title page for the documentary.

Submitted photos

Learning the history of South Hadley’s band

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
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SOUTH HADLEY – After two years of hard work and dedication, the members of the historical South Hadley High School Band completed a documentary spotlighting the hard work of the band members and their own dedicated director, Roger Farnsworth.

“We had a skeletal crew, but the team of eight of us worked with Dan Pease with South Hadley Community TV, and he was kind enough to film the interviews,” Elizabeth Ballard said, a former band member and one of the team members for the documentary.

Former band members and many other people worked together to orchestrate and create the docu-

mentary, a series of interviews with members of the South Hadley High School Band.

“We have a great sense of gratitude to Roger Farnsworth, and he really pushed to make our band successful and get what we needed to make our band successful,” Ballard said.

“The Town With the Band”, the name of the documentary and what Farn-

sworth wanted South Hadley to be known as, aired with a preview party over the weekend as people came to view the story of the South Hadley High School Band, which was once the South Hadley Tiger Marching Hundred.

Roger Farnsworth came to South Hadley with the mission to direct a band, and did so 60 years ago, where

Please see **BAND**, page 12

Remembering those we have lost with honor

South Hadley hosts first overdose vigil on Beachgrounds Park

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
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SOUTH HADLEY – On Aug. 31, many communities across the nation hold vigils and ceremonies in honor of National Overdose Awareness Day, remembering and paying respects to the thousands of people lost to overdose around the world.

Following the death of a young person in South Hadley in 2005, parents, friends, classmates, neighbors, and community members came together to form the South

Hadley Drug and Alcohol Prevention Coalition.

The Coalition, which has been going for 20 years now, works towards the goal of reaching youth and adults to increase conversations about the risks surrounding the use of substances and the dangers of addiction.

The Coalition has built numerous relationships across the town and has gotten the schools involved, as well as getting the community involved in substance use prevention.

Please see **VIGIL**, page 5

Local author teaches how to organize and declutter well



Submitted photo

Author Bonnie Borromeo Tomilson with her three books: “Stop Buying Boxes,” “Stop Pushing Perfection,” and “You Don’t Need It”.

By Emily-Rose Pappas
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epappas@turley.com

SOUTH HADLEY – Finding ways to organize your home can oftentimes be overwhelming when you find you don’t have the right organization tools and systems. Often, the real key to organizing effectively is more than just strategy, but the number of storage systems.

Author Bonnie Borromeo Tomilson hosted a talk at the South Hadley Public Library last weekend about the topic of boxes and how to “Stop Buying Boxes.”

“Organizing is not making things pretty. That is just a byproduct. Organizing is about creating systems in your home and life that make tasks easier to do,” Borromeo Tomilson said.

The first book in three, “Stop Buying Boxes,” is followed by “Stop Pushing

Perfection,” and “You Don’t Need It,” which are designed to help you explore and dive into the art of organization and decluttering from the source: spending habits.

“There wasn’t so much an inspiration as an innate ability and discovering a real need for these skills in our consumer-driven culture. Plus, I really love turning chaos into order,” Borromeo Tomilson said.

Each of her books focuses on different topics, helping the reader to look at the different angles of how clutter can affect your life, home, and space.

“I have always had a book in me. I love to write. This was just a natural progression,” Borromeo Tomilson said. “As for the books, the simplest explanation is this: STOP BUYING BINS is about downsizing. STOP

Please see **AUTHOR**, page 11

Police department welcomes new officer

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
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SOUTH HADLEY – The South Hadley Police Department welcomed a new officer to their force, Officer Molly Farber, last week with a special ceremony where she took her vows to serve and protect the town.

Farber worked for the Amherst Police Department for 9 years before transferring to the South Hadley Police Department. Farber graduated from the University of Massachusetts Amherst with a Bachelor’s degree in sociology and a certificate in criminal justice.

“Like most officers, I got into this profession because I wanted to help people and hopefully make a difference,” Farber said. “I also liked the fact that you never know what is going to happen on a day-to-day basis, and each day could be completely different from the



Submitted photo

Police Chief Jennifer Gunderson, new Officer Molly Farber, and Town Clerk Sarah Gmeiner.

next.”

Farber is the first person in her family to go into law enforcement, and loves animals, especially her three dogs, two Newfoundlands, and one French bulldog, and

being outside.

The ceremony brought in a crowd to welcome the new officer, and members of the department welcomed their new “partner in stopping crime.”

“I am very excited to be a part of the South Hadley Police Department. I’ve been a resident here for about eight years now and want to con-

Please see **OFFICER**, page 5

Friends continue their annual Senior Sundae Social at McCray's

SOUTH HADLEY – The Friends of the South Hadley Seniors continue their annual Ice Cream Sundae Social tradition of offering free sundaes and entertainment for seniors at McCray's Farm. This year's event will be held on Tuesday, September 9, from 5 to 6:30 p.m., at McCray's Farm, and will feature the music of Joe Canata and the Memories.

This ice cream sundae social, which is free and open to all seniors, began at the Senior Center over a decade ago. Kay Washburn, a beloved former board member and member of the Senior Center, started the sundae social.

The McCrays' staff would bring the ice cream and sundae fixings to the senior center and the Friends' would host a bingo game or other activity to go with the ice cream. Four years ago, the Friends decided to move the event to McCray's to be able to reach out to more seniors.

"We had reached our capacity at the Senior Center, as this was becoming one of our most popular events. We didn't like to have to turn any senior away, so we decided to move it to McCray's to be able to accommodate all who wanted to come, and this is when we added entertainment to make it a really special event for our seniors," said Kim Prough, president of the Friends of the South Hadley Seniors.

All seniors are welcome to attend, and advanced sign-up is not needed. The Friends will have a check-in table by the mini golf course, where seniors can obtain their ticket for a free ice cream sundae. Bring a lawn chair to relax and enjoy the sundae and the music. The Friends will have volunteers on hand to help carry lawn chairs and/or sundaes for any seniors needing assistance.

"We want to make sure this is accessible and fun for all," said Prough.

September 10 will be the rain date, if needed.

9/11 Memorial Service to be held at Granby Public Safety Complex



GRANBY – The Granby Public Safety Complex was able to acquire a piece of a fire engine from the 9/11 scene, and it is now displayed outside the station. There will be a 24th Anniversary Memorial Service at 6 p.m. on September 11.

