

TOWN Reminder

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Oktoberfest brings cheer to COA

By Ben Hernandez
Staff Writer

SOUTH HADLEY – The South Hadley Council on Aging building kicked off fall with their annual Oktoberfest celebration. The event, held on Sept. 24, featured a live oompah band, soft pretzels served with mustard as an appetizer and a meal of jäger schnitzel, spätzle, bratwurst and sauerkraut.

“This is one of our events that we do pretty much every year,” said Deputy Director of Senior Services Kathryn Elias. “People look really forward to it.”

Please see
CHEER,
page 10



Turley photos by Ben Hernandez

ABOVE: Attendees smile for the camera.

LEFT: “Chevvy” holding up his stein accompanied by his new friends Charlotte and Andy.

Noise concerns top in bylaw debate

By Walter Hamilton
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY – Commercial farms, considered by some as an endangered species, enjoy the strong support of many residents and are guarded by state laws. With that support in mind, the Planning Board on Sept. 28 unanimously approved bylaw revisions that are designed to bolster and sustain the industry here.

A half-dozen attendees at a Sept. 14 hearing session on the now-proposed commercial agricultural uses, strongly supported such farming activities as U-pick, farm stands, petting zoos, U-cut Christmas trees and hayrides.

But they also questioned the wisdom and impact of outdoor recreational venues similar to those hosted by McCray’s Farm on Alvord Street, and potentially other farms, that could operate on

Please see **DEBATE**, page 2

Granby announces tax work-off program

By Ben Hernandez
Staff Writer

GRANBY – A Senior Property Tax Work-Off Abatement program was approved by the Granby Select Board. The program, which allows eligible senior citizens and veterans to work for the town in exchange for property tax deductions, is part of an initiative to utilize skilled workers to perform needed tasks within the community.

The area is no stranger to tax work-off programs, with Belchertown approving a similar program back in August. Participants will be paid \$15 an hour to work at town institutions for a maximum of 100 hours of

allotted volunteer service, totaling a maximum abatement limit of \$15,000. The program has 10 open slots available, with selected volunteers beginning their community service on January 1st. Those eligible for the position may submit a filled out application to the Granby Select Board by December 2nd for consideration.

Eligible seniors must be at least 60 years old at the time of application and must provide a certified copy of their birth certificate to be considered for the program. Veterans must provide a proof of military

Please see **TAX PROGRAM**, page 3

West Street Building project nears completion

By Ben Hernandez
Staff Writer

GRANBY – The West Street Build project is making progress. The town-wide project to renovate the former West Street School into municipal buildings will create a “one-stop” location for local government branches. Kicked off with a groundbreaking ceremony on April 28 this year, the project is nearing completion.

“Petitions are up for the largest part,” Operations Project manager Neil Joyce said. “All of the rough-in inspections have been completed.”

Joyce reported most of the drywall installation was complete, with the required materials having been “hung, taped and finished.” Joyce mentioned the first coats of paint were applied to the



Turley photo by Ben Hernandez

A sign showcasing what the building will look like after the project is completed.

walls and contractors were moving forward with other concerns.

“In terms of upcoming work in the next 60 to 80 days, we’re expecting ceiling grid, flooring work, resump-

tion of mill work and finishes in terms of painting,” Joyce said. “The last of the ceiling grid will go in.”

Joyce stated they secured “supplemental vendors” for necessary information tech-

nology work, such as running data cables and computer “head-end equipment” installation within the dedicated IT room, which installations scheduled to start within the “next 30 days” and expressed hope for project conclusion in December.

“We’re sort of staring down the barrel of the finishes aspect of the project,” Joyce said.

Joyce mentioned site work still required a “little bit of prep work.” Current projections expect paving to take place between “now and the middle of October.” Preparations include spreading loam, seeding and handling “disturbed areas.” Restoration work is expected to complete by the either the first or mid-

Please see **PROJECT**, page 5

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2026 Community Needs Assessment survey

SOUTH HADLEY—The Town of South Hadley is conducting a Community Needs Assessment to identify key needs among residents. This anonymous, 15-minute survey will help us better understand experiences, strengths, and challenges related to health and well-being and how to make improvements for everyone in the South Hadley community.

If you have any ques-



tions, please contact mful-tonblack@bmstrategies.com and kjacobs@bmstrategies.com. Take the survey by Friday, Oct. 9, use your phone to scan the QR code or complete the survey online at: bit.ly/SH_CNA

Paper copies also available at the South Hadley Council on Aging, Town Clerk's Office, and Library South Hadley residents, they want to hear from you

Town Hall will be closed to the public on Fridays

SOUTH HADLEY—The Town Hall will be closed to the public on Fridays indefinitely starting Oct. 2. However, it will be open Friday, Oct. 23 and 30 for early voting.

2026 Yard Waste Curbside Collection

SOUTH HADLEY—The 2026 Fall Yard Waste Curbside Collection begins Monday, Nov. 2 and will run through Saturday, Nov. 28.

Place paper bags or open top containers curbside by 7

a.m. on your trash collection day.

Each Route will have two collections.

Brush must be tied in bundles (no metal) of not more than four-foot lengths. No plastic bags.



Submitted photo

Where in the World is the Town Reminder

Recently Meg Clancy and Roger Corriveau visited Scotland and Ireland. Here they are standing in front of Eilean Donan Castle in Dornie, Scotland with their copy of the Town Reminder.

Corvette Club hosts Annual All Makes & Models Car Show Oct. 3

CHICOPEE – The annual All Makes & Models Car Show will be presented by the Corvette Club of Western MA on Saturday, Oct. 3 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Chicopee Moose Club, 244 Fuller

Road.

There will be food, beverages, raffles, trophies and live music provided by The Blue Groove Band. There is a \$20 car entry fee and spectators are free.

State election early voting information

SOUTH HADLEY—Vote-by-mail postcard applications have been mailed to South Hadley voters who have not yet applied. Interested voters must return the postcard to the Town Clerk's office by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 27.

The Town Clerk's office is waiting to receive ballots from the State. As soon as the Clerk's Office receives ballots, they will begin mailing the ballots out to voters. Ballots are currently expected in early October.

You can track the status of your ballot here: <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/WhereDoIVoteMA/TrackMyBallot/>

In-person early voting begins on Saturday, Oct. 17. A full calendar of dates and times will be posted to the Elections webpage: <https://www.southhadley.org/620/Elections>

Voters can check their voter registration online here: <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/OVR/>

Please direct any election-related questions, comments, or concerns to the Town Clerk's office at 413-538-5030, ext. 6183, or elections@southhadleyma.gov.

Local vet shares zest for hawks

SPRINGFIELD – On Monday, Oct. 5, at 7 p.m. the Allen Bird Club of Springfield, MA invites the public to attend, Hawks at Mount Tom. This program will be presented by Holyoke Animal Hospital Veterinarian Dr. Linda Henderson, who has been educating the public about raptors for many years with her annual celebration of Mt. Tom's fall hawk migration. This presentation will be held, free of charge, in the Tolman Auditorium of the Springfield Science Museum, 21 Edwards Street, Springfield, MA.

The Allen Bird Club is a nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing Greater Springfield area birders together since 1912. For more information, please visit www.AllenBirdClub.org.

DEBATE from page 1

land parcels as small as five acres if the bylaws are approved as they stand.

On Monday, Sept. 28, the board agreed to approve draft zoning bylaw amendments to Chapters 255-10 (definitions), 255-24 (accessory uses and buildings), 255-25 (agricultural uses in residential areas), 255-26 (commercial agricultural uses), and repeal of 255-41 (outdoor recreation facilities) and submit the proposed new bylaws to the Selectboard for inclusion on the November 9, 2026 Special Town Meeting Warrant for adoption.

Revisions to rules for agricultural uses in residential zones were approved June 22. The approved draft bylaws delineate site-specific activities on greenhouses, chickens, horses and other livestock in some residential neighborhoods.

However, some activities of commercial farms, such as those offered by McCray's, can be controlled by local bylaws because they are not considered exempt by right-to-farm state laws.

At a Sept.14 hearing on commercial farm activities, Linda Sachs, of 193 Woodbridge St., said she and her neighbors are happy with the quiet, scenic nature of cornfields and other aspects of traditional agricultural environment there, but fears that "allowable farm-related activities" would allow noisy commercial outdoor recreational facilities," specifically batting cages. She also opposed the proposed change in minimum commercial farm size from 50 acres to 5 acres.

Planning Director Anne Capra replied that the proposed new bylaw does not include permitting batting cages, and while she acknowledged that batting cages are allowed by the current

agricultural zoning bylaw, that law would be abolished and replaced with the new bylaw that does not include batting cages.

Marc Desrosiers, of 310 Amherst Road, said the uses that are listed there (in the proposed bylaw) are supposedly for the benefit of a farmer to make extra money.

