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City addresses 100 most dangerous trees

By Quinn Suomala
Correspondent

HOLYOKE – At their meeting on June 3, the city council discussed approving funding for the Department of Public Works to address the 100 most dangerous trees in the city.

City Councilors Kevin Jourdain and Patti Devine credited City Councilor Michael Sullivan for helping to bring this project to fruition.

“I want to thank Councilor Sullivan for really advocating the council’s position on this with the mayor and stressing the importance of this tree removal and why ARPA funds should be given for this,” Jourdain said.

At a prior meeting, the city council had recommended almost unanimously to use \$200,000 of the remaining ARPA funds put towards the DPW’s project of cutting down dangerous trees in the city.

Mayor Joshua Garcia agreed to move forward with \$150,000 for the project. That funding, combined with the budget the DPW already had for the project, brings the total budget to nearly \$200,000.

Sullivan was excited to see this project moving forward.

“I think this is a fantastic example of the collaboration we can achieve here between the mayor’s office, the committee and the council,” Sullivan said. “This is a win for the whole city. It takes care of a huge safety problem, an issue that has been going on here in council for the eight years I’ve been on. I think this is a great move on the mayor’s part to make this commitment.”

This project has been

a long time in the making. In November of 2024, Jourdain and Councilor Meagan Magrath-Smith filed an order asking the city forester to provide a list of the 100 most dangerous trees in the city.

“I think this is a fantastic example of the collaboration we can achieve here between the mayor’s office, the committee and the council,”

– City Councilor Michael Sullivan

As of their meeting on May 27, the council was happy to announce that they had a completed list of the 100 most dangerous trees in the city, and some plans for how to move forward with this project.

“Now we know what trees we’re chopping down so we can tell constituents, ‘yes, you’re on the list,’” Jourdain said.

The list of the dangerous trees can be found https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iWHmBRbv0sSs-wQjFsgkn0h2wrcuPidL/view?usp=share_link.

Jourdain requested that the DPW put the entire project out to bid, rather than putting out one tree at a time, as he felt that would save the city both time and money.

“We should put them out and then somebody gives us a bid that says, ‘we will take down these

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Library holds craft hour

By Quinn Suomala
Correspondent

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Public Library holds craft hours weekly on Wednesdays from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. for kids.

The craft hours are hosted by Children’s Librarian Rene Pellissier, who sees them as a great opportunity for kids to unwind and connect with one another after school.

“It’s so people can have the ability to just sit, craft, talk to each other, and unwind at the end of the day,” she explained.

She also wanted the crafts to be weekly, so kids can look forward to them and kids and their families can try to plan to regularly attend.

“It can help kids to have something in their mental calendar that they want to do,” Pellissier said. “It’s also really important that kids get to explore their creativity and figure out ways they can express themselves.”

Pellissier also made sure that the craft hours are drop-in, so kids and parents don’t have to worry about getting to the library right at four or staying the whole time.

She welcomes kids to meet up with friends and head over to the library after the school day so they can engage in these fun crafts.

Pellissier tries to rotate between a variety of different crafts for these weekly meetings.

“I want kids to get a chance to try out different crafting mediums that maybe they hadn’t thought of or don’t get to do as often at home,” Pellissier said.

Crafts the library has had in the past include water color painting, coloring, origami, and different craft kits (which can make sun catchers or other decor).

“We really try to bring in anything we can think of,” Pellissier said.

Additionally, Pellissier



The kids were excited to get to paint the different water color pages that Children’s Librarian Rene Pellissier had provided for them.

Turley photo by Quinn Suomala

tries to shape crafts around the season or who may be attending the craft hour. She also tries to keep the crafts open to a wide age range, so any kid is welcome to come and enjoy.

“Even if I am doing a craft that is on the harder end, I’ll have some form of similarly themed coloring page available so the younger kids can feel like they’re joining along even if they can’t do the exact same craft,” Pellissier said.

Each week Pellissier looks forward to these craft hours.

“My favorite part is definitely doing the crafts with the kids,” she said. “I will never be caught just explaining the craft from the sidelines, while the kids do it I am always down there at the tables next to them, asking their opinions on colors.”

This weekly craft night is not the only weekly event the library has. They also have weekly board games, story times, and STEAM activities.

“We try to do things that match different people’s interests,” Pellissier said.

Throughout the summer, craft hours will continue, though they will be moved to Mondays at 2 p.m.

The library also has their summer reading kickoff on Thursday, June 26 from 1 to 4 p.m. Kids, teens, and adults are all welcome.

At the kick-off there will be free ice cream, face painting, and games for families to enjoy.

To keep updated on all of the library events, go to their website at <https://www.holyokelibrary.org/> or stop by in person to talk to a staff member.

Pets rock event raises funds for animal shelter

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer

SOUTH HADLEY – Pets bring joy to our lives, and whether you have a cat, dog, hamster, snake, horse, or bird, they bring smiles to our faces and become a member of our family.