Fall tag sale returning to Center Church on September 6

SOUTH HADLEY – It is the time of year that Center Church, UCC, 1 Church St, South Hadley, will be holding the Fall Tag Sale on September 6, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and September 7, from noon to 5 p.m. Our huge sale has been occurring for years. The selection of merchandise includes housewares, jewelry, toys, books, linens, lamps, baskets, small electronics, handbags, puzzles, decor items, glassware, vases, craft supplies, fabric, office/stationery supplies, candles, out-

door items, sporting goods, frames, candles, canvas/shopping bags, and the list continues. We have a Treasures Room for vintage and unique items, as well as small furniture pieces. New this year are clothing, hats, and accessories. Always a favorite is purchasing a delicious homemade baked good treat. We are amazed by all the wonderful donations. Come and find out what we're talking about. We can guarantee you will find an item you just cannot resist.

Livy's VIP Dance Oct. 5

LUDLOW – Livy's VIP Dance, in support of a fundraiser for Rett Syndrome, will take place on Sunday, Oct. 5, from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Gremio Lusitano Club.

The special dance is in memory of Livy, who succumbed to Rett Syndrome at the age of five.

Sparkle, shine and support!

Music and memories with VIP Princess guests.

To learn more, contact Maggie Wurm at maggie@rsangels.org or Shanon at shanon.m.hardy@gmail.com.

To learn more about Rett Syndrome, visit rsangels.org.

For the event page, visit rsangels.org/event/livys-vip-dance/.

Don't miss out on BBP events

SOUTH HADLEY – Stop by and enjoy the last few events that can be enjoyed at Buttery Brook Park this week and next, spending some time with family and friends.

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

Wednesday, September 3 - Farmer's Market, from 2 to 6 p.m.

Friday, September 5 - Cruise Night and Live Music featuring Ray Guillette and his King Kountry band, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at the front pavilion.

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

Spray Park - Open Daily until September 7 from 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

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.

Police chief officer hours September

SOUTH HADLEY – Meet Police Chief Jennifer Gunderson at the different locations below with your questions, or just to have a chat.

- September 9, 5 to 6:30 p.m., South Hadley Public Library on Canal St
- September 23, 8 to 10 a.m., Tailgate Picnic 7 College St
- September 30 10 a.m. to noon, South Hadley Council on Aging

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SHELD NEW BUILDING SECOND PUBLIC FORUM

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SHELD is currently in the process of discussing the construction of a new building. Join us for a short presentation to learn more about:

- ⚡ Why a new building is needed
- ⚡ What has been done to date
- ⚡ What the impacts to ratepayers may be

After the presentation there will be ample time for questions and comments.

Time & Place:

Wednesday, September 10 at 6:00 PM

South Hadley Council on Aging
45 Dayton Street
South Hadley, MA 01075

The meeting will be held in the multipurpose room.

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

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.

Relay for Life's Luminaria ceremony coming September 27

BELCHERTONW – Our Quaboag Valley Relay for Life Luminaria Ceremony is September 27 on the Belchertown Common and Belchertown United Church of Christ, starting at 6:30 p.m. in the church, then going outside to the common for the actual walk. In case of bad weather, the walk will

be in the church.

We are hoping to have lots of Luminarias lined up to light our way as we walk. You can donate \$5 for each Luminaria you wish. They can be in honor or memory of a loved one. If you wish to donate for any please go to the following link: <http://main.acevents.org/goto/el>

eanoregray.

Or mail a check to P.O. Box 924, Belchertown 01007-0924.

Please remember the Cancer Survivors and the ones that have lost their battle with Cancer by donating to Luminarias.

All are invited to attend this very moving ceremony.

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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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.

FALL TAG SALE
 CENTER CHURCH, UCC
 I Church St., South Hadley
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Sunday, Sept. 7th noon-5pm

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INSURED AND CERTIFIED



Opinion

SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor

How do I apply for Social Security and receive my payments?

Dear Rusty:

I'm ready to apply for my Social Security benefits, and I'm aware of how my benefits are calculated. What I would like to know about is how the application process actually works and how my benefits are received.

Signed: Ready to Collect

Dear Ready to Collect:

Essentially, you have two main options for applying for Social Security benefits, and also two separate options for receiving your payments:

To apply for benefits, you can either contact Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 to make a telephone appointment to complete your application while speaking to an SSA representative on the phone or you can submit your application for SS benefits online.

When using the telephone option, you will be guided by an SSA agent while completing your application and can discuss your benefit options directly with that agent, just be sure to be available to receive SSA's call at the scheduled time. You can also make an appointment by calling your local SS field office directly get the number for your local SS office at this link: www.ssa.gov/locator. It is not usually necessary to visit your local SSA office in person to apply.

If you are reasonably proficient with computers, you can, instead, apply online, but you will first need to create your personal SSA account online at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. Once you have your personal account set up, you will be able to see your estimated benefit amount at different claim ages, which should help you decide when it is best to apply. Here is a short video which explains the process for applying for benefits online: https://www.ssa.gov/hlp/video/iclaim_r01.htm.

If applying online, you can start your online application at www.ssa.gov/apply and re-access it multiple times as needed until you are ready to submit it; just be sure to write down the "reentry code," which is provided when you begin

your online application.

When you are ready to submit the application, just select "Submit" and your application will be sent to SSA's application processing unit for review. They will contact you if there are any questions about your application or if any additional documentation is needed. Note that it typically takes a couple of months for your payments to start and note that payment is made in the month following the month earned. For example, if you begin your benefits in August your first payment will be received in September on either the second, third or fourth Wednesday of each month thereafter, depending on your birthday.

For receiving your monthly SS payments: you will (on your application) be able to specify how you wish your monthly payments to be made. The preferred option used by most beneficiaries is to have your monthly Social Security payment deposited into a financial (e.g., bank) account, details for which you will specify when applying. However, you can also choose to receive your monthly payments in the form of a debit card called "Direct Express," which will be replenished monthly. If you choose to have your payment deposited in your bank account, be sure to have your bank account information ready when you apply. Note that Social Security no longer issues payments via printed checks except in rare circumstances.

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

Gardening tasks best accomplished now

The mornings have been a little cooler this last week or so. I must admit that after the summer we had, the respite from the heat is a welcome relief.