"I think the uses that should be allowed for farmers are stuff that are agriculturally oriented, whether it be hayrides, corn mazes, pumpkin things ... The items listed there (in the proposed new bylaw): disc golf, zip lines, and archery have nothing to do with farming," Desrosiers said.

Marc Cavanaugh, of 300 Pearl St., said, "There is the fact that a place like McCrays that does have well in excess of 50 acres winds up with a lot more setback and distance to actual homes. If you take a five-acre lot along any other agricultural area, you're going to be real close to an adjacent

lot, So I would say for starters, if you go back to the 50 acres, it makes it less thinking on everybody's part," he said.

Proposed commercial projects detailed in the draft bylaw that are not protected by state laws would require a Site Plan Review by the Planning Board. Any plan would be required to satisfy all relevant criteria to that particular project.

Those criteria for the review include some 50 items that must meet standards such as parking, open spaces, building height, and setbacks.

Also, any use that requires a special permit would be evaluated by other boards, including, but not limited to, the following: Building Commissioner, Board of Health, Electric Light Department, Water Department, Conservation Commission, DPW Superintendent, Fire Department, Tree Warden and Police Department.

They also must meet criteria for preserving the natural features, character and scale of the zoning district and other

aesthetic configurations.

"One of the Site Plan Review criteria provides buffering from objectionable or noxious elements, both within the site, and the surrounding area. So change (the proposed language) abutters to its surrounding area," board member Brad Hutchison said.

"I wanted to speak to Mr. Hutchison's concerns," Rudy Ternbach, of 118 Ferry St., said. "I think they're very legitimate, but broad. And it seems (we could change) this bylaw so it is aimed at making things much broader and inclusive and increasing possibilities for generating income. I would ask that you not set some specific (allowed) activities, but specific standards by which you will measure those activities in terms of their potential disruptiveness to the neighborhood. And I think that puts the Planning Board on much firmer ground if they were to ever deny (a project based on) a special permit or a Site Plan Review.

"So I would suggest

strongly that objective standards for noise, lighting, traffic and scale be included in this bylaw," Ternbach said.

"The noise level is a big concern. I think it can disrupt your whole neighborhood, the whole atmosphere ... I'm going to speak on behalf of the animals that are on the farms when they have to listen to other types of high-level noise pitches, let alone the neighborhood," said Sandra Ziemiński, of 50 Lyman Terrace.

She was followed by farmer Steve McCray, "I can tell you the music doesn't bother the animals," McCray said. We bring a lot of business to this town and to other businesses in this town. We diversify the heck out of this town in October."

"Farming's not easy. We diversify. We try to do everything right. We try to be neighborly. Sorry that I've (annoyed) a lot of people, but I'm just trying to make a living. I'm an open book. You can address me anytime you want..." McCray said.

South Hadley Public Library

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OCTOBER EVENTS

No registration needed for programs this month all programs in the community room.

New England Ghosts: Spooky Scary True Stories with Jonah Knight
Mon., Oct. 5 at 6 p.m.

New England Ghosts explores local history through the lens of spirits and unexplained phenomena. Come enjoy this PG-13 experience to start your Halloween a bit early. This program is presented by Jonah Knight a performer, singer, musician, and podcaster. He currently is from Leominster, MA.

Silent Film Night: A Collection of Literary Horror Silent Films
Wed., Oct. 14 from 6–7 p.m.

Come and enjoy an evening of short silent films of early films such as The Sealed Room (1909), Frankenstein (1910), and Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde (1912). Along with a handful of early shorts from around the world. Come learn a bit of film history, and enjoy some snacks!

Dinosaur Myths We Grew Up With
presented by Amherst College Beneski Museum of Natural History
Wed., Oct. 21 at 6 p.m.

Were T. rex really terrible at using their tiny arms? Did dinosaurs actually roar? Discover what science now tells us about the dinosaur "facts" we grew up with!

West African Drumming Workshop with Wendell Warriors
Sat., Oct. 24 at 11 a.m.

If you have a heart beat you can drum! For millennia, drumming has brought people together in community to create peace, health and wellness. The uplifting rhythms of Africa relieve stress and help people connect with each other. Drummers will encourage participants to express themselves creatively, and also learn the basics of hand drumming and traditional rhythms from Mali and Guinea, West Africa. Drums are provided. No experience necessary. All ages welcome!

Sponsored by the South Hadley Cultural Council.

Halloween: A Haunted History with Dustin Pari
Mon., Oct. 26 at 6

Dustin Pari, of Ghost Hunters, sheds some light on the spooky shadows of Halloween history and traditions. Ghost stories? Oh yeah, he has some of those too. As part of SyFy television's Destination Truth, Ghost Hunters International, and appearances on Destination Truth and Ghost Nation. Dustin has traveled the world over looking for answers and expanding understanding of the unseen realm.

Gaylord Memorial Library

47 College St., South Hadley • (413) 538-5047

Long Sword Basics with Castle Nitor
Thurs., Oct. 8 at 5:30 p.m.

One of the historical martial arts that had died out, is being brought back to life! Join us for a fun lesson on German Long Sword. See how we reconstruct the techniques from period texts and try it out yourself. Open to ages 12+. Preregister at shadleylib.org.

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17th of Every Month - Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinners

NOTICE

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South Hadley Chorale to begin rehearsals

SOUTH HADLEY—The South Hadley Chorale will begin rehearsals for its 41st season on Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2026, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at All Saints’ Episcopal Church, 7 Woodbridge Street IN South Hadley.

The program will feature Joseph Haydn’s Mass in Time of War (Paukenmesse) and pieces by women composers including Alice Parker and Dolly Parton. Subsequent rehearsals will be held on Wednesday evenings. They will continue through November 18 and will resume on Jan. 6, 2027 until the concert on March 21, 2027. The concert will be dedicated to Barbara (“Bobbie”) Ayers who served as president of the SHC board of directors since its founding in 1985. Ms. Ayers passed away in July at the age of 91.

The Chorale is pleased to welcome back Anita Anderson Cooper for her third year as musical director and conductor. Ms. Anderson Cooper is a member of the faculty of the Paul Baird Middle School in Ludlow and directs the Smith College Handbell Choir. She is also a composer and a frequent soloist and guest conductor both locally and throughout the East Coast.

The South Hadley Chorale is made up of 70 singers from 17 communities. All interested singers are invited to join. There are no auditions. Most singers, however, have had some choral experience. For more information, please visit www.southhadleychorale.org or send an email to mail@southhadleychorale.org.

Skeletal Secrets with the Skinner Specters Tour

HOLYOKE – Wistariahurst Museum is delighted to bring back one of our most beloved and frightfully fantastic tours of the year: Skeletal Secrets with the Skinner Specters on Oct. 23 at 5:30 p.m. Join a ghostly guide as former residents of this historic house manifest to speak of eerie events and strange happenings that occurred during their mortal lives. Wistariahurst’s volunteers portray the Skinner family and their servants in this immersive character tour. Their ghostly performances will reveal dark tales of death, loss, and the spirits that are said to still roam the museum’s halls.

This unique character tour of Wistariahurst Museum includes standing, walking, and transitioning between the first and second floors using our Grand Staircase in dim lighting. This tour may include loud noises, challenging subjects, and possible jump scares. Parents are advised to consider these factors before purchasing tickets. If any guest has a question about accessibility and how to fully enjoy this immersive tour, email info@wistariahurst.org or call (413)322-5660.

Please see **TOUR**, page 7

Does someone in your family have asthma?

Submitted by
Robert Salthouse
Chair, South Hadley Sustainability and Energy Commission

SOUTH HADLEY—Did you know that gas stoves may contribute to as many as 13% of childhood asthma cases in the United States?

Research has shown that gas stoves release nitrogen dioxide and other pollutants that reduce indoor air quality and can worsen asthma. In one Ohio study, replacing gas stoves with electric ones led to improvements in asthma symptoms comparable to, or even greater than, those reported in clinical trials of some common asthma medications. Other studies have found similar benefits.

Replacing a gas stove with an electric range can significantly reduce indoor air pollution, benefiting everyone in your household—not just people with asthma. Even if no one in your family has asthma, cleaner indoor air is a worthwhile benefit.

The good news is that improving your home’s air quality doesn’t have to be expensive!

You don’t have to replace your entire stove to make a difference. A portable electric induction cooktop costs as little as \$70–\$120. Induction cooking is fast, energy-efficient, and safer for families with young children because the cooking surface stays cooler than a traditional gas burner.

Our local utility, SHELd, offers rebates that make switching even more affordable:

- \$40 rebate for a portable induction cooktop.
- \$300 rebate for a four-burner induction range.