However, there is an epidemic facing pets as their families face difficulties in being able to keep them, or they become lost, or even sadder still, get dumped and abandoned.

Animal Control services are designed to take these animals in, take care of them, and work to find them new, loving homes. However, in many cases, these animals rescued, picked up, or surrendered to animal control may need medical treatment.

Because animal controls are municipal organizations, they need and rely heavily upon donations from the public in order to cover these medical needs, as well as food, shelter, and even a bed and a toy.

And that’s where orga-



Boone the Pittie Mix with his mom, Melissa Leutsch.

Turley Photos by Emily-Rose Pappas

nizations like the Foundation for the Thomas J. O’Connor Animals come in.

“Our primary focus is to provide support and resources for critical medical care and enrichment for all the animals that come into the shelter, which is over 3,000,” said Janna Brown, a member of TJO.

All kinds of animals come into the TJO Animal Control and Adoption Center, including iguanas, snakes, and rabbits, along with the cats and dogs.

“We make sure if they have a medical issue, we try to give the staff as much as possible so that they can save a life,” said Brown.

TJO services Springfield, Chicopee, and Holyoke, but often their services are taken into neighboring communities like South Hadley, where Drunken Rabbit Brewing hosts them for an annual Pets Rock event, and has for the past nine years.

The TJO Foundation works with the Animal Control Officers in the cities

to make sure that what the animal control officers need is taken care of, whether it be medical assistance, a warm bed, food, or a toy for comfort.

“We are small but mighty,” said Brown.

Every year during Pets Rock, there is a raffle where local businesses in the surrounding communities donate items and gift cards, and TJO members make baskets from items found on pet store clearance.

The TJO Foundation has been operating for almost 20 years and hosts five signature events each year, both in-person and online. The events include games, vendors, raffles, and fun, and people bring their dogs to get some extra attention.

The Pets Rock event also hosts a local musician, and this year, they invited Ray Guillemette Jr. to play, who generously donated his time and performance for the day.

“It’s really special to see what the volunteers do for

Car Show June 14 will close High Street

HOLYOKE – A Car Show on Saturday, June 14, will involve closing a portion of High Street between Cabot Street and Appleton Avenue from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

The “Wheels for Hope” Car Show is an annual, family-friendly fundraiser that supports cancer research and patient care and raises awareness. The 2025 edition will feature 25 categories of cars and motorcycles. Trophies, presented by a cancer survivor, will be awarded to the top winners in each category.

Activities for children include wheelers and face painting. Food trucks will be on the scene. There will also be music and raffles.

Police officers will be on hand to help drivers navigate around the show.

See SHELTER, page 6

Planning office facilitates HardTech event set for June 18

HOLYOKE – Cofab Design and the City of Holyoke's Office of Planning and Economic Development will host the second HardTech Holyoke event on Wednesday, June 18, from 5 to 8 p.m. Building upon the success of the 2023 event, which drew over 100 attendees at the historic Wauregan Paper Mill, HardTech Holyoke 2025 aims to further the momentum that is positioning Holyoke as a vibrant center for scaling hard technology.

HardTech Holyoke 2025 will highlight and expand opportunities for companies working with physical

technologies—commonly known as “hard tech”—in Holyoke and across Western Massachusetts. Showcasing Holyoke's unique assets—such as extensive industrial space, the region's cheapest energy, strategic geographic connectivity, an established manufacturing base, and robust talent from the industrial workforce and academic institutions—the event emphasizes the city and region's readiness to support new technology past the early innovation stages.

“We're glad to have the opportunity to showcase the assets that make Holyoke

a great location for these companies.” Aaron Vega, City's Director at the Office of Planning and Economic Development said, adding, “We're excited to highlight the companies already here in Holyoke and to work with Mike and his team once again.”

Attendees will experience project showcases from leading local hard tech companies and manufacturers, including Clean Crop Technologies, Sublime Systems, Xenocs, florrent, Meridian Industrial Group, Conklin Office Furniture, and Cofab Design. The event also features

updates and announcements about HardTech projects, in addition to connections to essential business resources like FORGE and the Massachusetts Center for Advanced Manufacturing. Participants will include startups, engineers, academics, manufacturers, government representatives, community members, and organizations supporting physical technology enterprises.

“There is a generational opportunity to build a new industrial economy here” said Mike Stone, organizer of HardTech Holyoke and Partner at Cofab Design.

“Smart founders and teams at companies like Clean Crop Technologies and Sublime Systems are taking note of Holyoke's unique assets for scaling industrial technology. By attracting new technology companies to Holyoke, we can scale groundbreaking ideas, link these businesses with our established manufacturing network, and create meaningful employment opportunities for our community. We can offer a natural launch pad for companies that outgrow innovation spaces in Boston, New York, and the region.”