With the unofficial end of summer just a few short days away, folks are starting to think about winterizing their pools, getting their boats in storage, closing up their cottages and the like. There are a number of things that we gardeners can do now to ease winter's blow and set the stage for a successful garden next year!

Here is a replay of a timely column that lays it all out there.

Order spring flowering bulbs now. I ordered mine just last week!

For the widest array of tulips, daffodils, crocus and the like, consider making your selection from a mail order company. Most have great web sites, offering photos of pretty much everything they sell. Our bulbs will arrive in early October – the perfect time for planting!

We get them into the soil prior to the ground freezing so that they will have a chance to send out roots, perfect little anchors for winter heave/thaw cycles. Once spring comes it is all about flowering. Yippee – a welcome sign that brighter days lie ahead!

Cure squash and pumpkins well prior to storage. Give your cucurbits a couple of weeks in the sun up off of the ground before you bring them indoors. This will harden the vegetable's skin and improve its longevity.

If temperatures dip below 50 degrees at night consistently, find a dry, sunny spot

inside to complete their curing, otherwise chilling injury may occur. It's also important to remove them from the garden if bugs or disease threaten.

In my garden I am vigilantly squishing the gray col-

responses. New leaves will sprout and luster will return come March.

Instead of digging tender plants up, some folks prefer to take tip cuttings. During the rooting process, mist a few times a day to prevent wilting.

You will have especially good luck rooting scented geraniums – it should take just about a month.

Take cuttings now, before the plant starts prepping for winter (yes, plants do, too!), and you'll have better luck.

Plant some autumnal color. Mums and kale are at their peak at local garden centers now. Choose a plant that is healthy, free of brown leaves and with a root ball that fills the pot and isn't sunken away.

Use these plants to fill in places in the border where annuals have gone by, or, fill a container or two for a quick burst of fall at your front door. Die-hard gardeners have no problem staving off the onset of winter with a last minute plant installation.

Be sure to cover with a sheet if frost threatens, to prevent the flowers from being nipped. With careful watering and some good luck, the mums may even return to the garden next season – just as we intend to!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 32 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.



ored squash bugs that like to accumulate under the fruit. Once curing is complete, store squash and pumpkins where there is good air circulation and where temperatures stay around fifty to sixty degrees, with relative humidity between fifty and seventy percent.

Under these conditions most will last eight to twelve weeks depending on variety.

Dig up tender plants. Did you buy rosemary, bay tree, lemon verbena, French lavender or scented geraniums this spring? Unfortunately, not one of these favored herbs is winter hardy in our area.

I usually get them out of the ground once frost threatens, and will bring them inside overnight and back outside during the day for a few weeks until it gets too cold. From that point most of them will thrive in a bright but cool room of the house.

Don't be surprised if the lemon verbena loses its leaves soon after you pot it up or that the French lavender doesn't look all that zippy during the winter – both are normal

How students learn about subtraction



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

Eagle sighting

A New Braintree resident and a friend went bass fishing on Brooks Pond in North Brookfield in a canoe recently. Half way out on the pond, they started to hear the seagull like calls of an eagle. As they rounded a little peninsula on the left side up in the top of a broken pine was a large eagle's nest.

The broken pine made a perfect platform for them to build a nest. They then saw the two mature adult pair with their white heads on a stump near the water. Up in the pine near the nest were two juvenile eagles, all dark brown. They weren't flying, but just squeaking for food.

They actually looked quite big for baby eagles. His friend said it was because they still had their fluffy feathers and developing new feathers.

They fished nearby and watched them hop around. They seemed unbothered by them being about 60 feet from the shore of the peninsula. Eventually the two adult eagles flew off probably in search of a meal for their big babies. So neat to be able to



Great egret.

see eagles fairly common now in Massachusetts.

Male cardinal

I received this email, "I was just walking the dog after dark and my flashlight came upon this guy (male cardinal). I have seen him every night since. We just stare at each other for a few seconds and say good night."

Loon census

The Loon Preservation Committee reported on Saturday, July 19 from 8-9 a.m., 566 volunteers simultaneously surveyed 135 lakes across New Hampshire for loons. Together, they counted 541 adult loons and 109 loon chicks during the census hour. The New Hampshire loon census

is part of a larger regional effort. While N.H. participants were out surveying for loons on their lakes, hundreds of volunteers in Maine, Vermont, and New York were doing the same. This simultaneous survey of so many lakes helps create a "snapshot in time" of not just the loon population here in New Hampshire, but across the Northeast.

Helping birds

A reader from South Hadley suggested I include a section about ways to help birds. She even provided several tips for future columns. Some people also continue to put out suet and that is so dangerous. It gets rancid in the heat and that's bad for birds. Perhaps even worse, it gets their feet and chest feathers greasy and when the preen, they spread the grease all over their bodies. This interferes with a bird's natural waterproofing and can also cause their nestling to be covered in grease.

Sandhill cranes

An Oakham resident saw two sandhill cranes in Barre on Aug. 14 in a field across

Please see **BACKYARD**, page 11

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.

TOWN Reminder

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By Ellenor Downer

A Brimfield resident reported he visited Lake Wallace in Belchertown with a friend last week and saw a great egret.

They also saw a great blue heron, at least three green herons, a few Phoebe and an Eastern kingbird. There were also several ducks, mallards and wood ducks. The two male wood ducks were in eclipse plumage.

The great egret is slightly smaller than the great blue heron, but they are still large birds with an impressive wingspan. They hunt in the classic heron way standing immobile or wading through water to capture fish with their bill. At one point, egrets were hunted to near extinction for their

feathers for hat decoration. The great egret is the symbol of the National Audubon Society.

Rivalry among nestlings is common and the larger chicks frequently kill their smaller siblings. The great egret is white with a yellow bill and black legs. During breeding, a patch of skin on its face turns neon green and long plumes grow from its back called aigrettes. These aigrettes were prized for ladies hats.

Great egrets fly slowly, but powerfully with just two wingbeats per second at a speed of about 25 miles per hour. The oldest known Great Egret was 22 years, 10 months old and was banded in Ohio.



Submitted photos

The South Hadley Police Department, with their new officer, and Comfort Dog Murphy came to welcome her, too.

OFFICER from page 1

tribute to my community," Farber said. "Being a police officer here will allow me to do just that. I want to get involved with the various opportunities the SHPD has to offer."

