

Second override proposal fails at the polls

By Ben Hernandez
Staff Writer

SOUTH HADLEY – The South Hadley Proposition 2 ½ proposal has once again failed at the polls. The measure, which was floated through a Proposition 2 ½ property tax ballot question held at a special town election on Sept. 1, was rejected by a near two to one ratio by town residents. Out of the 6,166 votes, 3,799 voted No; which equated to 61.6% of the popular vote. This is in comparison to the 2,367 residents who voted in favor of the proposal, a mere 38.4% by contrast.

This isn't the first time the town weighed in on a potential property tax increase. A previous election in April featured two potential overrides on the ballot, one for the sum of \$9 million and another for \$11 million labeled Question 1A and 1B respectively. During the April election, voters rejected both propositions, with Question 1A's proposal to raise the sum over four years defeated with 58.2% of the vote and Question 1B's proposal for a five-year collection period defeated by 64.8% of the vote.

South Hadley has already incorporated cost cutting measures as a result of the previous override failures, which included a switch to a regional dispatch model for first responders, decreased service hours for the local libraries and staff reductions across both the police department and the local school district.

Though residents have made it clear they do not want taxes raised to fund municipal and school district functioning, it's yet unclear what this impact will have to the town.

The \$3.5 million override proposal was intended to provide a "level service budget" for South Hadley's municipal functioning, which included funding for town employee health insurance and infrastructure maintenance. With the recent proposition failure, time will tell if future budget cuts are on the horizon.



Turley photos by Ben Hernandez

Teen Program Coordinator Bethany Roberts and program attendee Hannah prepare the arrangements.

Teens create tasty snacks at 'Snackternoon'

By Ben Hernandez
Staff Writer

SOUTH HADLEY – The South Hadley Public Library played host to hungry teenagers last Thursday afternoon. Program Coordinator Bethany Roberts said the popular Snackternoon days are a hit with adolescents, as they tend to be more "food-motivated."

"It started in the fall of September 2023 with Fall Snack Mix," Roberts said. "I mean, any program that you have with food tends to draw in teens and I wanted them to also learn, because unfortunately I know not family is capable or able to teach, kitchen skills."

The program teaches basic kitchen skills, such as how to properly handle a knife, Please see **SNACKS**, page 5

DAR offers historical presentation

By Ben Hernandez
Staff Writer

GRANBY – The Granby Free Public Library hosted a free seminar about lesser-known authors and journalists instrumental to the American Revolution. Titled "Revolution in Their Words," the discussion was led by volunteer lecturer and Daughter of the American Revolution representative Dr. Denise Gosselin.

The Daughters of the American Revolution are a nonprofit and nonpolitical organization dedicated to preserving American history, providing free education to the public about the country's roots. Founded in 1890, the organization, among other things, maintains historic properties, sponsors marker restorations and preserves historical documents.

"A lot of different histories of the Revolutionary War focus on battles, generals and troops as well as the Founding Fathers," Gosselin said as she began the night's presentation. "This presentation explores the war from the perspective



Turley photos by Ben Hernandez

Dr. Denise Gosselin was the night's lecturer.

Please see **DAR**, page 7

Neal wins by small margin over Whalen

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – U.S. Rep. Richard Neal has secured the Democratic nomination in Massachusetts' 1st Congressional District, defeating first-time candidate and local teacher Jeromie Whalen in Tuesday's primary.

Whalen will now return to the classroom, while Neal turns his attention to November, when he will seek reelection for what would be his 20th term in Congress.

As of Wednesday morning, various reports stated Neal had garnered 46,125 votes, or 53.7%, compared with Whalen's 39,714 votes, or 46.3% — a difference of 6,411 votes.

Following the victory, Neal is now expected to face independent candidates Nadia Milleron and Anthony Celata in the general election on Nov. 3. If reelected, he could become chair of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee should Democrats regain control of the House in November, a position that would give him significant influence over tax policy, tariffs, and the future of Social Security.

He acknowledged the possibility while addressing supporters late Tuesday night, after achieving victory.

"Let's take it to November and reclaim the House of Representatives," Neal said. "I want to first thank the voters of the 1st Congressional District for the faith they have demonstrated in me all of these years, because I've spent my lifetime working on these issues. And I want to say this firmly: there is not a family in Western or Central Massachusetts that has not benefited from my work or has not been impacted by

Please see **NEAL**, page 3



Turley Photos by Brendan Rooney

US Congressman Richard Neal at the podium next to Challenger Jeromie Whalen before the debate kicked off.

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South Hadley Council on Aging

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COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS
Tuesday, Sept. 22 from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
& Thursday, Oct. 1 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Help the town enhance services for seniors in South Hadley. Town officials will host community conversations to discuss needs, current service levels and to prioritize what more can be done. This event will take place at the COA. All are welcome.

Friends' Annual Senior Ice Cream Sundae Social
Wednesday, Sept. 2 from 3 to 5 p.m.
All seniors are welcome and invited to join us at our annual ice cream sundae social. This year's social will be held at Buttery Brook Park. The Skidmarks will perform all your favorite music from the 1950s & 60s on the Buttery Brook Park bandstage. Register at the Council on Aging. Cost is free for all members of the Friends of the South Hadley Seniors and \$5 for non-members (payable at the event). *Raindate is September 3rd.*

Remembering 9/11
A community viewing event with FDNY First Responder Joseph T. Bonanno
In observance of the 25th Anniversary of 9/11, the

South Hadley
Wednesday, Sept. 2 at the Public Library, South Hadley Council on Aging and South Hadley High School will host live community viewings of a special Zoom presentation.
Sponsored by the 9/11 Tunnel to Towers Foundation, FDNY First Responder
Mr. Joseph T. Bonanno will share his personal experiences and reflections on the rescue and recovery efforts at Ground Zero following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Attendees are encouraged to submit questions for Mr. Bonanno in advance through the South Hadley Public Library website at www.shadleylib.org. The viewing at the Senior Center is open to our members, while the showings at the library and high school are open to the public. Registration is required.

A Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns About Falls
Thursdays, Sept. 3 through Oct. 22 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.
Join us here for an engaging free course designed to help you reduce the fear of falling and stay active. This series offers practical strategies to improve safety, explores medical, behavioral, and environmental risk factors for falls, and highlights the importance of creating a personalized exercise plan to

support long-term wellness.
Registration is required, accesscarepartners.org/workshop-registration or call Andi Waisman, Healthy Living Coordinator at 413-538-9020 ext. 650.
Woodstock Bash
Wednesday, Sept. 16th, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Come dressed in your bell-bottom pants, long hair and vests...we're bringing back 1969 with a delicious luncheon prepared by Chef Harold Dixon and music by The Willies. Drawing prize sponsored by the South Hadley Senior Travel Club. **Registration is Required and cost is \$10 per person. Please pre-pay.** Doors open at 11 a.m. lunch is served at 11:30 a.m., band plays from 12 to 1 p.m.
Beatles Sing-a-long
Thursday, Sept. 17, 1 p.m. to 2:20 p.m.
Brighten your day with a group sing! We'll provide the lyrics and guitar accompaniment. Bring only your voice and a sense of fun. We take requests from The Fab Four catalog.
Registration is Required.

Are You Curious About Reflexology?
Friday, Sept. 18, 10 a.m.
Join me, Leslie Kelly, for a friendly, informative session where we'll explore the basics of reflexology, how it works, and the potential benefits for stress relief, circulation, and balance in the body. With 30+ years of experience as a nurse practitioner, I have helped thousands of people find lasting relief from chronic pain, stress, and sleeplessness. Whether you are new to holistic wellness or simply curious to learn more, this session gives you a chance to ask questions, see how reflexology is practiced, and discover if it is right for you. Come connect, learn, and take a step toward greater well-being. I would love to see you there!
Registration is Required.

Oktoberfest
Sept. 24 from 4 to 6:30 p.m.
Join your friends for a German dinner catered by the Munich Haus, featuring all your Oktoberfest favorites.
Then sit back and relax or get up and dance to the lively sounds of the HAPPY FIVE OOMPAH BAND bringing authentic German music and festive cheer. Don't miss this fun evening of food, music, and community spirit- lederhosen optional- good times guaranteed!
Dessert will be German Chocolate cake. Dinner is \$15 per person. Registration is required. Please pre-pay.

Art Squad Show at South Hadley Library

SOUTH HADLEY—In 2016, after Liz Austin, Lucia Foley, Abby Jaffe, and Marion Pascone connected at an art class in Easthampton, they decided to get together in their home town of South Hadley to paint. They had no idea that they'd still be meeting once a week ten years later.
The four South Hadley artists work in different media and styles, but they all agree that the time they've set aside to be creative together is now an important part of their lives. Dubbed the "Art Squad" by Abby's husband, Ken, soon after they began working together, they've adopted the name and enjoy being part of "a small group engaged in a common effort."
Their show, Art Squad 4 x 10: Four Artists, Ten Years celebrates a decade of finding joy, inspiration, and lasting friendship through making art. Works in oil, watercolor, acrylic, and mixed media will be on display in the Community Room at the South Hadley Public Library, 2 Canal Street, from Thursday, Sept. 3 to Thursday, Oct. 29, 2026.

Granby library set for fall book sale

GRANBY – Book lovers. Bargain Hunters. The Friends of the Granby Free Public Library will host their annual Month-Long Fall Book Sale during the month of September in the Community Room of the Library. You will be able to choose from a large assortment of used and like-new hardcover, 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 Sept. 1 to 30.
Starting Aug. 1, the Library will be 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, dictionaries, thesauri, 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 Aug. 27. Thank you for your support! The library is located at 297 E State St in Granby MA 01033.

South Hadley Public Library to preserve records

SOUTH HADLEY – The South Hadley Public Library, Gaylord Memorial Library, and Boston Public Library have partnered to preserve and digitize over one hundred records from South Hadley's early years. "Early South Hadley" is a collection of original documents from 1743 to 1842, roughly spanning the Town of South Hadley's first century. It includes legal documents such as land deeds and indenture contracts, payment receipts, and records of business transactions from farms and tradesmen.

The collection also contains records that show the community's early contributions to the revolutionary effort. Several documents chronicle the muster records of South Hadley's Minuteman regiments of 1755. A 1759 tax bill from the colonial governor to South Hadley, "in the thirty-third year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Second of Great Britain", is a local example of taxation without representation. Other documents give a glimpse into everyday life in the later 1700s and early 1800s.

Early South Hadley is the fourth digital collection curated by the South Hadley Public Library as part of the Digital Commonwealth initiative. The other collections include the Scott Family photographs, South Hadley postcards, and the Canal Park Committee archives. These collections can be found online at www.digitalcommonwealth.org and then choose South Hadley Public Library under Institutions.

Annual tag sale Sept. 12 & 13

SOUTH HADLEY – First Congregational Church of South Hadley will hold their 30th Annual Fall Tag Sale on Sept. 12, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sept. 13, from 12 to 4 p.m.
Our Fellowship Hall is packed with a wide variety of items; books, to cds, linens, baskets, toys, puzzles, household items, backpacks, trunks, office

and craft supplies, to name a few.
We will repeat our closet of clothing, the treasures room with small furniture, vintage and collectibles, and collectible jewelry and accessories.
Find something yummy at our Bakery Cabinet. Be the first to see the sale, if you want to have early access at 8 a.m., we will collect \$5.