HardTech Holyoke is supported by a food and

beverage sponsorship from DOC, a trusted construction industry leader founded in Holyoke in 1879 and currently collaborating with cutting edge companies like Sublime Systems. Sponsorship is also generously provided by the Massachusetts Center for Advanced Manufacturing, the City of Holyoke Office of Planning and Economic Development, and Cofab Design.

Interested parties are encouraged to reach out by contacting hello@hardtech-holyoke.org. Further event details are available at hardtechholyoke.org.

HMC receives new certification

HOLYOKE – June 10, 2025 – Holyoke Medical Center achieved The Joint Commission's Health Care Equity Certification for excellence in its efforts to provide equitable care, treatment and services. Holyoke Medical Center demonstrated that it has established structures and processes to decrease health care disparities within its patient populations.

Holyoke Medical Center underwent a rigorous onsite review on May 13. During the visit, The Joint Commission evaluated compliance with certification standards under the following domains:

- Leadership
- Collaboration
- Data collection
- Provision of care
- Performance improvement

Holyoke Medical Center is proud to be recognized for its efforts to provide equitable health care to everyone,” said Spiros Hatiras, President

and CEO of Holyoke Medical Center and Valley Health Systems. “This certification is a testament to our team members who provide high quality, compassionate care to all of our patients, every day.”

“Providing equitable health care and reducing barriers to care is not new to Holyoke Medical Center,” added Sr. Vice President and Chief Quality Officer Avadhoot Gokhale. “We have a specific Health Equity Strategic Plan to guide our organization in addressing the needs of our community. These initiatives have been ongoing for years and are identified in our Community Health Needs Assessments including free transportation to health care services, access to nutritious food, access to health insurance, workforce development, and a myriad of other services.”

Another way Holyoke Medical Center is improving health equity is by expanding data collection from

patients and offering additional screening tools. The information collected gives Holyoke Medical Center a better understanding of the patient population, as well as insights to improve patient care, enhance treatment protocols, and provide education to specific populations.

“Health Care Equity Certification distinguishes those organizations that have made health care equity a strategic priority and those that collaborate with patients, families, caregivers and external organizations to help translate equitable health care into better health outcomes,” says Ken Grubbs, DNP, MBA, RN, executive vice president of Accreditation and Certification Operations and chief nursing officer, The Joint Commission. “We commend Holyoke Medical Center for using The Joint Commission's certification process to promote that all its patient populations receive access to equitable care, treatment and services.”

Holyoke Arts League hosts exhibit

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Arts League during the month of June, will host an exhibition of artwork by members at the Wistariahurst Museum at 238 Cabot St.

The museum and gardens are the historic home of the Skinner Family that owned and operated the Skinner Silk Mill, the world's premier silk fabric

production facility in the city's Canal District.

This event is free and open to the public. Throughout the month of June, the exhibition may be viewed free of charge during the museum's open hours, Mondays from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and Tuesdays from 4:30-6:30 p.m. This juried show will include entries in oil and pastel, water-

color, acrylic, tempera, gouache and other non-oil wet media, graphite, charcoal, printmaking and other graphic media, sculpture and ceramics. Light refreshments will be served. This program is funded in part by a grant from the Holyoke Local Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass. Cultural Council, a state agency.

Author Moldover to visit library

HOLYOKE – On Monday, June 23 at 4 p.m. at Holyoke Public Library, a conversation with author Jonathan Moldover will take place.

Thomas Cole climbed Mt. Holyoke in Hadley, Massachusetts, in 1833 and sketched the oxbow curve in the Connecticut River to the southwest. He used the sketch and his field notes three years later when creating his iconic oil painting of the Oxbow. It embodied his artistic techniques and his philosophy of man's role in nature, thereby epitomizing the Hudson River School of Art.

It is hard to imagine

when driving across the Oxbow today on Interstate 91 in Northampton that this is the same landscape. Instead of pastoral farmland, there is a cardboard manufacturing plant, the largest marina on the Connecticut River, and a community of homes, not to mention the highway itself. And the island is now on the Northampton side of the river, not the Hadley side, as in Cole's time.

While exploring how these changes occurred, the author and his wife became involved with an oral history project, interviewing residents of Oxbow. Those interviews served as the impetus for his book, which inter-

weaves quotes from the interviews with photographs and a well-researched historical narrative. It tells the story of how nature and man changed the island and the remarkable resilience of the Oxbow community.

In this lecture the author Jonathan Moldover will describe how the project developed and some of the challenges involved. He will talk about the community that developed on the Island and show video clips from the interviews of residents who grew up and raised their children there.

For registration, please call 413-420-8101 or email library@holyoke.org.

Updates offered on High-Maple Street project

HOLYOKE – A public information meeting will be held by MassDOT on Tuesday, June 24, at 5:30 p.m. at the Holyoke Public Library to discuss the proposed corridor improvements project on High and Maple Streets.

The purpose of this meeting is to provide the public with an update on the project and to solicit input. All views and comments made at the meeting will be reviewed and considered.