A simple change in how you cook can make a real difference in the air your family breathes. With affordable options and local rebates available, there’s never been a better time to consider making the switch.

Your family’s health starts at home!



Submitted photo

Sources:

Sehgal, A. R., Schuellerman, P., & Dolata, J. (2026). Asthma control before and after changing gas stoves to electric stoves. The Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology: In Practice. Advance online publication. doi.org/10.1016/j.jaci-in-practice.2025.102113

https://www.jaci-in-practice.org/article/S2213-2198(26)00537-4/fulltext

“Replacing gas stove can help asthmatics as much as some drugs, US experts find.” The Guardian, 24 July 2026

McKibben, Bill. Here Comes the Sun: A Last Chance for the Climate and a Fresh Chance for Civilization. W. W. Norton & Company, 2025. P.30

https://www.sheld.org/pages/forms/energy-star-appliance-rebate/

St. Nicholas Craft Fair set for Nov. 14

LUDLOW—Christ the King Rosary Sodality’s St. Nicholas Craft Fair will be held Saturday, Nov. 14 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Christ the King Parish Center located at 41 Warsaw Avenue in Ludlow.

They will be hosting talented vendors along with a 50-50 Raffle and various gift raffles.

A light luncheon, drinks and desserts available for sale. All are welcome to join the festivities.

TAX PROGRAM

from page 1

service to be considered eligible. All applicants must pass a Criminal Offender Record Information check to receive a position and also provide two references in addition to their application.

Seniors or veterans must also be a Granby resident and homeowner residing in town limits for a minimum of five years, with only one abatement allowed per fiscal year for the property. Applicants must not make above a certain limit based on the number of people living in their household, which are listed below:

- 1 Person: \$63,840 (Monthly limit: \$5,320)
- 2 People: \$86,560 (Monthly limit: \$7,213)
- 3 People: \$109,280 (Monthly limit: \$9,107)
- 4 People: \$132,000 (Monthly limit: \$11,000)
- 5 People: \$154,720 (Monthly limit: \$12,893)
- 6 People: \$177,440 (Monthly limit: \$14,787)
- 7 People: \$200,160 (Monthly limit: \$16,680)

An additional annual limit of \$22,728 is added for each subsequent person above an eight person household, with a monthly limit of \$1,894 also added per person. For further information on this program, please contact the Council on Aging in Granby for the application or print the application from the website at <https://www.granby-ma.gov/formsandpermits>.



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SOCIAL SECURITY Matters By Russell Gloor

Mom worries daughter making bad Social Security decision

Dear Rusty:

My question is not for me, but for my daughter who is 62 years old.

She does not want to take her Social Security now. Her husband was a doctor and passed away recently. She had been married to him for more than 10 years and, in the meantime, he married someone else.

I thought the President erased taxes on earned money so that people could collect what was due them no matter what they earned.

My daughter keeps telling me she has already earned too much this year and cannot collect her widow's benefits until next year. I don't understand what no tax on Social Security means then.

Also, she wants to wait until she is 67 before she collects her own money. She has been a nurse and believes her own benefits may be larger than her widow's benefits. Is she correct to wait for that long?

Signed: Worried Mom

Dear Worried Mom:

Your daughter is likely correct. There are two factors which come into play in your daughter's circumstance – one is the Annual Earnings Test (for those collecting early SS benefits), and the other relates to Federal income tax on SS benefits received. I'll try to clarify both of these for you:

If your daughter claims her widow's benefit at age 62, her benefit will be significantly reduced by approximately 20+% from what she would get at her SS full retirement age, and that would be a permanent reduction.

And, if she works, which you imply she does, she would also be subject to Social Security's Annual Earnings Test which limits how much she can earn by working prior to reaching her SS Full Retirement Age, which is age 67).

The earnings limit for 2026 is \$24,480 (changes yearly) and, if her annual 2026 earnings exceed that amount, Social Security will take away \$1 of benefits for every \$2 she is over the annual limit.

For example, if she is \$25,000 over the limit, SS would take way benefits equal to \$12,500. That would mean she wouldn't get any SS benefits for the remainder of this year and likely some of next year also. And, if her earnings are significantly more than the annual limit, she may even be temporarily ineligible to receive a widow's benefit (until she either reaches her FRA or earns less money).

FYI, the Annual Earnings Test will go away when your daughter reaches age 67 but, until then, the AET will likely restrict

her ability to receive Social Security benefits if she continues to work full time.

The next factor to be aware of is the so-called "One Big Beautiful Bill," which the President claimed means "no tax on Social Security." This is an entirely different factor than the Annual Earnings Test described above.

The above AET discussion dealt with SS earnings limits while taking benefits before FRA, whereas the OBBB deals with income tax on Social Security benefits actually received.

The OBBB (enacted last year) provides an extra \$6,000 deduction per person on the tax return filed with the IRS for those 65 years of age or older. That extra IRS deduction is designed to offset either totally or partially any income tax which is levied on Social Security benefits received by those age 65 or older. It's also important to know that the OBBB only provides temporary income tax relief, because the law expires after the 2028 income tax year.

All of which leads me to conclude that your daughter's decision to wait longer to claim her widow's benefit from her deceased ex-husband is a prudent choice. As long as she is working and earning more than the annual earnings limit before age 67, the AET will restrict how much Social Security she is able to receive. If she later stops working or goes to part-time employment, she can revisit her decision at that time. And, depending on her own personally earned Social Security benefit amount at age 67 (vs. her widow's benefit), she can assess whether to claim her personal SS retirement benefit or to, instead, claim her benefit as her ex-husband's widow if that amount is larger than her own SS retirement. And, unless Congress later extends the OBBB prior to 2029, she will, at that time, likely need to pay income tax on the Social Security benefits she receives.

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.

Garden scurrying

The forecast of a September nor'easter certainly had everyone scurrying about.

Instead of running to the grocery store for necessities, I headed straight to the garden to tidy up a few things. With visions of air-borne pots, soggy containers of compost and ruined produce dancing in my head I got right to work.

First to check off my list was digging up the potatoes. The stems had died down on two of my three rows over two weeks ago and I didn't want the spuds sitting in impending mud when they could be curing somewhere safe and sound.

Speaking of curing, it is important to be intentional with this step, so that your potatoes will be edible well into the winter months. Curing potatoes properly will help to prevent rot, premature sprouting, and toxic greening of the skin and flesh.

By waiting a week or more after the plant has died before digging up the tubers, the skins will thicken and be less prone to injury during harvest. Once they are dug, a week spent in a cool and totally dark space will further firm their skin and change sugars to starch, completing the ripening process.

Never wash potatoes prior to storage! Gently brush off dirt and store in a single layer in the darkness at 55-60 degrees.

Darkness will prevent greening, which renders pota-



atoes inedible. Use any pitchforked or shovel-marked spuds first, as damage to the skin will invite rot.

Once the potatoes were out of the ground, I applied a two-three inch layer of composted manure and lime to the plot, then worked it in to the soil.

I won't be planting potatoes there next year other wise I would have stayed away from both amendments.

After that, I got to task number two, planting a cover crop in the empty ground. I figured with rain coming over the course of three days it would be off to a great start. In the big garden, where I can use my tiller, I sow winter rye.

It will start growing now, hold the soil in place over the winter, then, as spring ensues, it will grow tall and go to seed. Typically you mow it down or incorporate it into the soil before it gets too big.

Winter rye adds so much organic matter to the garden. Be sure to give the grass time to break down before planting into it; chopping it up/in about three weeks to a month before planting is a good plan.

Another thing that occurred to me while I was sowing the rye was seed saving. I purposely left what was left of my first sowing of green

beans to go to seed.