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NEAL from page 1

my work in Congress,” he added. “Billions of dollars have come back to Western and Central Massachusetts; they have benefited local government, small businesses, non-profits, and we have been your champion, and will continue to do so.”

The victory came just one week after Neal and Whalen faced off in their only debate of the campaign, a 30-minute exchange in which the long-time incumbent defended his record while Whalen pressed for a new direction for the district.

Whalen, a Belchertown native and progressive who now lives in South Hadley, said watching Trump win two presidential elections while he was teaching at Northampton High School helped motivate his decision to run for Congress.

He was Neal’s first official primary challenger since 2020, when he faced former Holyoke Mayor Alex Morse and won.

Once the Sept. 1 results came in and Whalen conceded the race, he reflected on the primary and his campaign

in a statement posted to social media.

“Congratulations to Congressman Neal, who I spoke with to concede the race,” Whalen wrote. “I was told that I needed to write three speeches for tonight: one in the event that I won, one in the event that I lost, and one in the event that the outcome was not decided by the time I gave this speech. I only wrote one, because there was only one to write.”

Whalen reflected on the past year and acknowledged the historical and societal impact of the legacy he had established.

“That’s why I am so eternally grateful for the team before me here tonight, people who have come from so many walks of life, now walking down this path of righteousness together. And now when I’m back in class, I will look back at this night, and at this inflection point in American history, and know that we etched our names into it with courage, conviction, and compassion,” Whalen added. “Because we’ve won regardless. No one can ever take this from us. The relationships we’ve made,



US Congressman Richard Neal stands with his supporters.

Turley Photos by Brendan Rooney

the community we’ve built, the good we’ve brought into the world, these are ours to keep and ours to give. So keep giving it.”

During the debate, Neal said he has been steadfast in his commitment to those in his district, reiterating his commitment to the district by citing the return of \$1.5 billion in federal funding through the American Rescue Plan Act, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and the Inflation Reduction Act, all of which were enacted under his leadership as chair of the Ways and Means Committee.

“Billions of dollars have come back to the people of western and central Massachusetts,” Neal said. “There has not been a life in central and western Massachusetts that has not had a positive impact because of the efforts that I’ve made. I’ve been here.”

The congressman also said he supports “Medicare for everybody,” while clarifying that participation should be available to those who choose it.

“I’ve had a long history of supporting, expanding healthcare for all members of the American family, in-

cluding being a champion of Medicaid,” Neal said.

Before adding that to get Medicare across the finish line, the U.S. will have to offer a series of choices, including allowing teachers, labor unions, and others to keep it while simultaneously expanding Medicaid across the country.

After the debate, Neal outlined what a next term could entail, citing local and national topics.

“First I want to get the Sheriff’s Office back to Union Station in Springfield, and I thought that was very important, and I would be very helpful in doing so,” Neal said. “Remember that the Republicans put some constraints in terms of earmarking things, and I would return those if we win the majority in the House, because again I thought it really worked, and I thought they did a good job there.”

Neal said he will continue working to lower costs for families, identifying an end to the war in Iran as a key step toward reducing prices.

“Ending the war in Iran is the most important thing we can do to bring down prices,” Neal said.



US Congressman Richard Neal talks to his long-time supporters.



Whalen supporters holding a giant “Whalen for Congress sign.



Challenger Jeromie Whalen has arrived to meet his supporters.



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SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor

Will Social Security run out of money soon?

Dear Rusty:
I'm concerned about Social Security running out of funding, since I rely on it for my income and I'm at an age where my having to go back to work is not an option I can consider.
The job market for people my age is slim. I've been reading reports and it doesn't sound reassuring. Your thoughts?
Signed:
Concerned Senior

Dear Concerned Senior:
Thanks for sharing your concerns. This topic is a fairly complicated one, but I'll do my best to explain it.
Social Security income from payroll taxes, interest on reserves, and income tax on SS benefits has been insufficient to pay 100% of SS benefit obligations since about 2020.
Since that time, SS has been drawing money from the Social Security Trust Fund reserves to pay full monthly benefits to everyone.
In 2020, there was nearly \$3 trillion in SS reserves held in the SS Trust Funds, but as of the end of 2025, those reserves have dwindled to about \$2.56 trillion because they are being used to pay full SS benefits to all.
Without program reform, the SS trust funds will be fully depleted in 2032, which would result in an across-the-board cut of about 22% to everyone's monthly SS payment. And that would be devastating to millions of Americans!
However, Congress is acutely aware of this issue; they have been for years but have largely ignored previous warnings. Now, however, those predicted benefit cuts are dangerously close to becoming a reality.
As a result, we are beginning to see serious, even bipartisan, discussions in Congress about

reforming Social Security to restore it to solvency to avoid future benefit cuts.
For our part, AMAC and the AMAC Foundation have been working on a proposal to restore SS to full solvency for generations and we have offered our proposal to various Congressional Representatives and to the SSA Commissioner and his executive staff.
The proposal has been well received, and we are very optimistic that Congress will finally take real action to restore SS to solvency to avoid any benefit cuts. Frankly, doing otherwise would amount to political suicide!
AMAC is closely monitoring this situation and are very proactive in Washington, D.C. to ensure that benefits are not cut in 2032 and they will continue their vigorous efforts and their vigilance to avoid Social Security insolvency.
They are confident that Congress will act in time to avoid any reduction in SS benefits, and they can stay informed of their efforts by watching the AMAC Social Security information website at www.socialsecurityreport.org.
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.