The project consists of transportation safety and mobility improvements along the High Street and Maple Street corridors from South Street to Lyman Street in downtown Holyoke. The project is still in the design phase.

At the June 24 meeting, MassDOT and its team will

provide an update on the project status, share preliminary design concepts, and solicit feedback from the community to help to inform the further development of the design. Safe and accessible conditions for all modes of transportation including walking, biking, transit (bus), and driving will be provided in accordance with applicable design guidelines.

This library is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (including but not limited to interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, open or closed captioning for videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats, such

as audio tapes, Braille and large print), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), fax (857-368-0602), TTD/TTY (857-368-0603) or by email (MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us). Requests should be made as soon as possible prior to the meeting. For more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten business days before the meeting.

In the event of inclement weather, a cancellation announcement will be posted on the internet at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events>.

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Holyoke Community College celebrates 78th Commencement

HOLYOKE – In his Commencement remarks to the Holyoke Community College class of 2025, President George Timmons told a story about an experience he'd had during spring break that "truly captures what makes our HCC community so special."

Walking down the nearly empty hallways, he noticed a student sitting alone in a study lounge. Curious, he asked why the student was on campus during spring break.

"This place has always felt like a sanctuary to me," the student said. "No matter what's happening in my life, I know I can come here and feel welcome."

"This moment reminded me of something foundational and unique about an HCC education," President Timmons said. "It's not just about the classroom, but about creating spaces where people feel they belong. As you leave HCC, I hope you will carry this sense of belonging with you and create it for others wherever your path leads."

HCC held its 78th Commencement on Saturday, May 31, at the MassMutual Center in Springfield. The cold rain falling outside did little to dampen the spirits inside, as graduates celebrated the occasion alongside their families, friends, HCC faculty and staff, with all the traditional pomp and circumstance.

This year, the college conferred a total of 805 associate degrees and certificates to 742 graduates, who range in age from 18 to 66 and hail from 66 different Massachusetts cities and towns, as well as Connecticut, New Jersey, South Carolina, Florida, Colorado, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Russia, Jamaica, Iraq, Trinidad, Tobago, and Ukraine.

In her faculty address, English Professor Elizabeth Trobaugh described HCC as an ecosystem, such as a coral reef or a forest, whose diverse elements depend on each other to provide a healthy

environment where all can thrive, which, in the case of the college, means students.

"Learning is the birthright of every living thing," said Trobaugh, recipient of the 2025 Elaine Marieb Chair for Teaching Excellence Award, HCC's highest faculty honor. "And access to education is the mark of a just society, the hallmark of Democracy. Pursuing an education is a noble endeavor that we at HCC are honored to support and advance."

"Thank you, graduates, for sharing this leg of your academic journeys with us," she said.

Student orator Isa'Rose Ramos, in her address, described herself as more than just a new graduate but "a garden that survived the storm" and the ceremony itself as "a resurrection, a remembering, a return to soil that saw me through seasons of doubt."

"When I first enrolled at HCC, I was still searching for my place - not only in higher education, but in myself," she said. "As someone navi-

gating neurodivergence and grief while carrying invisible weights, I often questioned if I truly belonged here. But this campus - this community - showed me that I did."

Ramos, 39, a Westfield resident and mother of three, received her associate degree in human services, and is transferring to Westfield State University to study psychology.

"To every student sitting here who thought they wouldn't make it, look at you now," she said. "You are not just graduates. You are gardeners. You are the bloom of becoming. We didn't rise because everything was easy. We rose because we kept showing up. Because we dared to dig deeper. Because we remembered that, even in the dark, we were still growing."

Trudy Monson '97, president of the HCC Alumni Council, welcomed graduates as the new alumni and encouraged them to stay connected to the college.

"Your journey with this institution doesn't end



McKayla Ulibarri raises her degree after graduating HCC. Submitted Photos



Ramon Maldonado is happy for his achievements at last week's HCC commencement.

today," said Monson, of Holyoke, one of four individuals presented with a Distinguished Service Award at Commencement. "Come back to campus to share your success stories. Consider

becoming a mentor to current students. Join us at alumni events. Volunteer your time and expertise. Your experiences and wisdom can inspire the next generation of HCC students."

COLLEGE NOTES

HCC announces Dean's List

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College is proud to recognize the students who earned Dean's List honors for the Spring 2025 semester. Each term, HCC recognizes superior scholarship through the Dean's List. A student is placed on the Dean's List if their G.P.A. is 3.2 or higher. The students listed below have earned Dean's List honors for the Spring 2025 term.