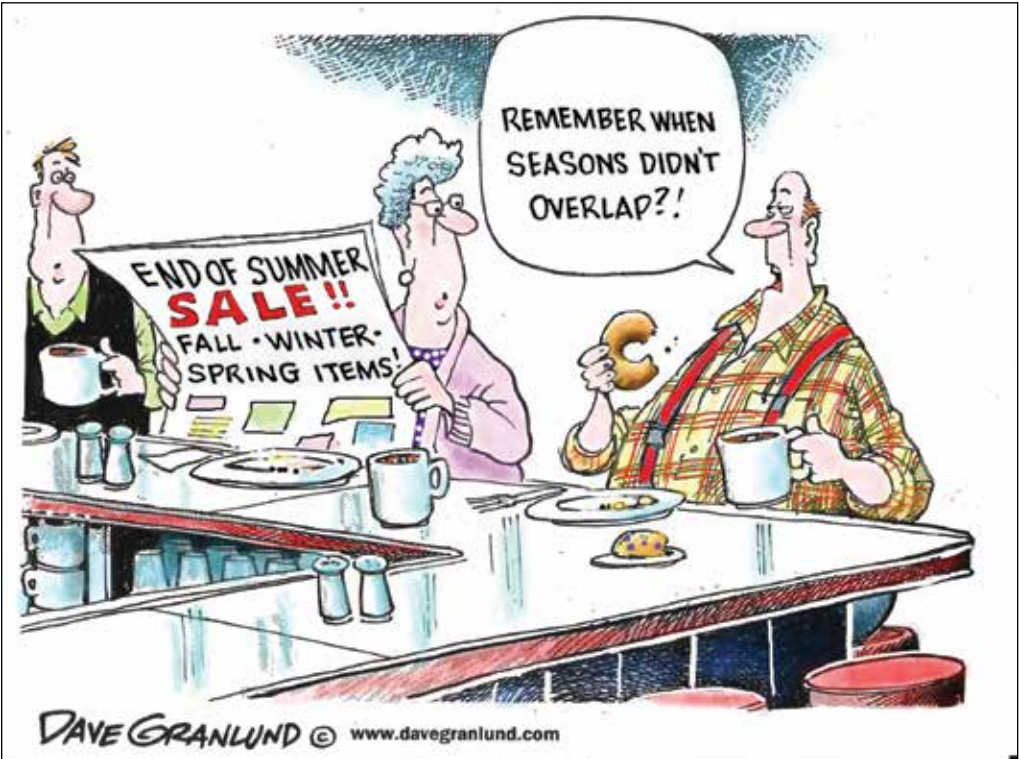
I harvested all of the dried pods and will shuck them later, once I am sure that they are fully dry.

Finally, a bit of house-keeping to finish out my scurrying around. I collected my black plastic mulch, row covers and insects netting. I will hose off the black plastic, cinch up holes in the netting, and assess what I can salvage of my aging row covers.

I've smartened up and finally labeled what I use for what crop. For example, my number of cantaloupe/watermelon hills will likely remain the same, so reusing the same plastic mulch in that spot next year is a good plan.

With the storm behind us now, I can go back to a less frantic approach to garden clean up. Enjoy the fall foliage as you embark on your own work.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 34 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.



Reclaiming peace in the forest

By Julie Midura

I recently went on a solo backpacking trip.

Not by choice.

Not to face my fears or challenge my courage.

Rather, because my favorite hiking partner is temporarily sidelined due to a torn rotator cuff. And with several grandchildren going through significant health challenges, the worry, helplessness, and endless stream of uncertainty was beginning to feel heavier than my heart could carry.

I found myself needing the quiet that only an overnight stay in the forest can provide. I needed the fresh air. The company of trees. The steady rhythm of my feet hitting dirt.

So in spite of my hesitation at spending a night alone in the woods, I packed up the gear that Tom and I would normally split between the two of us, and I drove to the Berkshires.

When I arrived at the trailhead on the Appalachian



Trail, I shouldered my heavy backpack and began walking.

For seven hours I moved with purpose. With the urgency of someone trying to outrun something.

And perhaps I was.

Each step was taking me further from the noise of the world and inviting me into a place where harmony reigns.

A place where the air feels lighter and the earth feels softer. A place where nature holds me as surely as the heavens hold the sun in its rightful place in the sky.

I chose to do this trip solo not to feel strong or capable. Rather, to give myself space to breathe...and maybe even to heal some of the parts of me that feel broken.

For the short time I am here, I will allow nature to carry the things I can no longer bear.

At 5:30 p.m. – after hiking 12 miles – I stopped and pitched my tent. Filtered water. Sat beneath the trees with my feet immersed in a cold stream and watched the water

curl around my toes.

I ducked into my tent just as the skies opened up in a deluge. I read a book while droplets of water exploded on the rain fly.

When darkness settled in, I prayed for my family. I wept. Then I fell asleep from exhaustion.

It's now 6:30 a.m. I'm lying on my back in my orange two-person tent. A crow is screeching overhead.

Morning light is filtering through the swaying canopy of trees above me, causing leaf-shaped shadows to dance on the fabric of my tent.

I lie still in the warmth of my bright green, down sleeping bag. Outside of my tent, the forest is alive and breathing.

Unconcerned. Unhurried. Unworried. Simply existing.

For a moment, I close my eyes and allow myself the freedom to do the same.

I know that my wet and muddy tent will be heavier on the hike out. But my heart already feels lighter.

Sometimes being strong for everyone else means recognizing when you need to step away for a little while

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.

We Want to Hear From You

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South Hadley Council on Aging announces October Happenings

Medicare Made Simple: What You Need to Know Before Open Enrollment

Monday, Oct. 5, 10 a.m.

Medicare can be confusing, but understanding your options doesn't have to be. Join Andrew R. Beaudry, CFP® and Ryan T. Cummings, CFP® of Private Financial Design, LLC for an informative seminar designed to help you better understand Medicare and prepare for Open Enrollment. We'll cover the basics of Medicare Parts A, B, C, and D, the differences between Original Medicare and Medicare Advantage, important enrollment dates, and key factors to consider when reviewing your coverage. We'll also discuss common Medicare mistakes, prescription drug coverage, and how healthcare costs can fit into your overall retirement budget. Whether you're already enrolled in Medicare or preparing for it in the future, this seminar will help you better understand your options and the questions to ask when reviewing your coverage. Registration is required.

SENIOR LIVING OPTIONS 101
Wednesday, Oct. 7,
1 to 2 p.m.

Learn about the different levels of care offered by senior care communities. We'll also discuss common ways to pay for care, including veterans' benefits and other financial options. Whether you're planning for yourself or a loved one, this seminar will provide valuable information to help you make informed

Brush and Bites
Wednesday, Oct. 7,
1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Please join us for our next Brush and Bites workshop!

Lead by COA Instructor Tammy Clark of Clark Lane Studio, this instructional workshop will include all supplies needed to complete a beautiful take-home painting on canvas. Additionally, a spread of light refreshments, snacks and finger foods, will be on hand. Cost for this program participants. is \$15 per person with a minimum of 10 participants. Registration is required please pre-pay.

Lunch & Learn with Cody and Joy from Westfield Bank
Oct. 8, 11:30 a.m.

COMPUTER/INTERNET SCAMS - Phishing and spoofing scams can dupe older adults into giving out their

personal financial information. Phishing scammers create authentic-looking emails, text messages, and/or internet pages in order to entice their victims into disclosing financial information. Sign up for the program by registering for lunch by 11 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 7. Please note lunch is a suggested donation of \$3.

Savvy Caregiver®
Wednesdays, Oct. 14 through
Nov. 18 1 to 3 p.m.

Savvy Caregiver® is a class for family and friends caring for someone living with memory loss or Alzheimer's. Taught by Monica Crespo, BS, BA, Caregiver Specialist with Access Care Partners and Carol Constant, BA, CDP. Savvy Caregiver® helps caregivers better understand the changes their loved ones are experiencing, and how to best provide individualized care for them throughout the progression of Alzheimer's disease or dementia. The six-week class is free, but registration is required, please visit accesscarepartners.org/workshops or call 413-538-9020 x 403 to register.

Senior Planet
Tuesday, Oct. 6, 10 a.m.
Explore Senior Planet: In

this session, we'll introduce the benefits of our Senior Planet partnership, preview the classes starting this fall, and show you how to use Senior Planet's free tech support helpline, online classes, and their social network for older adults. You'll also have a chance to shape the future schedule and tell us what you'd like to learn. Registration required.

Intro to Smartphone Photography
Friday, Oct. 30, 9:30 a.m.

Interested in learning more about your smartphone camera? In this lecture, we'll discuss common camera icons on Android and iPhone devices, simple editing tools, managing and sharing your photos, and editing date and location details on your phone. Registration required.

Van Trip to Skinner Mountain and Barstow's Dairy Store and Bakery
Wednesday, Oct. 21,
10 to 11:30 a.m.

Join us on a fall trip to the Skinner Mountain State Park and the Mt. Holyoke Summit House for some breathtaking fall scenery overlooking the CT River Valley. We will stop at Barstow's Dairy Store and

Bakery on the way back. Cost of the trip is \$3.00 with purchases at Barstow's being on you! Registration Required. Please prepay.

Book Reading with Author Laura Bellusci

Friday, Oct. 23, 12:30 p.m.

Join Laura Bellusci for a reading of her novel, *The Eternal Pine*. A historical novel told within the framework of a fairy tale, the tale encompasses orphans, church rule, and a villainous king in 18th century Naples, Italy. Laura lives in Northampton, Mass. and teaches Italian in the community. For a reader's guide to *The Eternal Pine*, see laurbellusci.com Registration is required. Light refreshment will be provided.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Foot Nurse:
Sharon Beaulieu, RN
Tuesday, Oct. 6, 9 to 11 a.m.