Town Clerk Sarah Gmeiner conducted the swearing-in ceremony to swear Farber in,

and Comfort Dog Murphy came to welcome his new partner- and playmate- at the station with kisses and a wagging tail.

"The swearing-in ceremony meant a lot. It marks the beginning of a hopefully long and successful career. I am very excited to be a part of this police department," Farber said. "I'm looking

forward to giving back to my community and helping the residents and visitors of South Hadley to the best of my ability. I want to get involved as much as I can."

When you see Officer Farber in the coming weeks, smile at her, and welcome her to our town as she takes on the mantle to serve and protect.



Molly Farber (left) is being sworn in by South Hadley Town Clerk, Sarah Gmeiner.



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VIGIL from page 1

"It has really grown to bring the community together to invite the community together to stand in solidarity with the people who have lost loved ones to overdose," Hannah Durham said, the Public Health Program and Administrative Coordinator. "The goal is to continue the work of the Coalition, and there is a lot of work to be done to bring the community together to finish that work."

Durham is looking to work with former Coalition members to "help rebuild the Coalition and help it to grow," so that they can continue to host vigils like the one last weekend for years to come.

"This year was the first year that South Hadley joined communities statewide and nationally. It was a new event, and it was really wonderful to see folks participate and attend," Durham said.

The people lost to overdose are remembered through names and photos and memory-sharing, and these types of events are the perfect way to do so.

"I think my favorite part was after we had some welcome remarks and the dedication of a newly planted memorial tree, we had a few moments of silence, and then some time to share names of people they were thinking of," Durham said. "It was really heartening to see how many folks were willing to share, and it was a particularly moving moment."

The event hosted several groups, including Hampshire HOPE, the City of Northampton's Department of Health and Human Services' Drug Addiction Recovery Team (DART), Tapestry Health, Hope for Holyoke Peer Recovery Center, Westfield Peer Recovery Center, Support After a Death by Overdose (SADOD), the Mental Health Association and South Hadley Al-Anon.



Submitted photos

Whenever you pass by The Memorial Tree, a Scarlet Fire Dogwood, remember that those who lost their fight to addiction will never be forgotten.

The Pioneer Valley Public Health District was also there to share their new project, CredibleMind, which services people in Holyoke, South Hadley, and Chicopee by connecting them with mental health resources.

"Everyone who showed up showed how important this work is, and how you need a whole network of support no matter who you are, and as far as community members, several folks mentioned how much they appreciated having the opportunity to gather and remember those they lost and that they weren't alone in their grief, and hearing that from them was very moving, and this was a good and valuable event to hold," Durham said.

The town is looking for more opportunities to continue the conversation and offer more ways to allow folks to come together to support one another.

Those with an interest in joining or putting together more help for the Coalition or to take part in orchestrating more events can contact Hannah Durham with the Public Health Department at hdurham@southhadley.ma.gov

"I just wanted to extend thanks to all the community partners that helped to make this event possible, and a special thank you to our South Hadley tree warden, Rebekah Cornell, who helped with the selection and planting of the Memorial Tree," Durham said. "Also, for all the others who came to help make this a beautiful and meaningful event for all who attended."

The vigil was a beautiful, yet somber reminder that those who struggle are not alone, and that those who have lost friends, family, and loved ones to overdoses are not alone in their grief.

South Hadley Public Library

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SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Sound Healing with Julia Nadolny

Wed. Sept. 10 | 6 - 7:30 PM • Sign Up Under Events

Sound Healing is an ancient practice going back thousands of years. It promotes balance throughout the body and mind.

Julia Nadolny is certified in energy-medicine and will lead participants in a connecting and reflective experience.

Local History! Canals of the CT River

Wed. Sept. 17 | 6 - 7:30 PM • In Community Room

Learn about power, navigational, municipal, and irrigation canals in the Connecticut River Valley of Massachusetts - funded by a state level grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. This program is presented by Robert Comeau.

Small Appliance Swap

Sat. Sept. 20 | 10 - 11 AM • Community Room

Drop offs begin on Tuesday, Sept. 2nd until Friday, Sept 19th. You will receive a ticket for each item you bring (no more than 3). Then come on down Saturday, September 20st in the Community Room, and find a new to you appliance!

Selma Says: Energy Reading with Tarot

Sat. Sept. 20 | 10 - 11 AM • Readings in Atrium (1st Come, 1st Served)

After more than 20 years providing mental health services and about 10 years teaching in different universities, Selma decided to study the Tarot and its relationship with the Carl Jung's concept of Collective Unconscious.

So, come in, and explore with Selma this wonderful tool, questions such as, What should I expect from...?; Am I doing the right thing in relation to...? How can I work on...?; Is love in my future?

Local Author! "Self-Regulation: A Family Systems Approach"

By Rondalyn Whitney

Wed. Sept. 24 | 6 PM

First 20 shall receive a free signed copy!

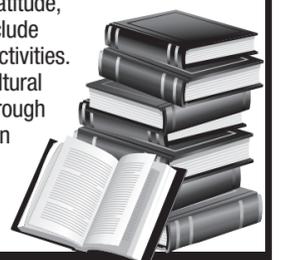
This book includes activities, recipes, case studies, and unique worksheets to help families build strong skills for self-regulation and improve quality of life. Recognized as a revolutionary book on sensory-sensitive learning for children who struggle with common activities. Rondalyn Whitney is a Licensed and Registered Occupational Therapist, a Fellow of the American Occupational Therapy Association, a funded research scholar, and she holds a Doctorate in International Health Science.

Mid Autumn Chinese Festival

Sat. Sept. 27 | 10 - 12:30 PM • Sign Up Under Events

The festival, also known as the Moon Festival, is one of the most important traditional holidays in Chinese culture, celebrating family, gratitude, and the harvest. This free, family-friendly program will include mooncake tasting, Chinese calligraphy, and lantern-making activities.

Founded as a non-profit, CAWM is dedicated to fostering cultural diversity, cross-cultural communication, and collaboration through a variety of events and activities benefiting all communities in Western Massachusetts. Their mission is rooted in the belief that celebrating diverse traditions and heritages helps strengthen the ties that unite people.



Sheriff Nick Cocchi holds Eighth Annual Cookout

By **Brendan Rooney**
Correspondent

SPRINGFIELD — On Aug. 20, more than 1,500 people gathered under the Elks lodge pavilion as Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi held his 8th Annual Cookout, which consisted of elected officials, friends and a plethora of community members.