Rooting cuttings is a great way to overwinter your favorite plants

Late summer is a great time to take cuttings of summer plants such as geranium, fuchsia, and coleus.
Oftentimes planters containing these beauties are too big to overwinter. Likewise, these plants may be growing in your yard and maybe you are fearful of trying to dig them up and move them inside before frost hits.
It's also fun to root herb plants like rosemary or mint, so that you can enjoy them as seasoning in your favorite dishes over the winter months.
Getting a piece of stem to form roots is relatively easy. Here are a few tips that will guarantee your success.
First, make sure that the plant you are taking the cuttings from, called the "stock plant," is insect and disease-free and well hydrated. Plan to take cuttings in the morning before the heat of the day has a chance to cause any wilting.
A clean, sharp pair of scissors or hand pruners is the best tool for the job. Cuttings can be taken at any time during the growing season.
Spring is also a great time to take cuttings of plants that you've overwintered provided they are growing well.
Begin by examining your stock plant. Those stems with the closest placed nodes are the best choice for cutting material.
Nodes are the point on the stem from which the leaves grow. There is a strong accumulation of hormones in this area; for that reason stem cuttings are taken just after a node.
Terminal cuttings, (those from the growth tip) three-

four inches long are desirable. It is tempting to take longer pieces, figuring that the end result will be a larger plant.
These are likely to wilt before they root or take a very

or liquid forms. Follow the directions on the container.
I have found that "less is more" when using these products. When you are ready to "stick" the cutting make an indentation into the growing medium with a pencil or dibble first- do not push in with the stem!
After the cutting is inserted firm around it well so that it stays in place. Put the container, cuttings and all in a clear plastic bag and place in a shady location.
The humidity within the bag ought to prevent the stems from wilting.
Water well, only about once weekly. After a month or so roots will begin to form on the scented geraniums; rosemary may take six weeks or more.
Transplanting into individual pots can be done once the roots equal or surpass the size of the cutting. I like to start out with a small pot and transplant up a size or two at a time as the plant grows.
The Ware Grange will be hosting workshop on this timely topic on Friday, Sept. 11 at 7 p.m. at the hall on Route 9 in Ware. Bring a potted plant to share cutting material or use a selection of plants that I will bring to try your luck at this skill.
Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 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.

long time to root because the stems are woodier the further down you go.
Play it safe with stout cuttings.
There are all kinds of potting mediums in which to place the cutting while it is grows roots. Ideally it should be able to hold enough moisture to keep the cutting turgid yet not hold so much that it rots the stem.
Sand, perlite, and soilless potting mixes have all been used with success. Water is not recommended as "watery roots" will have a harder time adapting to potting soil later on. I have had good luck rooting cuttings in peat-based potting mixes that are formulated for seed starting. Moisten the material well and fill your clean container of choice up to the top and tamp it down.
Cut only a few cuttings at a time so that wilting doesn't occur while you prepare the stems for insertion into the growing medium. Strip off the bottom one-third of leaves from the cutting.
If you wish to shorten the amount of time it takes for rooting to occur a commercial rooting hormone can be used. These come in powder



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.

Doug Moore of Belcher-town took this photo of an osprey protecting its young from a red winged blackbird at Lake Wallace on July 17.
The osprey, also known as the fish hawk has the ability to dive into water to catch fish. It also has the ability to hover.
Ospreys are unusual among hawks in possessing a reversible outer toe that allows them to grasp with two toes in front and two behind. Barbed pads on the soles of the birds' feet help them grip slippery fish. When flying with prey, an osprey lines up its catch head first for less wind resistance.
These hawks are excellent anglers. Over several studies, ospreys caught fish on at least one in every four dives with success rates sometimes as high as 70%. The average time they spent hunting before making a catch was about 12 minutes.
The osprey readily

builds its stick nest on man-made structures such as telephone poles, channel markers, duck blinds and nest platforms designed especially for it. Such platforms have become an important tool in reestablishing ospreys in areas where they had disappeared. In some areas nests are placed almost exclusively on artificial structures.

Osprey eggs do not hatch all at once. Rather, the first chick emerges up to five days before the last one. The older hatchling dominates its younger siblings and can monopolize the food brought by the parents.
If food is abundant, chicks share meals in relative harmony; in times of scarcity,

younger ones may starve to death.
These birds may log more than 160,000 migration miles during its 15 to 20-year lifetime. Scientists track ospreys by strapping lightweight satellite transmitters to the birds' backs.
The devices pinpoint an osprey's location to within a few hundred yards and last for two or three years. During 13 days in 2008, one osprey flew 2,700 miles from Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts to French Guiana, South America.
The oldest known osprey was at least 25 years, two months old and lived in Virginia. It was banded in 1973 and found in 1998.
Glossy ibis
On July 13 Doug Moore saw a glossy ibis at Lake Wallace. They expanded their range over the past century from the southeastern United States to include much of eastern North America.
At a distance the glossy ibis looks uniformly dark, but



Osprey at nest Photo by Doug Moore

a closer look in sunlight reveals deep maroon, emerald, bronze and violet feathers.
Large flock of grackles
I saw a large flock of grackles in late August. I did not count them, but there were at least 50, probably more.
They flew from one side of the road to the other. I stopped the car and waited for them to safely pass. There were stragglers and some flew behind the car as well as in front of

it. Seeing them reminded me that the fall migrations are happening or at least the birds are gathering in flocks to make their journeys south.
Some species of birds travel long distances to their winter habitat. Ospreys are just one of many that travel thousands of miles.
People may report a bird sighting by emailing edowner@turley.com or calling or texting 774-262-5882.



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SNACKS from page 1

how to cut an avocado, how to use a microwave and other essential skills when learning how to cook. Roberts stated these essential skills were important to teach in the community “because everybody has to feed themselves.”