The fee for services at the COA is \$45, payable by cash or check directly to the provider. For house calls, which cost \$80.00, please call 413-552-9533. Schedule appointments at the Welcome Desk.

Hampshire Hearing & Speech Services
Tuesday, Oct. 13, 8:20 to

11a.m. Screenings and hearing aid cleanings. Schedule appointments at the Welcome Desk.

Low Vision Support Group
Tuesday, Oct. 13, 10 a.m.

Any senior who has received a medical diagnosis of legal blindness, visual impairment, or low vision can join.

Chair Massage with Barbara Burgos
Monday, Oct. 5, 9 to 11 a.m.

Barbara is a Licensed Massage Therapist who offers mini massages with 10-minutes for \$15 and 20-minutes for \$25 payable by cash or check directly to the provider. Schedule appointments at the Welcome Desk.

Better Breathers Club
Wednesday, Oct. 7, 3 p.m.

If you, or someone you know, is living with a chronic lung disease like COPD, asthma, pulmonary fibrosis, or lung cancer, consider joining us for this welcoming support group. Led by an American Lung Association trained facilitator, learn better ways to cope with your diagnosis and live life to the fullest. Please register at the Welcome Desk.

Please see **COA**, page 9

PROJECT from page 1

dle of November, with everything "buttoned up and ready to go for December."

"As a cost savings, their highway [department] is going to be doing the paving but they will probably only get a rough coat in until the spring," Joyce said. The coat in question is what's referred to as a "binder coat," which serves as the structural load-bearing asphalt layer.

Joyce reported the construction team has installed new windows, which are now visible from outside the premises. Paint work is also completed, a recent development Joyce said "looks really good up."

"We have pretty much isolated and selected all of the technology vendors for the project," Joyce said. "We did a transfer of contingency of \$61,185 to cover the expected



Tech installations will be starting soon on the project.

shortfall in what was originally budget versus what will actually be spent at the conclusion of the work."

The operations project manager stated the change was already reflected in the

budget and provided additional construction figures. There have been seven change orders with the contractor to date, with a total cost of just under \$300,000 as of this writing. With \$2.8 million



The project was started on April 28.

Submitted photos

left in the project budget, Joyce reported they expected to use all of it "when the time comes."

"It reflected modifications and changes to the electrical, as well as some minor struc-

tural repairs that were done inside the building," Joyce said.

Cited structural repairs and modifications included electrical baseboard heating provisions in the electric

room, provisions for the fire pump exhaust, power and data work performed at the mill work service counters.

"I'm pretty proud of this project," Joyce said.



VETERANS DAY SALUTE

Town Reminder ~ November 5, 2026

Town Reminder will be saluting our local veterans (from all wars and branches, including honoring deceased veterans), reservists, active duty U.S. Military members.

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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59						60				61			
62						63					64		

CLUES ACROSS
1. "Wicker Man" actor Nic
5. Protection
8. Cloth worn over a shoulder
12. Ceramic jars
14. Midway between northeast and east
15. South American hummingbird
16. Platforms
18. Taxi
19. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
20. A citizen of Yemen
21. Military mailbox
22. Nuclear near reach weapon
23. Clears
26. Broken
30. Actress Lathan
31. Avid fan

32. One and only
33. Proceeding
34. River in Portugal and Spain
39. Doctor of Education
42. Defeat handily
44. Less complicated
46. Handyman tools
47. Written works
49. Castle dweller's safety net
50. Honorable title (Turkish)
51. Greatest
56. Can do
57. A place to sleep on the road
58. Member of U.S. Navy
59. 24-hour units of time
60. Actor Horsley
61. In a way, sounds off
62. Formerly (archaic)

63. Eye infection
64. Plundered
CLUES DOWN
1. William __, Buffalo Bill
2. Wings
3. Candle or lantern
4. Freedom from difficulty
5. A type of pie
6. Metrical foot
7. __ Kerr, actress
8. Nap
9. Popular singer Bocelli
10. Immune responses
11. "Mad Men" leading man
13. A citizen of Senegal
17. Philly basketball player
24. Not even
25. Measures wind speed
26. Insecticide
27. Jordan glided through it
28. Bird-like dinosaur genus

29. Expression of satisfaction
35. Big Blue
36. One point east (clockwise) of due north
37. Of she
38. Oral rehydration solution
40. Knocks off course
41. Popular cop show of yesteryear
42. Zhou dynasty state
43. Genus of gulls
44. Onion flatbreads
45. Declare as true
47. Of a lobe
48. Missouri county
49. Produced
52. Volcanic crater
53. Off-Broadway theater award
54. KU hoops coach Bill
55. Check for

SPORTS

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Quinn Carlson chases down a loose ball.

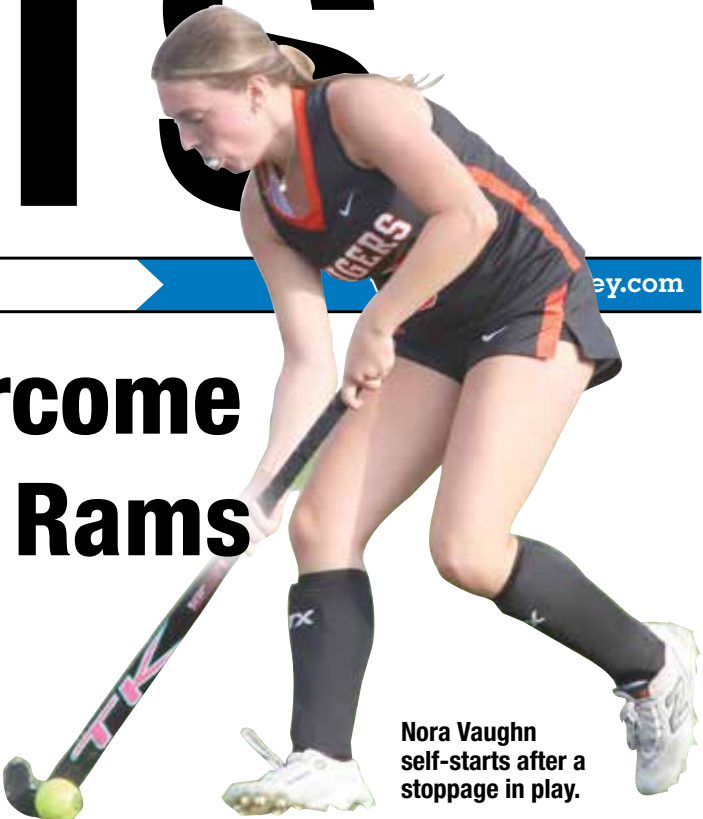


Amanda Stevenson makes a backhand play.

Tigers overcome Southwick Rams

SOUTH HADLEY – Last Thursday afternoon, the South Hadley High School field hockey team had a tough battle with visiting Southwick.

The Tigers managed a second half goal and held on for a 1-0 shutout. For South Hadley, it was their fourth win of the season against just one loss. The Tigers shutout Northampton 4-0 last Tuesday. South Hadley faced Amherst earlier this week and also will host Smith Academy on Friday, Oct. 2 at 4 p.m.



Nora Vaughn self-starts after a stoppage in play.



Ella Haber sends a free hit away.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Sam Harrison clashes with an opponent for the ball.



Sami LaFlesh fights to keep possession.



Logan Muskus moves through the middle of the field.



Khloe Constantine serves for the Tigers.

Knights stop Tigers win streak

HOLYOKE – On Monday evening, South Hadley High School girls volleyball was defeated 3-1 by Holyoke. Prior to that, South Hadley had won six of their first seven matches. Overall, the Tigers are having an excellent season with a 6-2 overall record. They have nearly qualified for the state tournament already with a few weeks left to play. Coming up, the Tigers will face Greenfield at home on Friday, Oct. 2 at 5:30 p.m.



Vivian Marion makes a backwards hit to keep the ball in play.



Grace Matyszewski makes an overhand hit.



Maya Lamirande goes for a backwards set toward the net.



Angelie Albano squares up an easy bump.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Boys soccer edged by rival B-Town

BELCHERTOWN – Last Friday evening, South Hadley High School boys soccer was in search of its fourth win of the season, but came up short against a tough Belchertown team. The Tigers would fall 2-1 as the rival schools faced off in a physical battle.

Peter Barone would have South Hadley's lone goal in the game while goalie Xzavies Rosario had eight saves in the defeat.

The Tigers previously had a three-game winning streak snapped and have not won since Sept. 16. They are 3-2-2 overall on the season. South Hadley faced Chicopee Comprehensive and Frontier Regional earlier this week. They are on the road at Franklin Tech on Friday, Oct. 2 at 7 p.m. They are back home on Oct. 8 against Chicopee at 4 p.m.

► Sports

Six champions crowned in season finale at Monadnock

WINCHESTER, NH – On Saturday, Sept. 19, six champions were crowned at Monadnock Speedway as the 2026 racing season came to an exciting conclusion.