Some notable names that were in attendance were Springfield Mayor Domenic Sarno, Chicopee Mayor John Vieau and Holyoke Mayor Joshua A. Garcia, along with State Sen. Adam Gomez (D-Springfield) and Hampden County DA Anthony Gulluni, and even the previous Hampden County Sheriff, Michael Ashe, who served 42 years in the role, who was known for his clam bakes back in the day stopped by to greet Sheriff Cocchi, along with Springfield PD Commissioner Albert Tranghese.

Offering insight despite the rainy and inclement weather was Cocchi, who reflected on the chance to continue the legacy left behind by Ashe in the pursuit of bringing the community together.

“We do it in August, just before Election time, so a lot of people running for office come, which allows the public to express their concerns or interests to get to know who they will be potentially voting for, and it allows me to offer an ode of gratitude and just a thank you to the people who have been the

Sheriff’s office,” Cocchi said. “I just feel this love and support from the community, but make no mistake about it, the Hampden County Sheriff’s Office is the people’s, and I’m very grateful to have the awesome responsibility to run day-to-day operations.”

Cocchi noted that the key to keeping the event fresh and unique as the years continue to pass, by summing it up to the fact of building relationships and staying true to what you mean.

“It’s about providing services to the people in the community who need help and support, to allow offenders who are incarcerated that opportunity for redemption, and give them a piece of hope,” Cocchi said.

Cocchi also discussed the overall elation of seeing familiar faces and the foundational pillars of colleagues who helped pave the way for him, such as a former Correctional Officer SGT. James Rooney, who was a mentor to Cocchi when he first started, back during the days of the old York Street Prison being in use.

“It was so great to see Jimmy (Rooney),” Cocchi said. “I have had so much respect for him, since the days of when I was a young CO, and he (Jim) was one of my mentors in one of the toughest areas in the facility.”

Cocchi was grateful to the community for their support.

“I’m just so grateful to see this level of support in 2025;



Turley photos by Brendan Rooney

From left to right, Former CO SGT Jim Rooney, York Street Jail, Anthony Cignoli, President of AL Cignoli CO, and Springfield Police Commissioner Al Tranghese.

it’s extremely humbling,” Cocchi said.

Providing similar comments to Cocchi’s gratitude was Springfield Police Commissioner Tranghese, who kept his thoughts simple, highlighting the support and unity from the community.

“This is a great function for all of Western Mass, and it brings us all together, and it’s always a big occasion,” Tranghese said.

Touching upon the resilience of the community, showing up strong, despite the rainy and wet conditions, was Mayor Garcia.

“You would think with

rain, you would expect low turnout, but that’s not the case,” Garcia said. “But this turnout is a testament to Sheriff Cocchi, and again, that has to do with good leadership, good direction, and I’m here to contribute and offer support, and everyone here in some way, shape, or capacity are doing important work in the community, and we show up to show support for each other, for the Sheriff to continue the good work of improving quality life of people.”

Offering similar sentiments to Garcia’s comments was State Senator Adam Go-

mez (D-Springfield).

“Even when it rains, people are going to come out and support Sheriff Cocchi,” Gomez said. “From the work he and his team have been doing, it shows that the public is still with him, and they enjoy this annual event.”

Gomez also noted the diversity and overall enjoyment of everyone in attendance.

“We have children here, grandparents, we have everybody, and everyone is enjoying good food and conversation, and just remember to stand tall and keep pushing our region forward,” Gomez said.

Following suit in the ode of gratitude centered around Cocchi, while branding a new name for supporters of the Sheriff was Mayor Vieau, who attributed the ‘Cocchi army’.

“I’ll tell you that Sheriff Cocchi is just beloved by this community, and it’s not just Western Mass; it’s beyond,” Vieau said. “And Nick (Cocchi) is a great guy, and I’m grateful and thankful to call him a great friend.”

Gulluni also offered his initial thoughts about the event, sharing that the support from everyone was “phenomenal.”

“It’s a testament to Cocchi’s community outreach and engagement due to the credibility he’s achieved as Sheriff over these years, to bring out this number of people in a washout, and I’m happy to be here to support Nick (Cocchi)

and his team,” Gulluni said.

He also talked about the passion for being in the position he is in.

“I feel privileged to have had this job for almost 11 years, and I worked in the office as an assistant DA, so I have a great appreciation for the impact that we can have,” Gulluni said.

Gulluni cited the success is due to his staff.

“I’ve been really fortunate to have great people around me through all the projects and the initiatives that we have, but particularly on unresolved cases, we’ve had a lot of success, and that is meaningful to the community, and it’s obviously tremendously meaningful to the families and loved ones involved who lost someone and never got answers and that is a trauma I can’t even envision, so if we can give back in that capacity, I’m really honored to do so,” Gulluni said.

The all-day event kicked off with a golf tournament in the morning, and for those in attendance, they were treated to grilled foods like Italian sausage, burgers, corn, grilled chicken and BBQ ribs, along with plenty of drinks, were provided to bring a classic cookout feel. The event also featured live music, cornhole and tons of raffle prizes.

All funds from the event went towards the Sheriff’s election committee.



Volunteers who cooked all the food.



From left to right: Former CO Jerry Crews, Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi, and Former CO SGT Jim Rooney, York Street Jail.



Volunteers running the raffle table.



Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi doing a photo with supporters.

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From left to right, Former Springfield PD Superintendent Cheryl Clapprood, Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi, and Anthony Cignoli, President of AL Cignoli CO.

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Girls soccer gets bronze at Bay State Games

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

FITCHBURG—Both the Central and West girls' soccer teams began the annual Bay State Summer games with losses last month from July 10 to 12.

A couple of hours later, the West squad celebrated a 6-1 victory over the Central team at the Game On Sports and Performance Center in Fitchburg.

"We didn't play very well in our first game this morning," said West head coach Matt Mosher, who also coaches the St. Mary's (Westfield) girls' varsity soccer team. "Once we got into a rhythm, especially during the second half, we took it to them in this game. We were a lot more aggressive."

Please see **GIRLS SOCCER**, page 8



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Kallie Tevepauh clears the ball away for Central.



Gabriella Ramos, who plays for Agawam High, sends a quick pass away.