From Holyoke:

Shaymaa Al-Farji, Whitney Elizabeth Allen, Jeritza Michelle Alvarez,

Ohlinger, Lily Margaret Angers, Elliott Leo-Tate Anthony, Ruth Marie Arzuaga Rodriguez, Cedric Lucca Ayvazian, Yadira Batiz, Elda Mary Benvenutty, Zoe Katherine Bickford, Zoe Bisbing, Amy Bonilla, Enely Bonilla, Dustin Corey Bonnoyer, Ryan Patrick Breen, Rihanna Ashley Cabrera, Alvin Rey Torres Carabuena, Jalen J. Cortes, Jeremy Misael Cruz, Janiel Nehemias Cruz, Haley Ann Curtis, Julian Anatoly Danilchenko, Alexis Jeremaiah De La Cruz, Ivy Wrenne Drude Demetriou, Brian Diaz, Samantha Diaz, Brendan Michael Duval, Jailene Marie Espada,

Dinmariel Ferrer, Emily K. Garcia, Ana Gillis, Alany Gracia, Michelina Granger, Nathan Micheal Gregoire, Mariangely Garcia Guzman, Xavier Botelho Haas, Nicole Louise Henchey, Victor Michel Herlemont, Lillian Alice Ionata, Donnellia Latrece Jackson, Tanner Owen Joseph, Wesley Kulig Jr., Danielle Brown LaPalme, Daneisha Luciano, Jesenia Marie Maldonado, Taisha Monique Martinez, Melanie Martinez Gonzalez, Kiara M. Martinez Melendez, Nilda Adela Mendez, David Moses, Erin Frances O'Donnell, Bekir Yusuf Okatan, Eithan Emilio Ortiz Viera, Keyla M. Pagan Figueroa, Marjorie

Elizabeth Pagan Robles, Stephen Zackary Pasternak, Michael Ernest Pepe, Jose Emilio Perez, Steven Joseph Pinkney, Anna Claire Puttick, Sara K. Quaglia, Jemme Carlos Quinones, Dorah Rains, Adiaris Jarleys Reyes, Erykka Rocha, Kevin Michael Rodgers, Nicholas John Rodriguez, Kayleene Marie Rodriguez, Judeliz Rodriguez, Katelyn Roque I, Aiden Leith Ross, Olivia Rose Royland, Hannah Autumn Savenko, Melissa Ann Sepulveda, Kimberly Sugrue, Patrick John Sweeney, Sadie Francis Swindell, Adam Joseph Sypniak, Stephen Andres Szweczyk, Anthony Joseph Thomas IV, Brian Daniel

Torres, Joseph Robert Trombley, Keilymar Vazquez Negron, Ayanna Lee Vega, Caridad Vega-Ramos, Erick Velez Feliciano, John Wagner, Taeshon Ricardo Watkins.

Ovaert named to Ohio Univ. Dean's List

ATHENS, OH – Ohio University College of Business student Mathieu Ovaert of St-Barthelemy, VD has been named to OHIO's Spring 2025 Dean's List.

The Dean's List recognizes undergraduate students who complete a particular semester with a GPA between 3.5 and 3.999 with a minimum of 12 credit hours attempted for letter grades that are used to calculate GPA.

Students named to URI Dean's List

KINGSTON, RI – The University of Rhode Island is pleased to announce that several area students have been named to its Spring 2025 Dean's List.

From Holyoke: Jack DeMarinis, Jazmine Muniz

HCC offering free course in AI essentials

HOLYOKE – Dive into the world of artificial intelligence with a free, 12-week training course offered by Holyoke Community College in partnership with the non-profit CanCode Communities.

"AI Essentials," a real-time, instructor-led online training program runs on Tuesdays and Thursdays, June 24 to Sept. 11, from 5:45 to 8:45 p.m. each day.

The class is free to eligible Massachusetts residents.

Over 12 weeks, participants will learn the fundamentals of AI, including prompt engineering, tokeni-

zation, embeddings, model structures, retrieval-augmented generation (RAG), agency, compute, and ethics.

The course emphasizes practical applications, leveraging tools such as Google AI Studio, n8n, and OpenWebUI to explore how AI models are built, trained, and deployed in the real world.

"Along the way, participants will gain valuable professional development experience, enhancing their technical skills and problem-solving abilities," said Arvard Lingham, HCC executive director of community edu-

cation and corporate training.

Tuition assistance is available for qualified Massachusetts residents 18 and older. Limited seats are available. Laptops and WiFi hotspots for Internet access will be provided for students who need them.

Funding for the program comes from the Western Mass Alliance for Digital Equity.

To sign up for classes, please send an email to admissions@albanycancode.org, or go to cancode.org/apply-now and choose "AI Essentials."

City's fireworks set for June 27

HOLYOKE – The City of Holyoke will be hosting the annual Fourth of July fireworks on Friday, June 27 (with a rain-date of June 29). The event will take place on the grounds of Holyoke Community College, at 303 Homestead Avenue.

Vendors interested

in taking part in the event should contact the Parks and Recreation Department before June 13, for a permit application at 413-322-5620.

We encourage everyone to come early to enjoy the music and food from a variety of vendors as well as many children's activities.

The event begins at 6 p.m., with the fireworks display scheduled to start at dusk.

Many of the streets around the college will close early, please plan for alternate routes. We are currently searching for volunteers, please call the Mayor's Office at 413-561-1600.