“We learn a snack that should be easily accessible, physically accessible for all families,” Roberts said. The program coordinator mentioned she also enjoyed adding uncommon ingredients to the recipe rotation, such as cashew butter, to offer an opportunity for the teens to try new flavors. The goal, however, is to always provide a way to make affordable snacks any family can add to their recipe books.

“I consider the accessibility of each recipe I make, as well as the ingredients used,” Roberts said. “I don’t want something that requires a specific kitchen appliance that is not necessarily available to every family or home. I want something that I feel most families are going to have and I want it to be ingredients affordable for pretty much everybody.”

Recipes center around common household items, such as microwaves, toaster ovens, hand mixers or just simple cutting. Roberts mentioned she’s used a crock-pot “once or twice” through her interactive presentations and has reviewed safety measures around the device, but focuses more on common cooking appliances.

“I have a master spreadsheet that I go through since September 2023 and I try not to repeat any snacks,” Roberts said when asked how she determines what goes on the plate. The dish created on Aug. 24 were blueberry or strawberry cheesecake bites, depending on the student’s preference. With cream cheese spread on graham crackers topped with the fruit



A tray of tasty ingredients for the day's activity.



The prepared ingredients are ready for assembly.

of their choice, teenagers enjoyed a quick and simple treat they could enjoy in time for school season.

“I figured, since it was the first day of school, I needed something that was fairly easy,” Roberts said. “Just because the kids might be a little wiped today.”

Snackternoons take place at the South Hadley Public Library every fourth Thursday of the month, except September. Roberts stated September tends to be “quieter” due the first full month of school, which made students less available for after-school

activities.

Snackternoon themes center around the seasons, with less focus on any particular holidays. Roberts stated it was because she wanted to make the activity accessible and inclusive to all members involved in the program. Notable previous creations were apple nachos, a ranch snack mix, guacamole, smoothies and hot chocolate bars, among many others.

“This program gets a really good turnout every month,” Roberts said. “I’ve had teens discover new foods that they like.”

Redevelopment funding grant applications available

SOUTH HADLEY – Applications are now being accepted for projects that rehabilitate or redevelop blighted, abandoned, vacant or underutilized properties in the Falls. Priority projects include multifamily buildings, commercial buildings, and mixed-use buildings.

Program guidelines: <https://southhadley.org/DocumentCenter/View/15218/Falls-Redevelopment-Fund---Guidelines--Application>
Applications are being accepted on a rolling basis and funding will be provided on a first-come-first served basis for eligible projects.

Total funding available is \$50,000. Additional technical assistance will be provided to align eligible projects with additional funding to achieve program objectives.
For more information contact: acapra@southhadleyma.gov

Granby Free Public Library

September Happenings

Book Sale
September 1st – 30th
Stop into the Library during regular open hours to browse our expansive book sale all month long.

Foraging Walk
Saturday, Sept. 12 at 11 a.m.

Gain greater food security by learning wild and feral edible and medicinal plants and fungi. Using the Library’s grounds learn how to identify and prepare fall foods using common wild edibles that you can find near where you live. Join naturalist and wild edibles enthusiast Arianna Alexandra Collins of Offerings for Community Building on our foraging walk. Pre-register.

Sci-Fi and Fantasy Book

Club
Thursday, Sept. 3 at 5 p.m.
Join our discussions on the first Thursday of every month! Project Hail Mary by Andy Weir for September. Copies are available now.

Adult Book Group
Thursday, Sept. 10 at 6 p.m.
The book group will be discussing The Correspondent by Virginia Evans. Grab a copy and join us!

Tabletop Games Club
Thursday, Sept. 10 at 5 p.m. and Saturday, Sept. 19 at 10:30 a.m.

The Granby Library Tabletop Games Club invites players of all ages 8 and up to gather and enjoy a variety of board, card, dice, tile,

and other in-person tabletop games in a welcoming, social environment.

Knitting Group
Every Wednesday after-noon at 2 p.m.

Bring your latest project and join us for conversation, tips and tricks.

Friends of the Granby Library Meeting
Thursday, Sept. 17 at 4:30 p.m.

Did you know that the Friends sponsor our events? Join us for a meeting and see what’s new.

Celebrate Constitution Week!
Sept. 15 to 19

Stop in to browse our Constitution Week displays for adults and kids.

URI celebrates more than 4,000 new graduates during 2026 Commencement

KINGSTON, R.I. — The University of Rhode Island celebrated more 4,000 of its newest alumni during the University’s 2026 Commencement. Approximately 3,800 undergraduate degrees and 900 graduate degrees

were conveyed to students during the ceremonies which took place May 15-17, 2026.

Among the graduates were:

Samuel Desautels of South Hadley graduated with a Bachelor of Arts, Criminal

ogy & Criminal Justice and a Bachelor of Arts, Political Science

Gabriel Arabik of Granby graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering

NAMI offering education program

HOLYOKE – NAMI Western Massachusetts is pleased to offer their NAMI Family-to-Family Education Program in person, starting Tuesday, Sept. 15, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. in Greenfield.

What is the NAMI Family-to-Family Education Program?

NAMI Family-to-Family is a free, 8-session educational program for family, significant others, and friends of people with mental health conditions. It is a designated evidenced-based program. This means that research shows that the program significantly improves the cop-

ing and problem-solving abilities of the people closest to a person with a mental health condition.

NAMI Family-to-Family is taught by NAMI-trained family members who have been there and includes presentations, discussions, and interactive exercises.



Students fresh from school prepare an after-school treat.

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Town Reminder ~ November 5, 2026

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Please submit a photo of your veteran with his or her name, rank, branch of military and hometown by email to jamie@turley.com or drop off a photo to

Town Reminder,
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
All photos will be returned.

Please submit your photo no later than Monday, October 27, 2026.