Two of the closest championship battles entering the season finale belonged to the Brattleboro Towing & Recovery Pure Stocks and the All States Materials Group 604 Modifieds, with both titles coming down to the final race of the season.

In the Brattleboro Towing & Recovery Pure Stocks, a full field of cars packed the 1/4-mile high-banked facility for the finale. Jimmy Zellmann entered the night holding just a five-point advantage over rookie Joshua Brigham.

The championship battle took a dramatic turn on lap one when a scuffle sent both contenders spinning, forcing Zellmann and Brigham to re-start from the rear of the field. With the title on the line, both drivers began working their way back through traffic.

At the checkered flag, Brigham completed an impressive charge through the field to capture the feature victory, with Zellmann finishing second. Zellmann’s runner-up finish proved to be just enough to secure the 2026 Brattleboro Towing & Recovery Pure Stock Championship.

The All States Materials Group 604 Modified championship battle was just as intense.

Andrew Brousseau entered the night holding a narrow two-point advantage over Tyler Leary. From the drop of the green flag, the two championship contenders remained close, each waiting for an opportunity to make the move that could decide the title.

Leary eventually slipped ahead of Brousseau and moved into second place. Eddie Gomarlo, competing in Brian Robie’s borrowed #25NH, ran between the two championship contenders in third.

Brousseau repeatedly attempted to work underneath Gomarlo, knowing that gain-

ing just one more position could make the difference in the championship standings. Despite several attempts, Brousseau was unable to make the pass.

When the checkered flag waved, Leary held onto second place with Gomarlo finishing third and Brousseau behind him. The finishing order left Brousseau just two points short of earning his first championship, allowing Tyler Leary to capture the 2026 All States Materials Group 604 Modified Championship.

In the Twin State Truck Services Limited Late Models, JD Stockwell entered the final event with a more comfortable advantage. The number of cars competing in the finale worked in Stockwell’s favor over championship challenger Robert Hagar.

Stockwell capped off an impressive season by securing his first Twin State Truck Services Limited Late Model Championship.

The Keene Towing & Recovery Mini Stock championship also entered the finale with Tim Paquette holding a comfortable advantage in the standings. Craig Chaffee remained mathematically in the hunt but needed a larger field of cars to improve his chances of overcoming the points deficit.

Paquette finished his season in style with his first of the season feature victory and was crowned the 2026 Keene Towing & Recovery Mini Stock Champion.

Rob Richardi entered the final event of the season with little pressure in the LaValley Building Supply Pro 4 Modified championship battle. Holding more than a 50-point advantage going into the feature, Richardi had already put himself in a commanding position.

Although Richardi did not earn the victory in the season finale, his strong season was more than enough to secure the 2026 LaValley Building Supply Pro 4 Modified Championship.

The Beck’s Automotive Pro V8 Sportsman Series

championship was another close battle, with only 16 points separating the top three drivers entering the finale.

Aaron Thompson held the points lead, with Chris Kingsley and Stephen Dubois close behind and still in championship contention.

During practice, Kingsley suffered a mechanical failure that ended his championship hopes, leaving Dubois as the remaining challenger attempting to chase down Thompson.

Thompson delivered when it mattered most, finishing second in the feature and earning enough points to secure the 2026 Beck’s Automotive Pro V8 Sportsman Series Championship.

In the Doug’s Auto Body Young Gun Divisions, the field does not compete for points. Staiti topped the season with 15 victories. It was great season for the Young competitors with each sharing podium finishes. We can’t wait for these up-and-coming races to be back next season along with quite of few fresh faces joining the Young Gun Division. Great job Dylan Staiti, Maeve Barry, Masoon Bezio and Eli Elliot.

After a season filled with close racing, memorable victories and championship battles that came down to the final laps, six drivers left Monadnock Speedway as 2026 champions.

Congratulations to the 2026 Monadnock Speedway Champions:

- All States Materials Group 604 Modifieds: **Tyler Leary**
- Twin State Truck Services Limited Late Models: **JD Stockwell**
- Keene Towing & Recovery Mini Stocks: **Tim Paquette**
- LaValley Building Supply Pro 4 Modifieds: **Rob Richardi**
- Brattleboro Towing & Recovery Pure Stocks: **Jimmy Zellmann**
- Beck’s Automotive Pro V8 Sportsman Series: **Aaron Thompson**

Owls edge rival Worcester State

WESTFIELD — Westfield State controlled the ball with the ground game and got several key defensive stands as the Owls rallied, then held on for a 24-21 over Worcester State to wash out the Lancers’ homecoming in inclement weather at Coughlin Field in Worcester on Saturday.

Westfield fell behind 14-0 midway through the second quarter, as the Lancers scored their second TD of the day with a short drive after the Worcester’s Gio Roman scooped up a fumble and returned it 41 yards to the Westfield 5-yard line, with Gavin Hatfield carrying it in from a yard out three plays later.

The Lancers had a golden opportunity when the Owls fumbled again on the next play from scrimmage, setting Worcester up 1st and 10 at the Westfield 24-yard line. But the Westfield State defense promptly forced a 4-and out scenario, with Chase Goldberg sacking Worcester State’s MJ Bakaysa to end the threat.

Buoyed by the defensive stop, Westfield’s offense marched 73 yards on 13 plays. Quinn Sumner completed a 25-yard pass to Malachi Hymes on third down to keep the drive alive, and Manny Mengata battered his way into the endzone from two yards out to cap the drive and trim the lead to 14-7 after Andrew Currier’s extra point, and the teams went to the half with that score.

Worcester received the

ball to start the second half, but the Owls defense forced a three and out inside the Lancers’ own 10-yard line, and a short punt gave the Owls the ball on the Worcester State 19-yard line. Four plays later, Mengata again scored from two yards out and tied the game at 14-all.

Westfield grabbed a 21-14 lead before the third quarter was out, using a 12-play, 67-yard drive over 6:18 that Mengata capped with an 8-yard touchdown run.

The Owls added a 21-yard field goal from Currier midway through the fourth quarter that would prove valuable insurance.

Worcester immediately answered with a 67-yard TD toss from Bakaysa to Jack Poirer, finding Poirer wide open deep down the left sideline for the score, trimming the lead back to 24-21.

Westfield’s defense needed one more stand late, as the Lancers got to the Owls 33-yard line in the final minute, but three straight incompletions included passes broken up by Westfield’s Tedi Hunt on second down and then Tom Cascio on the final hail mary to seal the win for Westfield, which improves to 2-2 on the season and 2-1 in MASCAC play. Worcester slips to 1-3 overall and 1-1 in the MASCAC.

Westfield was led by 125 yards rushing and three TD’s from Mengata on 25 carries, with Cole Ingham adding 57 yards on the ground. Sumner

completed 4-10 passes for 65 yards on a tough passing day, as a nor’easter rolled through southern New England with alternately heavy winds and rain. Westfield controlled the time of possession battle with nearly 36 minutes to Worcester’s 24.

Nick Gauger led the Owls with eight tackles, with Mark Wright-Woodhouse adding seven. Goldberg and Preston Jacoski each had a sack.

Worcester was led by 95 yards on the ground from Gavin Hatfield. Bakaysa finished 15-30 passing for 204 yards.

Westfield will have its bye weekend next, before returning to action with a non-conference game against Mass Maritime on Oct. 10 at Alumni Field.

October happenings at the Granby Free Public Library

Vincent van Gogh’s Iris: Learn to Pastel Paint with Gregory Maichack
Saturday, Oct. 3 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
No experience required! Learn to pastel paint with us. Space is limited – Sign-up!

Adult Book Group
Thursday, Oct. 8 at 6 p.m.
The book group will be discussing The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife by Anna Johnston.

Tabletop Games Club
Thursday, Oct. 8 at 5 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 17 at 10:30 a.m.
Players of all ages 8 and up to are invited gather and enjoy a variety of board, card, dice, tile, and other in-person tabletop games with us!

The Trial of Lizzie Borden
Thursday, Oct. 15 at 5:30 p.m.
Join Honorable Dennis J. Curran, Justice, Massachusetts Superior Court (Ret.) to discuss the famous case of Lizzie Borden! Space is limited – Sign-up!

Knitting Group
Every Wednesday afternoon at 2 p.m.
Bring your latest project and join us for conversation, tips and tricks.

Halloween Family Book Bingo
Thursday, Oct. 22 at 6 p.m.
All ages are welcome! Come play bingo to win free books and enjoy some spooky treats.

Sourdough Starter Workshop with Sourdough Brandon
Thursday, Oct. 29 at 6 p.m.
Space is limited – Sign-Up!