Preservation Trust presents Garden Tour

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Preservation Trust has announced it will host the Fifth Annual Garden Tour in the city. This year's event will feature new gardens, a pho-

tography contest, a tree tour with Forester Tom Kass, and a lecture from Bernie Conway, Assistant Gardener at NY Botanical Garden. The event will be held on Saturday, June

28 and admission is \$20 per person with children 12 and under free of charge. For more information and to purchase tickets, go to www.holyokepreservationtrust.org.

Saturday June 28, 2025

Holyoke Preservation Trust's 5th Annual Garden Tour

Bernie Conway Asst. Gardener NY Botanical Garden
Lecture "Invasives, natives and pollinator plants"

Photography Contest

Tom Kass Forester
Tree Tour

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www.holyokepreservationtrust.org

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<p>Friday, June 13th</p> <p>Kilashandra</p>	<p>Saturday, June 14th</p> <p>Dee Reilly</p>	<p>Sunday, June 15th</p> <p>Frank Serafino</p>
<p>Friday, June 20th</p> <p>New Leaf</p>	<p>Saturday, June 21st</p> <p>The Healy's</p>	<p>Sunday, June 22nd 3-6pm</p> <p>Jimmy McArdle</p>

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Guest Column



Social Security questions asked over coffee

Dear Rusty:

My coffee conversations among a group of friends have resulted in several questions about Social Security.

1. What happens to the Social Security account of someone who dies before retirement age. What happens to that money and where does it end up?

2. How does the decreased birth rate of the USA affect future Social Security benefits?

3. Is a person, who has never contributed to the Social Security System entitled to any benefits from the Social Security Administration?

4. Is there a central location online that a person can access that explains the history and current status of the Social Security System, that explains all of it in simple terms. I would like to be able to give this location to people I talk with about Social Security.

Most of the articles we read are like slogging through mud. I enjoy AMAC articles and am college educated, but the average reading level in the U.S. is less than sixth grade. Thank you for considering these questions.

Signed: Curious Reader

Dear Curious:

Thank you for your readership and I'll be happy to tackle your "over coffee" questions about Social Security.

1. Social Security is a "pay as you go" program, where all money collected from workers is used to pay benefits for all those, who are currently receiving Social Security. In other words, all money contributed is used to pay benefits to others already receiving benefits. It is not put into a separate account for each person and that is a good thing. Most people get more from Social Security than they ever contributed, but benefits are paid for life, regardless of how long one lives. The specific answer to your question is that if someone dies before retirement age, the money contributed has already been used to pay benefits to others. Keep in mind though, that a surviving spouse or minor or disabled adult child may also collect benefits on a deceased person's Social Security record.

2. The decreasing birth rate in the U.S. hurts Social Security. That's because fewer babies mean fewer future workers contributing to the Social Security program. FYI, in 1950 there were about 15 workers contributing to SS for every one person collecting benefits, but today there are less than three workers for each

SS beneficiary. That problem is exacerbated by the steadily increasing U.S. life expectancy. Beneficiaries are now often collecting SS benefits for decades from a program designed to pay benefits for only a few years.

3. Only those who have worked and contributed to Social Security through payroll taxes for about 10 years (40 quarters of SS credit) are eligible to collect SS Retirement benefits. However, some dependent spouses and/or dependent minor or dependent disabled children who have never worked might also be eligible for benefits from the worker's Social Security record. Along with each U.S. state, the SSA also administers another program, known as Supplement Security Income, on behalf of the federal government. However, federal "SSI" benefits are not paid with Social Security funds. "SSI" is a separate government benefit program, with federal benefits paid from the general U.S. Treasury.

4. There are lots of places to get information about Social Security, but I suggest you start at our AMAC Foundation Social Security information website, which can be found at www.socialsecurityreport.org. Here you will find numerous articles about Social Security, retirement, Medicare, etc., as well as all the Ask Rusty articles I have published weekly over the last 8 years. You can also find excellent Social Security information on our AMAC Foundation main website, www.amacfoundation.org. And, of course, you can always ask any questions you have via email to SSAdvisor@amacfoundation.org. Or, if you prefer, you can just call us on 1-888-750-2622 if you have questions about Social Security or about Medicare enrollment.

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.



Guest Column

Bush beans are a great succession crop

I was "late" planting my bush beans this year, at least according to the calendar. But with the garden being under water for a while and then mucky for days on end, this past week was the first time conditions were favorable.

We want to grow a lot of beans this year. The kids like them steamed, then stir-fried with garlic. My hope is to have lots of them to freeze, and to do that it will require multiple plantings.

Bush beans are a good example of a vegetable that works well as a succession crop. What that means is that they can be sown multiple times throughout the summer.

Why? Because unlike most other vegetables, beans produce less than 8 weeks from sowing, and as long as you have full sun and average garden soil they can be grown with relative ease.