There is no cost to submit a photo.
No photos will be accepted after deadline.

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Girls soccer back on the turf



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Regan Masse focuses on maintaining possession.



Lilah Pueschel chases down a loose ball.



Adalyn Weaver dribbles across the field.



Hannah Haeseart sends a pass away.



Jenna Sabourin winds up for a free kick.

SOUTH HADLEY – The South Hadley High School girls soccer team hosted multiple scrimmages among five teams last Saturday afternoon. The Tigers worked to prepare for the regular season, hosting Agawam, Monson, Minnechaug, and Douglas. The Tigers are getting ready to open the regular season on Tuesday, Sept. 8 against Ludlow High School at 4 p.m. They hosted Wahconah in another scrimmage earlier this week.



Taylor Bullough follows through on a pass.

Girls volleyball ‘set up’ to compete in 2026

Practices got underway last week.



GRANBY – Last week, Granby High School girls volleyball got their pre-season underway with tryouts followed by intense practices getting ready to open the regular season. The Rams did have a scrimmage with neighbor Belchertown, and

Please see **VOLLEYBALL**, page 7



The Rams work on their bumps near the net.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

The Rams work on their bumps.

Umpires Association awards scholarship



Submitted photo

Western Massachusetts Baseball Umpires Association Board Member Chris Anderson awards a \$500 scholarship earlier this summer Sean Krol. The umpires' association funds the scholarship through dues paid by its members. Anderson hopes in the future to fund more scholarships either through fundraising or donations, saying its important to give back to the sport they love, and promote education for high school seniors who play. Applications for next year's scholarship will open up early in 2027.

WSU girls volleyball ranked second in preseason poll

WESTFIELD – 2025 MASCAC Volleyball regular season and tournament champion Bridgewater State are the preseason favorites to win the 2026 crown as voted on by the coaches around the league.

The Bears received seven first place vote to land in the top spot. Back-to-back tournament MVP Lily Welch returns after she helped the Bears to their first MASCAC Regular Season title since 2008. Last season, she led the team in kills with 234, hitting percentage (.313) and digs (262). Welch was also second with 46 total blocks and fourth with 31 service aces.

Westfield State is up next in second. The Owls were 7-1 in league play and bring back All-Conference honoree Lauren Carnes who earned first team honors as an outside hitter, racking up 185 kills while playing in just 17 matches after missing nine games during the middle of the season. Carnes per set numbers reflect her impact on a match-by-match basis with her 2.89 kills per set ranking third in the MASCAC. The Owls lost three of their top four hitters to graduation, but return a steady back line with Erica Majka (Agawam, Mass.) (266 digs) and Zurielys Rivera (264 digs) tops among the Owls’ defensive specialists a year ago.

Westfield will tip off the 2026 season with a non-conference match at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy on Sept. 1 at 6:00 p.m.

Sitting in third place is Framingham State with the final first place vote. Looking for her third straight MASCAC Offensive Player of the Year award is Natalie Reynolds. In 2025, she led the conference with 438 kills, 3.71 per set and 1,085 total attacks. She was second in hitting percentage at .279, fourth in solo blocks with 16

and fifth with 51 total blocks while adding 85 digs and 34 service aces. The Rams upset the Owls, 3-2 to eliminate Westfield from the conference tournament in 2025.

MCLA comes in fourth in this year’s poll. The Trailblazers were 5-3 with the help of reigning MASCAC Rookie of the Year Kaelynn Greeley who closed out her first year with the Trailblazers fourth in the conference with 221 kills, seventh in kills per set with 2.63 and 10th in hitting percentage with .217. She also tallied 36 service aces, 167 digs and nine total blocks over 25 matches.

Up next in fifth is Worcester State. Last season, the Lancers were also 4-4 in league play. During the 2025 season, Katherine Croteau finished second in the MASCAC with 477 digs and 654 receptions with third-most digs per set at 4.54. She also recorded 95 assists and 36 service aces to earn MASCAC Defensive Player of the Year accolades.

Salem State is in the sixth spot. Returning for the Vikings is Celia Carbone who dished out a career-high 512 assists, averaged 6.10 assists per set, and set a new career-high in digs (222) last season.

Rounding out the 2026 poll is Fitchburg State in seventh and Mass. Maritime in eighth. For the Falcons, Madison Keohane returns after averaging 3.38 assists per set, 284 total assists, 171 digs and 25 service aces last season. For the Buccaneers, Holly Sanders is back after grabbing All-Conference honors in her first season. She led the MASCAC with 577 digs and 6.63 digs per set while tallying 25 kills, 89 assists, 48 service aces.

The volleyball season gets underway the first week of September with the MASCAC teams in non-conference action.

VOLLEYBALL from page 6

have a while before they open up the regular season. Granby’s opener is on the road and will be a lengthy trip as they head to Mon-

ument Mountain of Great Barrington on Wednesday, Sept. 9 at 5:30 p.m. Their home opener is on Friday, Sept. 11 against Duggan at 5:15 p.m.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Granby girls volleyball opens the season on Sept. 9.

A	B	A	C	A		A	R	A	S		B	O	O	K	
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A	R	E	S		T	O	N			A	B	E	T	S	



Turley photos by Ben Hernandez

The Granby Free Public Library hosted a free seminar from the Daughters of the American Revolution.

DAR from page 1

of the people and the words of the people that lived during that tumultuous time.”

Gosselin focused the discussion on prolific writers and thought leaders of the time. Though some touched upon during the lecture may not have necessarily taken up, they were nonetheless influential in shaping the country. This was due to the very high literary rate at the time, which Gosselin illustrated as being instrumental to championing the cause for American independence.

“At the time of the revolution, literacy among the people in New England approached 90%,” Gosselin said. “Of course, this varied by gender, class, race and location, but 90% of any population for the literary rate is just phenomenal.”