Friends of the Granby Library Meeting
Thursday, Oct. 22 at 4:30 p.m
Visit our website for more information and to sign up for our programs! www.granbylibrary.org

GFPL’s new afternoon book club

GRANBY—Join us for a friendly, relaxed, afternoon book club at the Granby Free Public Library. The group will meet monthly, every third Tuesday of the month at 2 p.m. to discuss various genres of fiction.

Group members will vote on titles they would like to read in advance.

Upcoming books are made available at the library in multiple formats - regular print, large print and audiobook. For the Oct. 20 meeting, the book choice is “The Briar Club” by Kate Quinn, stop by the library for a copy.

Afternoon book groups combine the joy of reading with the benefits of conversation, community, and personal enrichment, making them a rewarding way to spend time and connect with others.

The Granby Free Public Library is located at 297 E State St., Granby, MA 01033.

Visit www.granbylibrary.org for more information.

N.E. Aquarium offering discounted tickets for homeschooling families

Special ticket prices available every Tuesday through Dec. 22

BOSTON, MASS. (September 2026) - The New England Aquarium is offering discounted admission this fall for homeschooling families to experience its educational programs and exhibits.

Every Tuesday through December 22, 2026, homeschool families have access to special ticket prices: \$12 for children and \$21 for adults. Tickets can be purchased by calling the Aquarium’s Reservations Department at 617-973-5206 daily between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. More information is available on neaq.org.

Included in admission, the Aquarium offers a variety of programs, presentations, and feedings each day:

Guests can stop by an interactive educational space on the third floor called the Exploration Station, which offers both guided and self-led themed activities. Families can engage with sensory activities, pretend to be an Aquarium veterinarian, and spend some down time reading books.

Join an educator along the exhibit path for an up-close experience with one of the Aquarium’s animal ambassadors. Learn more about

jellies, local turtle species, or axolotls during animal encounters happening daily at 10:45 a.m. and 3:15 p.m.

Aquarium guests can enjoy daily presentations with the penguins, sea lions, harbor seals, and residents of the Giant Ocean Tank, including Myrtle the green sea turtle. Full schedule available here.

The Aquarium also has a host of fun and educational activities on its website that can engage young learners before or after a trip to the Aquarium. The activities help visitors explore the Aquarium more deeply, encourage content learning, and improve science skills as well as support math and literacy development.

Craft fair set for Oct. 12

GRANBY—Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Granby, Mass. is having a Craft Fair on Monday, Oct. 12 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

In addition to over 50 vendors, there will be basket raffles, a Lottery Tree Raffle, as well as breakfast & lunch available.

Stop in, say hello & support small local businesses, and get some Christmas shopping done. Immaculate Heart of Mary is located at 256 State St. in Granby, Mass.

HIKING from page 6

and take care of your own heart, too. Because you can’t pour from an empty cup.

I’ve taken these days for myself not because I don’t care, but because I care so deeply that I needed somewhere to put all of these emotions for a little while.

Be assured, going into the woods doesn’t erase every burden. But it does reframe them.

I will most assuredly come home with the same

circumstances I left with. But perhaps I will carry them differently.

Perhaps my thoughts will be clearer and a bit less crowded.

At the very least, maybe I will return home with a little more peace, a little more strength, and a heart that feels somewhat more prepared to face whatever comes next.

Onward!

Follow Tom and Julie’s hiking adventures on Instagram @morethanthemountain.

TOUR from page 3

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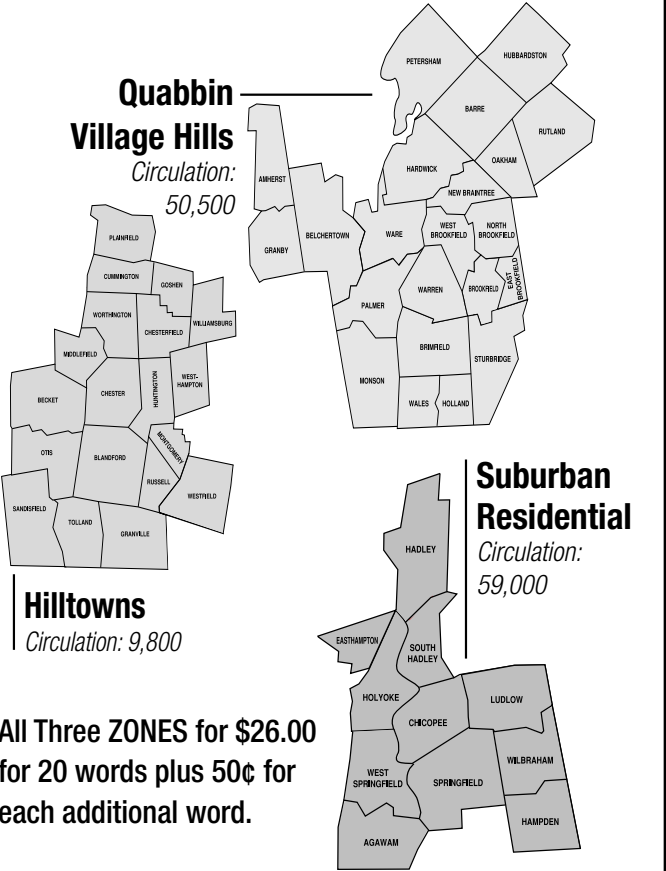
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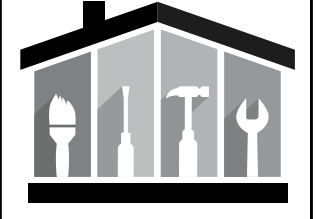


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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development " HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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Knights sponsor fundraiser benefit dinner

Supports
Community
Survival Center
on Oct. 17

WILBRAHAM—The Wilbraham Knights of Columbus Council 10195 will sponsor a major fundraising benefit dinner to support the

Community Survival Center in Indian Orchard. The Survival Center helps feed and clothe over 400 individuals each month in Wilbraham, Hampden, Ludlow, Indian Orchard and 16 Acres. According to Executive Director, Cristal Turcotte, this year is particularly impacted by continued high inflation and cuts in SNAP benefits. “Our shelves are very bare”

according to Turcotte, “and with the holidays fast approaching we are asking for assistance to please help us support those in need.” The benefit dinner will be held Saturday, Oct. 17 at 5 p.m. at Saint Cecilia Parish Center, 42 Main Street, Wilbraham and will feature a delicious homemade chicken parm and pasta Italian dinner complete with salad, bread,

coffee and cannoli. The event will include numerous raffles and musical entertainment with sing-alongs and strolling violinist. Tickets are limited and cost \$20. They may be purchased by contacting George Reich at ticketskoc10195@gmail.com or may be picked up at after Mass in the St. Cecilia rotunda starting on Sept. 26.

Are you a caregiver for a person with dementia? UMass Amherst Nurses are offering monthly information and support sessions for caregivers. This is a great chance to connect with other caregivers! Each month, we'll provide one-on-one support (available after meetings or by appointment). Sessions are led by Heidi Zahra, RN, MSN, and Sheila Pennell, PhD, RN, faculty at the Elaine Marieb College of Nursing at UMass Amherst. Please register at the Welcome Desk.

COA from page 5

South Hadley COA Walking Club
Mon., Wed. & Fri., 9 to 10 a.m.
Join your friends for some exercise while enjoying a self-guided walk around Woodlawn Park.

Visit with Public Health Nurse
Thursday, Oct.1 & 15 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Note time change. Stop by for a blood pressure check,

discuss a concern, or ask a question.

Meditation w/Lewis & Richard
Instructors: Lewis and Richard; Thursdays, 2:15 p.m.
FREE Class includes different meditation techniques. Not affiliated with any religious or spiritual tradition.

Dancing with Parkinson’s
Thursday, Oct. 1, 8, 15, & 22, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.
This 7-week session designed for people living with Parkinson’s Disease or have

limited mobility, and their care partners to experience the joy of moving to music. The research-backed class provides physical and emotional benefits for those who participate. Movements are adapted for seated movers. Participants are encouraged to attend all 7 classes. This program is FREE of charge for participants.d Please register at the Welcome Desk.