Alivia Marcello chases down the loose ball.

West boys team dominates Bay State Games

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

FITCHBURG—The West boys' soccer team won the gold medal at the 2022 and 2023 Bay State Summer Games. After finishing in third place a year ago, the West squad didn't have very much trouble capturing the gold medal this year.

The boys' soccer showcase took place at the Game On Sports and Performance Center in Fitchburg last month July 10 to 12.

The West team began the tournament with a pair of victories.

After overcoming an early 1-0 deficit to defeat Metro, 5-1, in the morning match last Thursday, the West team dispatched the Central team, 6-0, in the afternoon affair.

"We're off to a very good start in this tournament, but we haven't accomplished anything yet," said Hugo Destapdo, who coached the West boys' soccer team at the Bay State Summer Games for the first time. "We do have a solid group of players, but we're going to be facing some very good competition during the next couple of days."

During the fall, Destapdo is the boys' varsity coach at Chicopee High School. He replaced Marc Atkins as the West coach at the Bay State games.

The members of the 2025 West boys' soccer team, who are from the Turley Publications coverage area, are John Carra (Agawam), Timothy Haley (Belchertown), Yousif Hamid (Chicopee), Spencer

Please see **BAYSTATE GAMES**, page 9



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Tiago Despatado, of Chicopee, goes after the loose ball.



Enrique Galfour heads up the field.

Orioles hold on for Valley Wheel league title



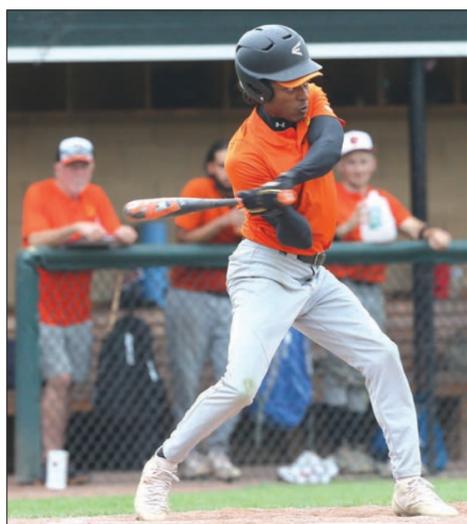
WILBRAHAM – On Sunday, Aug. 17 at Spec Pond, the Orioles staged off a big comeback from the top-seeded Twins to win the Valley Wheel Over-28 Baseball League championship. The Twins would hold a 4-2 lead until the Orioles rallied and eventually held an 8-4 lead going into the bottom of the ninth inning. The Twins would score three times and get the tying run to second base before the Orioles were finally able to close it out for the title.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

The Orioles claimed the 2025 Valley Wheel Over-28 Baseball League Championship on Sunday, Aug. 17, beating the Twins 8-7.



The Twins Jordan McCarthy fires away.



Henry Henriquez takes a swing.



Todd Bergstrom sends a throw to first.



Mike Burgos delivers a pitch home for the Orioles.



Jorge Figueroa fields a grounder to short.

Quabbin Valley playoffs get underway



Shortstop Aiden Breen makes a play.



Pitcher Mike Affliitto sends a pitch home.

SOUTH HADLEY – Last Sunday, the Quabbin Valley Baseball League playoffs got underway with a pair of quarter-final games. In one matchup, the Tigers defeated the Braves 12-8 thanks to some great pitching late in the game by the Tigers' Brad Bullough. The Dodgers walked off on the Pirates in the other matchup 17-16 when a hit by Andrew Tuck plated the winning run. The Cardinals defeated the Dodgers 9-7 and the Orioles defeated the Tigers 17-7 in the semifinals held on Aug. 24, setting up a Cardinals-Orioles championship game on Sunday, Sept. 7 at 10 a.m. Booster Field in Easthampton.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Steven Bilodeau slings a throw to first.



The Pirates' Sam Crotto delivers to the plate.



Bob Eccelston fields a grounder to second.



The Dodgers' Josh Turner attempts to make a backhand.

GIRLS SOCCER from page 7

The members of the West team, who are from the Turley Publications coverage area, are Allison Fleury (South Hadley), Kiana Ramos (South Hadley), Hannah Haesaert (South Hadley), Kayleen Sullivan (Agawam), Lylia Ellis (Monson), Kyr Lippmann (Holyoke), Mia Oylar (Agawam), Riley Platt (South Hadley/Williston Northampton School), Kylie Warner (Agawam), Gabriella Ramos (Agawam), Alexis Canoa (Belchertown) and Laura Parolo (Agawam).

Mosher has been coaching at the Bay State Summer Games for the past five years. His teams have won two Silver Medals and two Bronze Medals.

Mosher was assisted by Laura Wray-Ramos, who's the longtime girls' varsity soccer coach at Agawam High School.

"It took Laura and I a game to find out which players play well together. We moved some players around to different positions," Mosher said. "A lot of the players have played on the same club teams. It's been a lot of fun coaching at the Bay State Summer Games."

Both starting goalies in last Thursday afternoon's

match attend Agawam High School

Sullivan was the starting goalie for the West team, while Talia Oliveira was the starting goalie for the Central squad, which took home the Gold medal last year.

Because there weren't enough girls' soccer players from Central Mass. to fill the Central team roster, more than half of the players listed on their roster are from Western Massachusetts.

"About five years ago, we noticed that the Central team didn't have enough players," said Central head coach Eric Wood, who also coaches the girls' soccer team at the MacDuffie School in Granby. "We now fill out the Central roster with the players who don't make the West team. We have 15 players from Western Mass. on this year's team. It's been a great situation."

The other members of the Central team, who are from the Turley Publications coverage area, were Rylee Joesph (Holyoke/Hampshire Reg.), Eleanor Szlosek (Granby), Taylor Bartosz (Wilbraham/Minnechaug Reg.) Filomena Stellato (Agawam), Brenna Moreno (Granby), Grace Sherman (Holyoke. South Hadley H.S.) and Kali White (Granby).

Even though the Central

team went 0-4, it was still an enjoyable experience for the players.

"I just want my players to have a lot of fun here," Wood said. "I also keep in touch with the players throughout the year.

The Central squad took an early 1-0 lead following an unassisted goal by White.

A couple of minutes later, White had another shot attempt that clanged off the post.

The West team tied the score at 1-1 with less than two minutes remaining in the opening half.