Gosselin stated there were a number of publications in circulation, both for and against the British crown, designed to persuade a vast uncertain audience over to their side. She cited famous writers for the time, which included Thomas Paine of “Common Sense” fame and the prolific John Hancock, though also showcased many other less known historical figures who were nonetheless important to the time.

Once such lesser known noteworthy mention was Phyllis Wheatley, a literate slave from West Africa who bought her freedom in 1773. Wheatley produced an extensive body of pro-rebellion poems, which put her at risk of being arrested and tried

by British soldiers. A poem written to George Washington gained such traction within revolutionary circles Washington himself wrote a thank you letter to her, which was then published in newspapers for all to see.

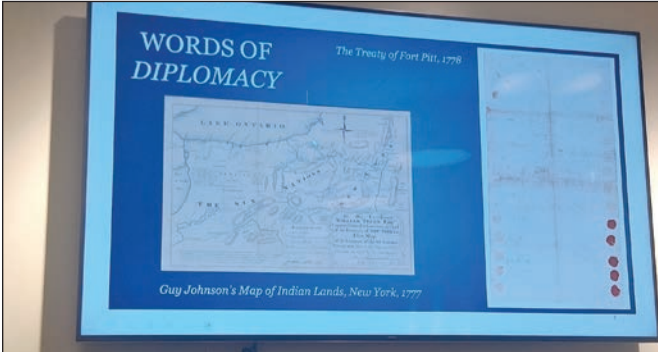
“She is oftentimes referred to as the poet laureate of the American Revolution,” Gosselin said.

The presentation also featured Anna Green-Winslow who, despite being only 12 years old at the time, was very active in politics. A member of the prominent Winslow family in Boston, both her diary entries and letters to her mother offered a unique glimpse into the political sphere at the time.

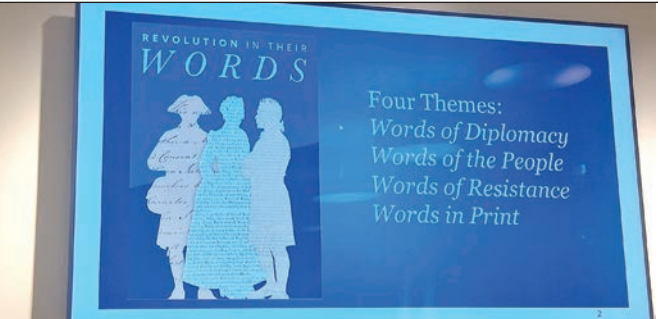
Gosselin also highlighted ordinary people, who offered unique glimpses into contemporary New England living. She cited Moses Short, whose diary not only chronicled farm tasks such as pulling flax and hauling hay, but illustrated how revolutionary soldiers came from every walk of life.

There was no better example of this than the 5,000 black soldiers who fought in the American Revolution. Gosselin reported most of the soldiers were integrated within existing ranks, save for the First Rhode Island regiment, which was comprised entirely of black soldiers.

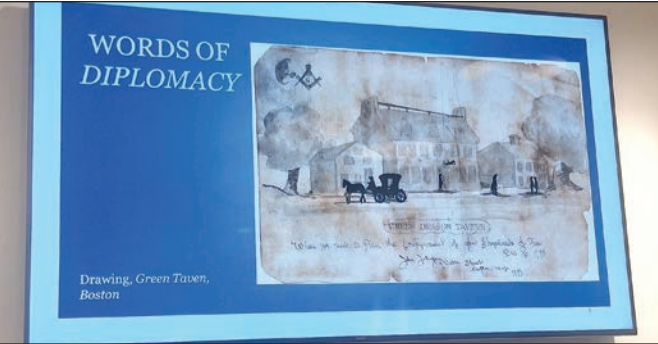
“This regiment was made up entirely of black soldiers, 179 in total, and they were commanded by white soldiers,” Gosselin said and pointed to Dunmore’s Proclamation created in 1775, which promised freedom to any of Virginia’s 200,000 enslaved people willing to take up arms for the British.



Showcasing a map at the time.



The presentation was entitled “Revolution In Their Words.”

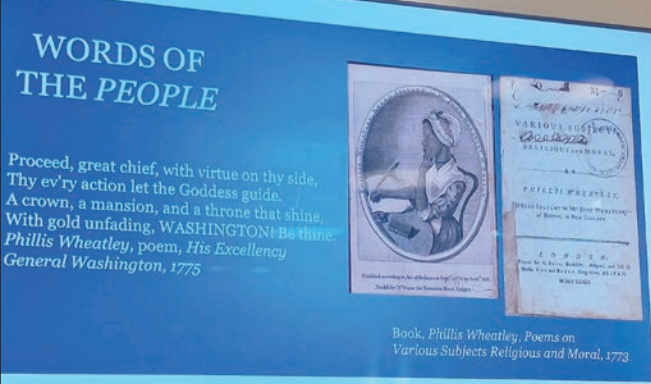


A drawing of a popular meeting place at the time, the Green Tavern.

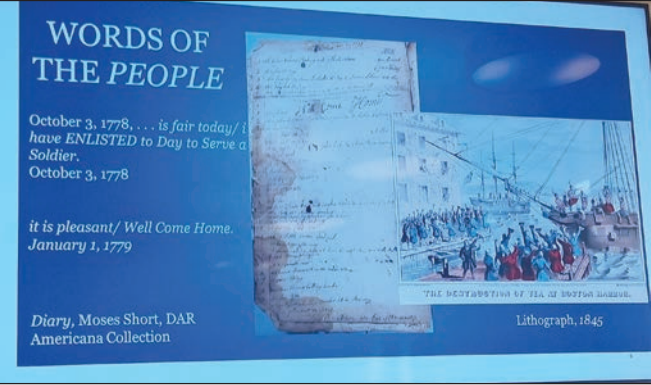
“According to the Virginia Gazette, about 800 men did sign up to that call,” Gosselin said. “Many of them wore shirts that read ‘Liberty to Slaves’ painted on the front.”