Support for Dementia Caregivers
Thursday, Oct.15, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Town of Granby Massachusetts Commission
The Granby Conservation Commission will hold Public Hearings pursuant to the Wetland Protection Act (MGL Chapter 131, Section 40) on **Tuesday October 13, 2026**, to be held at 1 Library Lane-Old Carnegie Library-Top Floor to consider the following:
1. 7:15 pm -ANRAD- filed by Dans Construction Service, Inc., for the large lot at the end of Munsing Road/Carver Street and known as map 16B-16 in the Town of Granby.
Members of the public can attend virtually by phone at +1 (312) 757-3121 using Access Code: 282-289-421or by visiting <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/282289421>.
Anyone wishing information and/or to be heard on this matter should appear at the time and place designated. The complete materials (including text and maps) relative to this “ANRAD” are available for inspection during regular business hours at the Selectmen’s Office located in the Granby Senior Center Building, 2nd Floor, 10-B West State Street. Additionally, copies of the application may be inspected on the Conservation Commission’s web page at www.granby-ma.gov.
William Shaheen, Chair
Granby Conservation Commission
10/02/2026

TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF HYBRID PUBLIC HEARING Amendments to the Zoning Bylaw Regarding Data Centers
The South Hadley Planning Board will hold a hybrid public hearing on **October 26, 2026 at 6:30 PM** to consider amendments to the Zoning Bylaw to prohibit the construction of data centers by amending Section 255-10 Terms defined and inserting a definition for “data center,” and by amending Attachment 1 Use Regulations Schedule by adding a new use under Industrial Uses called “Data Center” and prohibiting it in all zoning districts.
The public hearing will be held through hybrid format with

in-person attendance to be located in the multipurpose room of the South Hadley Senior Center, 45 Dayton Street South Hadley MA 01075. Virtual attendance will be hosted through the log-in information below:
URL to join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81812202761?pwd=2rtbd16Ad2pBX1XODSUsLMJmdRyc6M.1>
Or join by phone: +1 (646) 558 8656 **Webinar ID:** 818 1220 2761 **Passcode:** 552920
Any person interested in, or wishing to be heard, should appear/join the hearing at the time and in the manner designated.
Brad Hutchison, Clerk
South Hadley Planning Board
09/25, 10/02/2026

Sale Of Motor Vehicles Under G.L. C.255 Sec. 39A
Notice is hereby given by Hampshire Towing, 650 New Ludlow Rd., South Hadley, MA 01075, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. C. 255, Section 39A, that a sealed bid auction OPEN TO CLASS 2 & 3 LICENSED DEALERS ONLY with bids due Monday, Oct. 19, 2026 at 8 a.m. Inquiries can be made to Rich at 413-534-5373.
Pablo Rivera
611 S. Summer St.
Holyoke, MA 01040
2018 TaoTao Racer 50
VIN: L9NPCBPJ0J1010167
Tammy Annichiarico
225 North St.
North Adams, MA 01247
2004 Ford Taurus
VIN: 1FAFP55S44G152704
Priscilla Duarte
415 Tokeneke Rd.
Holyoke, MA 01040
2009 Nissan Murano
VIN: JN8AZ18W19W141389
Dwayne Smith
570 Appleton St., Apt. 3R
Holyoke, MA 01040
2007 Kawasaki Ninja 650R
JKAEXEA167A029765
Nesh Cappa Cardona
145 Nonotuck Ave., Fl 1
Chicopee, MA 01013
2008 Lincoln MKX
VIN: 2LMDU88C08BJ03741
Elizabeth Gonzalez Rivera
211 Oak St.
Holyoke, MA 01040
1998 Chevrolet Motorhome
1GBLP37J8W3312961

Angel Diaz
60 Partridge Dr.
Springfield, MA 01119
2002 Hyundai SANTA FE
VIN: KM8SC73D42U167279
Tanairis Sanchez
1540 Bay St.
Springfield, MA 01109
2008 Toyota Corolla
VIN: 2T1BR30E88C862069
Anna Beliczynska
180 Main Rd.
Stamford, VT 05352
2010 Honda Accord
VIN: 1HGCP2F3XAA085853
Duta Enterprises Inc
132 Fenn St.
Pittsfield, MA 01201
2008 Ford E-Series
VIN: 1FTNE24W68DA24454
Owner Unknown
Ice bear YN50QT-8
VIN: LL0TCAPH8JY190029
Adriana Davila
12 Elting Cir.
Holyoke, MA 01040
2007 Toyota Yaris
VIN: JTDJTY23775108748
Stephen Gulick
366 County Highway 131A
Johnstown, NY 12095
2005 Prowler 300BH Camper
VIN: 1EC1B302755339960
Cory Hupfer
24 Canal St. #B
S. Hadley, MA 01075
1996 Jeep Cherokee
VIN: 1J4FJ68S4TL210601
Fuat Kilic
332 Elm St.
Enfield, CT 06082
2020 Honda Civic
VIN: 2HGFC2F61LH534098
Danielle Castro
10 Talias Trl.
Middletown CT 06457
2017 Audi A4
VIN: WAUANAF45HN002909
Benjamin Daily
67 Hollywood St
Springfield, MA 01108
2005 Cadillac STS
VIN: 1G6DW677950197637
Linda Krapf
147 Magazine St.
Springfield, MA 01109
2014 Subaru Legacy
VIN: 4S3BMB63E3023449
Matthew Antunes
25 Shawmut Ave.
Holyoke, MA 01040
2010 Hyundai SONATA
VIN: 5NPET4AC9AH586523
Odalys Molina Negron

828 Chicopee St., Apt 8
Chicopee, MA 01013
2010 Kia Forte
VIN: KNAFU4A29A5271002
Michael Delcolle Jr
35 Hamden Hills Dr., #410
Hamden, CT 06518
2001 Seadoo Challeneger 2000
VIN: CECG0850B101
Ziare Miller
34 Carver St
Springfield MA 01108
2006 BMW X3
VIN: WBXPA93446WG90295
Angel Martinez
46 Cuff Ave.
Springfield, MA 01104
1996 Dodge Ram Van
VIN: 2B6HB21Y0TK122930
Jerry Moskowitz

14 School St.
Holyoke, MA 01040
2004 Chrysler Sebring
VIN: 1C3EL45X04N295107
Anabel Gonzalez
1461 Kurtz Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90063
2020 Honda Pilot
VIN: 5FNYP5H57LB009766
Brittany Blair
12 Monroe St., Apt D
Westfield, MA 01085
2013 Hyundai SONATA
VIN: 5NPEB4AC8DH575925
Jennifer Garvulenski
11 Spring St., Apt. 4
Holyoke MA 01040
2000 Chevrolet Silverado 2500
VIN: 1GCGK29U3YE382193
Jason Canfield

272 Walnut St., Apt 3
Holyoke. MA 01040
2005 Nissan Sentra
VIN: 3N1CB51D95L586314
Junior Francillon
16 Hall St.
N. Adams, MA 01247
2011 Nissan Rogue
VIN: JN8AS5MV5BW252719
Trent Formaggioni
886 Main St., Apt. 9
Agawam MA 01001
2007 Ford Escape
VIN: 1FMCU94167KB27225
10/02, 10/09, 10/16/2026

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Town Reminder

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Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

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A server posing for the camera as she drops off appetizers.

A full room of festivities.



Holding up the traditional German soft pretzel.



The room is full of activity at the Oktoberfest at South Hadley COA.

CHEER from page 1

The meal this year was catered by the Munich Haus in Chicopee, with the desert of authentic German chocolate cake prepared by the in-house chef Harold Dixon. Elias described the event as “terrific” and mentioned how it got people out of their seats and dancing.

“Our people love to do dinners and dancing,” Elias said. “That’s something everybody really gets into. So, we’ll definitely do this again.”

Oktoberfest decorations filled the community room with the seasonal festive spirit as attendees mirrored the deputy director’s excitement. Some were even inspired to attend in costume, with some even bringing authentic German trinkets to the meal.

“We have people in lederhosen,” Elias said. “Which is super fun.”

An Oktoberfest attendee, who wished to be addressed as “Chevvy” captured the room’s spirit. Holding a commemorative beer stein, the gregarious attendee was dressed for the occasion. Garbed in traditional dress and capped with a Tyrolean hat, Chevvy was more than happy to offer his perspective on the event.

“Well I wanted to wear my lederhosen, but I wasn’t able to get into it after 42 years,” Chevvy said. “I think it shrunk.”

Though he had no known German heritage, Chevvy stated he has a long history with Oktoberfest, having gone to authentic festivals in Munich and later in the German town of L  n  wurf located in the Northern Cascades of Washington state. He mentioned he purchased his hat from Munich during the festivities.

“I think it is the first time at the senior center,” Chevvy said when asked if he’d at-



The oompah band playing for the night’s audience.



Turley photos by Ben Hernandez

Outside of the Council on Aging auditorium.

tended previous events. “I am an occasional visitor to the senior center, but I think the vibe is very good so far. I’m waiting for the beer.”

Chevvy then introduced his friends Charlotte and Andy, who he met in line during registration. He stated they hit it off and decided to all sit together. A self-described workaholic, he stated events like these offer an

opportunity to socialize and provide chances to meet new friends.

“This is the friendliest group in town,” Elias said. “The seniors here at the South Hadley Council on Aging, they’re having a great night and coming out to enjoy the end of summer and the beginning of the fall.”



Here is Carolyn, a volunteer, with some new friends.”

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