Consider making additional sowings of this versatile vegetable now before you get busy with the harvest. That way you can enjoy a continuous supply all summer long.

You might still refer to snap or bush beans as "string beans" even though the tough strings that connected the two halves of the pod were bred out of the snap bean beginning in 1884 with Calvin N. Keeney's introduction of the Stringless Refugee Wax Bean.

Today's modern stringless beans are a result of those early breeding efforts.

All types of beans require warm soil in which to germinate; 60 degrees at least. White seeded varieties are especially picky about soil temperatures.

Black and tan seeds regulate moisture intake more effectively, and therefore are less likely to rot in cool, wet soils. If you want to gamble with an early sowing, sow these instead.

Many seed companies even tell you the seed color in a description. Usually by May 20 the ground is warm enough to sow all types of beans.

Succession plantings can be made every 10 days through July 30. After that it is unlikely that plants will produce a viable crop before frost hits.

Rather than sowing bean seeds in rows, I make good use of garden space by planting them in a four-foot wide block. Anything wider than four feet would make it difficult to reach in among the plants to harvest.

If soil has been turned over or rototilled first it is easy to simply place the bean seeds on top of the soil four inches apart and push

planted side by side.

Harvest beans when they are still relatively thin. Depending on the variety, pods can average five to seven inches long at maturity. When inner seeds start to swell and fatten up the bean they aren't nearly as tasty.

As mentioned, bumper crops are possible, and sometimes it may be difficult to keep up with the harvest. One variety known especially for its holding power is Jade. Beans from this variety retain a deep green color and sport thin pods.

I have also enjoyed growing French beans "Haricot Verts" because they are very long and thin, never tough.

Fresh beans are easy to freeze. Blanch in boiling water for three minutes then plunge into ice water until cooled. Air-dry thoroughly, pack in plastic bags, and place in the freezer. Easy breezy.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

*A mother had opened the door to life...
It's this way, the father said then;
And many glad steps to the world we'll take -
Before much higher gets the sun.
And at the fork ahead, you may see it now -
The half-green road where you're on your own.*

Father's Day

*Just when figuring I was a young man free -
It all came about in family ...
And when raised they were a few feet up,
Something else had come about.
Like somehow belonging to a broader country,
Found within already the family?
Tho' more and more are several parts known,
All are drawn from the original form.*

*When has it not been a father?
Except when distracted a care-free hour?
That seemed to stop the tenor of my ways. -
O for a life of sensations, than sacrifice -
Who ever said I needed a wife?!*
*Yet, what to those for whom generations end?
And not pass along the song to them ...*

*But in the heart of things, never stopping -
Tho' deep in the ground, onward going;
Coming from what others had given?
Pulling further than I'd ever been -
The future somehow, as it all would be;
The return of a free man young.*

Charles Barnes

the HOLYOKE Sun

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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.

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Museum to offer passport series

HOLYOKE – Take a trip to Wistariahurst Museum this summer for our Summer Passport Series at Sensory Friendly Sunday Fundays. We have an array of themed Sunday Fundays that will delight the whole family visit after visit. Wistariahurst visitors will get their own passport that will be stamped at every event. Guests will get rewarded prizes based on how many stamps they collect by the end of the Summer Passport Series. From toys, to coloring books, to limited Wistariahurst merch, you don't want to miss earning a prize! Aiming for the biggest prize? Make sure to visit Wistariahurst during each of the following Sunday Funday events:

June 8, June 22, July 13, July 27, Aug. 10, Aug. 24, Sept. 7, and Sept. 21 all from 12 to 3 p.m. Each day features a different

events from Celebrate Pride and Juneteenth to Garden Grooves and Dino Days.

Each of these events has unique activities and opportunities for engagement. From Drag Storytime at Celebrate Pride, to a Dino Dance Party at Dino Days, there's something new every visit. Sunday Fundays are designed for guests of all ages, with our friends with sensory sensitivities in mind. Throughout the first floor, children will be able to interact with fine motor activities, puzzles, and board games to engage with and enjoy. Gross motor activities like hula hoops, hopscotch, and bounce balls will get everyone moving and grooving. Need to take a break from the energy? A low sensory area will be available to guests as well. Throughout the first floor, guests can also interact with activities such as our Where's Winston scavenger

hunt. During your self-guided tour, keep your eyes open for our lethargic, little lion. Take a picture or selfie with him and show your picture to our front desk attendant to get an exclusive Winston sticker.

Our Sensory Friendly Sunday Fundays provide an excellent opportunity for families with sensory sensitivities to experience our museum in a relaxed environment at their own pace. Wistariahurst is thrilled to host these open hours, allowing families to explore, discover, and connect with our museum. This is why these events will be free and accessible to the public for all to enjoy. The first event of the Sunday Funday Passport Series is right around the corner. Join us Sunday, June 8 for Celebrate Pride. Pack your bags, pick up your passport, and start collecting stamps and memories.