The presentation revealed how much history is created by ordinary people thrust into extraordinary circumstances. It

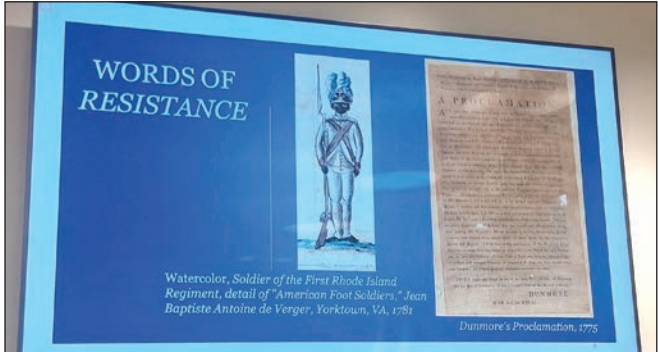
demonstrated how the United States’ past is both complicated and involved people from all manners of social stations. Those interested in learning more about the Daughters of the American Revolution and the free lectures they provide may check out their work at <https://www.dar.org>.



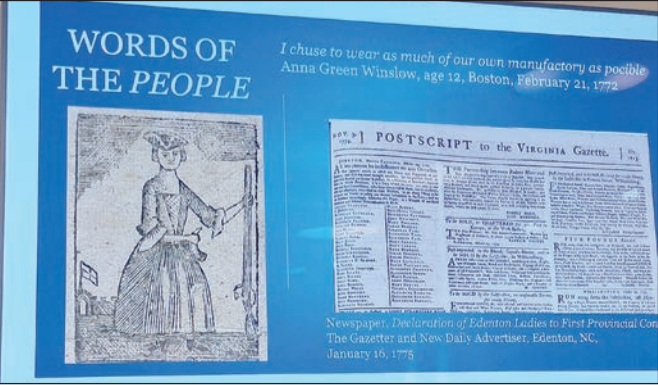
A section featured famous writers of the time, including freed slave and poet laureate Phillis Wheatley.



A snippet from Moses Short's diary.



A slide describing the First Rhode Island regiment and Dunmore's Proclamation, which promised to free slaves who fought for the British.



A blurb on young activist Anna Green Winslow.

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Residents go all out at fundraiser race

By Ben Hernandez
Staff Writer

BELCHERTOWN – The tenth annual Speaking Out About Addiction and Recovery 5K race took place at The Fields on 60 State St. on Aug. 29. The event marked its 10th anniversary within town. The rally is a collective effort between the grassroots organization SOAAR, the Belchertown Police Department and Honest Beginnings; a sober living organization and residential recovery program for adults suffering from drug addiction, alcoholism or other addictive behaviors.

The organization is a grassroots movement organized by families affected by people struggling with addiction. Co-founder Jill Rossi helped create the nonprofit organization Speaking Out About Addiction and Recovery due to her own son’s battle with addiction.

“My son was struggling with addiction,” said Rossi. “It’s a really lonely spot to be in and you feel like nobody understands.”

SOAAR’s efforts began as weekly support meetings, which eventually involved both people recovering from addiction and people actively battling addiction. Rossi

stated the organization was “acquainted with the president of Honest Beginnings” through his attendance of previous meetings and who became “very involved” with helping her son. Inspired by Honest Beginning’s example, SOAAR set out to create their sober housing within Belchertown.

“We wound up joining forces, so to speak,” Rossi said. “Naturally, with what they were doing, they already had sober houses running.”

The first Recovery Rally took place in 2016 and was a fundraiser designed to secure property within Belchertown for a “stable independent sober-living resource” within town limits. Now, with the property secured from previous years, SOAAR’s event aims to fund the required equipment and property needed to support the sober house within town limits.

The event offered a number of different family-friendly activities, which included lawn games, local entrepreneurs selling their wares, a meet and greet with Marshall from Paw Patrol, raffles, face painting and a K-9 demo orchestrated by Belchertown Police.

Additional draws included a cornhole tournament

at 12:30 and festive performances by The Dancing Witches. Wandering Waffles provided a food truck to feed the hungry crowd, along with free hot dogs and hamburgers supplied by the Belchertown Police Association.

The well-attended 5K race began with a one-mile family fun walk to complement the competition. Max Schindel from New York came in first for the men, with a time of 18 minutes and 38 seconds. Second was John Schindel with a run time of 19 minutes 19 seconds, followed by Ware’s Michael Siok at 19 minutes and 31 seconds.

Belchertown’s own Emily Baecher came in first for the women at 20 minutes 56 seconds, followed by Jennifer Donovan from Ludlow at 21 minutes and 51 seconds. Belchertown’s Julie Jablonski took third for the women with a run time of 22 minutes and 21 seconds. Despite the athletic displays, Rossi reminded everyone in attendance what was really important.

“This is more than a race,” Rossi said. “It’s a day where the community comes together to celebrate recovery and the resilience of the human spirit.”



Runners leaving the gate. Turley photos by Ben Hernandez



The Dancing Witches perform.



Local author Dawn Gray sells her books at the race.



Jill Rossi poses in front of her parent organization's tent, Honest Beginnings.



The face painting booth was filled with smiling faces.



Runners line up at the starting line.



The Honest Beginning's raffle tent.



Matthew Stone representing his business, JS Painting.



The Belchertown K-9 Police Unit.



Mel from the Belchertown Cultural Council.