Willow Claps (Northampton) blasted a shot that deflected off the goalie's hands into the left corner of the net.

At the start of the second half, Warner put a shot into the upper left corner giving the West squad a 2-1 advantage. She also scored the final goal of the match.

The other three second half goals scored by the West team during the second half were by Kate Moccio (Longmeadow), Addison Perich (Westfield), and Haesaert.

Central would end up going 0-4 during the Bay State Games while the West prevailed in the Bronze Medal Game on July 12, defeating Southeast 3-0. Coastal won the Gold for girls soccer.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Rylee Joseph sends a pass away ahead of pressure.



Filloma Stellato fights for possession of the ball.



Talia Oliveira brings in a save for Central.



Grace Sherman, of Holyoke, passes the ball up the field.



Hannah Haesaert, of South Hadley, plays the ball off her chest.



Willow Claps is pressured for the West team.



Allison Fluery, of South Hadley, socks a shot away.

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Meservey, Riendeau, Farnum win at Monadnock Speedway

WINCHESTER, N.H. - Third-generation open-wheel ace Brett Meservey dominated Saturday night's 75-lap MRS Modified main event at Monadnock Speedway, as the Bay State blaster - last summer's series' Rookie of The Year - led 63 of the last 64 laps en route to his first career MRS win.

With Saturday's breakthrough victory, Meservey stayed atop the series' air-tight 2025 championship points race - he came into the night's event only four markers ahead of Brian Robie, third in Saturday's 75-lapper - and, with the win, secured a guaranteed starting berth in Thompson Speedway's Race Of Champions biggie set for later this season at the Nutmeg State oval.

Other winners at the Aug. 16 event on the high banks of Monadnock Speedway included Chris Riendeau, the quarter-mile speedplant's reigning Super Street champion, who

put his sluggish 2025 campaign back in high gear by soaring to his first win of the summer, and four-holer star Gordon Farnum, victorious for the second time this month.

Aaron Thompson rebounded from a mid-race drubbing to top the Pro V8 Sportsmen, Young Gun dominator Hunter Duquette earned his sixth victory lap of the summer, and Hayden Kingsley won the visiting 603 Mini Cup series Saturday night feature.

Ryan Doucette and Joey Jarvis led the thundering Modified Racing Series field to the green Saturday, with Doucette immediately taking charge. Previous series winner Matt Kimball, from row two, was close behind and rocketed up to second on lap five.

Meservey, who'd started alongside Kimball, blasted to the deuce spot four laps later, but Kimball wasn't done. Meservey took command on

lap 11, with Kimball blasting back to second six circuits later. And the chase was on.

While the 24-year-old Meservey would be strongly tested most of the way, he never wavered en route to his first MRS feature win. Kimball inched ahead on a lap-18 restart but Meservey was soon back at the point and, once in clean air, was unbeatable on this Saturday night.

Brian Robie, the points leader in Monadnock's weekly 604 Modified division, was up to third on lap 28 aboard a new tour car completed only earlier in the day but could advance no further as he settled for Saturday's bronze medal finish behind Meservey and Kimball. Joey Jarvis, strong all night, finished fourth at his 2025 home track, and Brad Zahensky was fifth.

Michael Lashua, stronger and better every week, led the first five go-rounds of

Saturday's 30-lap Twin State Truck Services Super Street main event. Chris Riendeau, though, firing from row three, took charge on lap six and quickly opened a huge lead.

While Riendeau, fully shaking off his summer-long slumber, raced all alone, points leader Dylan Zullo, from way back in row five, passed Zach Zilinski for second but ran out of laps pursuing the blazing Riendeau.

With Zullo padding his 2025 championship points lead in second, Zilinski impressed in third, just ahead of Hillary Renaud. JD Stockwell, second in points entering Saturday's event, finished the night as an infield spectator, credited with a disappointing 11th.

There were two levels of competition in Saturday's Brattleboro Towing and Recovery Pure Stock feature. There was Gordon Farnum, and then far behind him, ev-

eryone else, with some terrific battles for position waged from green to checkers in the one-caution 25-lapper.

Farnum, from row two, rocketed off into another time zone to win for the second time this season. Behind him, early leader Addison Brooks, bidding for her first win, held a perfect line until being bumped aside on the final lap.

Andrea St. Amour finished second, with Brooks inches behind in third. Jimmy Zellman, the winner a week earlier, was fourth, and points leader Kyle Kenny completed the top five.

Mikey Bollinger took the lead on lap four of the Pro V8 Sportsman feature, with Aaron Thompson soon glued to his bumper. Thompson, though, was ushered to the outside lane on lap 14, his hope for victory then suddenly in doubt, Thompson low-lined back

to the front on lap 17, taking the lead from Seth Lamotte and sailing off into the sunset to score a popular victory at his former weekly track. Lamotte held strong for second, and Wollinger finished third.

Racers in the speedway's youth division Young Guns don't compete for points but if they did, Hunter Duquette would be well on his way to the 2025 title town, The Thomdike, Mass. teen led all the way Saturday to score his track-high sixth win of the summer. Maya Bell, victorious a week earlier, was second, and Sofia Rego, shaking down a new ride, came home third.

In the visiting 603 Mini Cups, a division equally powered by motors from Harbor Freight, Hayden Kingsley won by six lengths over Jacob Raby, who rebounded from a mid-race thumping to come home second. Kendall Whitehill was third on the night.

BAYSTATE GAMES from page 7

Parsons (South Hadley), Tyler Supczak (Wilbraham), Evan Tyrrell (Chicopee), Griffen Wrisley (Chicopee), Chase Henderson (Wilbraham), Tigo Destapdo (Chicopee), and Braeden Fitzgerald (Agawam/Pope Francis).

"Several college coaches will be attending these games, so this is a very good showcase for the players," Destapdo said. "There are a lot of talented soccer players in Western Mass."

The worst part of being a coach of an All-Star team is having to make cuts at try-outs.

"We had 35 players try-out, and we have 20 players on our team," Destapdo said. "Having to make cuts is very difficult. I wish we could've taken all 35 players."

The duo Henderson and



Evan Tyrrell looks up the field as he makes a pass.

Max Graham (Southwick/Pope Francis) combined to post the shutout against Central.

"They're different types of goalies," Destapdo said. "Chase is just tremendous with his feet. If he wasn't a goalie, he would be a very good field player. Max is a physical goalie."

Henderson, who's a raising senior, played the first half against the Central team.

Graham, who's a raising sophomore, played the second half.

The West goalies received plenty of support from a locked down defensive unit led by Fitzgerald, Supczak, Hamid, and Casey Bestler (Frontier Reg.).

The West scored four goals during the first half against Central.

Glodie Manyegezi

(Springfield Central) scored two of the goals. The other two first half goals were netted by Brandon Barker (West Springfield), and Will Sean-McNally (Northampton).

The two second half goals were scored by Cajun Benson

(Smith Academy). Sean-McNally was credited with both assists.

The following day, the West team won two more matches against Northeast, 2-0, and Southeast, 5-0.

The West team then cap-

tured the Gold medal by squeaking out a 2-1 win against Coastal last Saturday morning.

In their five Bay State matches, the West team outscored their opponents, 20-2.



Caleb Iborra sends a pass away for Central Mass.



A Central midfielder is pressured as he stops the ball.



Brandon Barker is pressured near the opposing goal.



Will Senn-McNally takes the shot.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Nicholas Jennings attempts to settle the ball.



Griffen Wrisley, of Chicopee, heads for the goal with possession of the ball.

Frank DeToma South Hadley Falls Redevelopment Fund

The Redevelopment Authority of South Hadley has established a memorial fund to honor the legacy of Frank DeToma. Frank passed away in 2024 after a two year battle with cancer. He was passionate about local politics and civic engagement, serving as a Selectboard member, 30-year District 2 Water Commissioner, and multiple town committees, including the Redevelopment Authority. The Frank DeToma South Hadley Falls Memorial Fund seeks donations to further Frank's vision for South Hadley Falls - redevelopment, beautification, and community engagement. Projects supported by this Fund may include property acquisition and/or redevelopment, creation of housing, business growth and development, and public parks and recreation facilities.



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DATE & TIME: Saturday, September 13th, 10 AM - Noon
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Hosted by South Hadley Falls Neighborhood Association & South Hadley Redevelopment Authority **QUESTIONS?** acapra@southhadley.ma.gov

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BAND from page 1

his legacy would be remembered by all the people he came into contact with.

“Roger looked at the marching band as the PR section of sorts, and he thought there would be a lot more people to see the marching band than the symphony orchestra section,” Ballard said. “Roger’s favorite part of teaching was the symphony band, and he knew a marching band would be the best way to promote it, so he thought, ‘if we have a marching band, we’ll have the best marching band there is.’”

Ballard played in the band from 1969 to 1973, and while she began with no experience in playing an instrument, Farnsworth gave her an instrument and taught her himself, as he did with many other students who were a part of the band, giving them all a role and all a special place to belong.

“I always felt that what we had was something special, and it was a story that needed to be told. Dr. Farnsworth affected so many of us in a positive way, and that’s what inspired the process. We wanted to honor his legacy,” Ballard said. “What he taught us stayed with us forever.”

The band’s parents in the beginning of its history had a Massachusetts law changed so that they could hold bingo games to raise money. At the time, only Catholic churches could hold bingo fundraisers, so they became the first non-colloquial group to hold bingo games as fundraisers.

“A huge part of what I loved is that I learned just how much work they did to make the band successful, and that was very interesting to me and others,” Ballard said. “The other part was in addition to interviews; I felt we really couldn’t have a documentary without going back to Band Camp.”

The group took a trip to Camp Becket for a week,

where they learned the organization of the band, as well as the music to play. For the film, they went back to the camp where they developed all those fond memories to include in the documentary.

They also took the time to recreate the half-time performances “peace sign” formation they did together more than fifty years ago, adding to the beauty of the friendships made.

“It takes me back in time,” Ballard said on seeing the band still going today. “It makes me feel like I’m back with people I know and love. It’s very comforting, and we go back to where we were in high school.”

“It was so much fun to be in the band, and it gave me friendship and a sense of belonging and a sense of pride,” Ballard said. “You learned how to work hard and make something happen. You learn to work with people, hard work, and to reach your goals.”

The viewing party had people fly in from other states to see the band documentary and share their love for the band, even after moving far away.

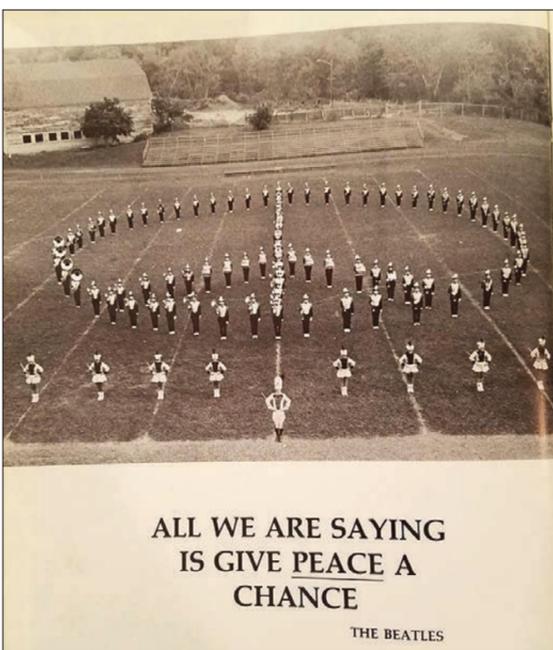
“I get teary-eyed just thinking about it,” Ballard said. “Seeing so many band members, to think it was so important to see a preview party, it was very gratifying. It took us two years to make it, and it’s a lot of time you’re alone, and to have it finished and be able to share it with others, and we got to watch Roger see it. It’s been a long haul.”

You can view the documentary yourself on the SHCTV Channel 15 Website, at www.shctv15.com, this week, and see for yourself the dedication to the hard work and love for South Hadley’s Band in a stunning display of real players sharing their real, cherished experiences.



The recreated Peace Sign by band members from August of 2024.

Submitted photo



The original 1970 Peace Sign formation was done by the Marching Band during halftime.



Two team members, Sue Miller, Carol Barszcz, and former band parent Rosemary Hendricks.



Steve Boisvert, Frank Fuller, Dr. Roger Farnsworth, Elizabeth Ballard, Karla Zukowski.



Dr. Farnsworth and Frank Fuller during the Q&A session.

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