TREES, from page 1

100 trees and it is going to cost you x," Jourdain said. "Let's see who gives the city the best deal, and they probably get a volume discount..."

This way I think there is no reason why we can't get probably more than those 100 trees for \$200,000."

Overall, Jourdain wants to ensure that the mayor does his due diligence for ensuring

this project is completed successfully for the city.

Following Jourdain's comments, the council voted unanimously to approve the needed funding transfer for the project.

Tree Removal List

- 23 O'Connor Ave.
- Appleton St. corner Elm St.
- 340 Appleton St.
- 123 Lincoln St.
- 581 South Bridge St. – 2 trees
- 215 Elm St. – tree on Essex St.
- 58 Lawler St.
- 216 West Franklin St. – tree on Locust St.
- 225 Sargeant St.
- Vega Park – 4 trees
- Springdale Park – 2 trees
- Ingleside Park – 4 trees
- 117 Nonotuck St.
- 108 Nonotuck St.
- 224 Homestead Ave. – 6 trees
- 216 Homestead Ave.
- 13 Cook St.
- 10 Washington Ave. – tree on Cook St.
- 494 Appleton St. – tree on Sycamore St.
- 494 Appleton St. – tree on Locust St.
- 253 Walnut St.
- Avery Field - 6 trees
- 385 Ingleside Ave. – across St.
- 399 Maple St.
- 467 Rock Valley Rd.
- 262 Lyman St.
- 47 Nonotuck St. – 2 trees
- 151 Pearl St. – tree on Allyn St.
- 1194 Hamden St.
- 1773 Northampton St.
- 1663 Northampton St. – tree on Woods Ave.
- 167 Southampton Rd.
- 1245 Dwight St.
- 136 Suffolk St. – tree on Walnut St.
- 472 Maple St.
- 482 Maple St. – tree on Jackson St.
- 213 Walnut St.
- 28 Stanford St. – 2 trees
- West King St. – dead end
- 12 Portland St.
- 14 Portland St.
- 196 Sargeant St.
- 76 Park Slope
- 71 Waldo St.
- 158 Locust St.
- 62 Central Park Dr.
- 15 Highland St. – tree on Pearl St.
- 180 Walnut St.
- 377 Appleton St. – tree on Walnut St.
- 121 Elm St. – tree on Walnut St.
- 5 Williams St.
- 134 Madison Ave.
- 336 Maple St.
- 340 Maple St.
- 66 Dale St.
- 4 Carol Lane
- 105 Cherry St.
- 235 Essex St.
- 211 Pine St. – tree on Essex St.
- 168 Essex St.
- 3 Fairfield Ave.
- 5 Central Park Drive – 2 trees
- Homestead Ave fire station
- Norwood Terrace 4 trees
- 23 Rhode Island St. – tree on York St.
- 27 Anderson Ave.
- 10-12 Arlington St.
- Adams St. corner South Canal St.
- 1265 Dwight St.
- 1255 Dwight St.
- 1243 Dwight St.
- 1227 Dwight St.
- McNulty Park
- 405 High St.
- Veterans Park – 2 trees
- Hamden St. between High St. and Maple St.
- 401 Maple St.
- 403 Cherry St. – across St.
- Easthampton Rd. – North side between 91 ramp and Longfellow Road
- 232 Elm St.
- 180 Pine St. – 2 trees – 1 on Pine and 1 on Appleton St.
- 476 Maple St.
- 650 County Rd.
- Dwight St. corner Maple St.
- Appleton St. corner Maple St.
- 263 Linden St. tree on Hampshire
- Lindor Heights Island

Tourism committee seeking new members

HOLYOKE – The City of Holyoke is currently seeking enthusiastic and experienced individuals to join its Tourism Advisory Committee (TAC). If you're a hotelier, restaurant owner, or someone with a strong background in the tourism or hospitality industry — we want to hear from you. Priority will be given to candidates with experience in these areas. We are also looking for a youth member who is under 21 years of age, a Holyoke resident and interested in promoting the positive things happening in Holyoke.

The TAC is a dynamic group made up of tourism experts and community representatives, including voices from iconic local institutions like the Wistariahurst Museum and the International Volleyball Hall of Fame. Together, the committee advises the city

on all things tourism — from strategy and events to funding and promotion.

This is your chance to get involved, make a real impact, and yes — help give away money! The TAC helps allocate funding for local events and community projects that make Holyoke a vibrant and welcoming place to visit.

For 2025 TAC utilized funds to support 11 events including:

- Holyoke Pride Festival on June 11
- The Great Holyoke Brink Race on October 11
- Holyoke Paper Fest on June 7
- Paper City Oaks Semi Pro indoor Lacrosse at Fitzpatrick's Arena - Summer 2025
- Holyoke Historical Society Garden Tour July 12
- LOCULUS Presents The Fourth Annual SIDEWAYS DOOR: A

Festival of Ecstasies & Escape Routes September 19 to 21

• Imagined Worlds Mural Project with the Holyoke Children's Museum

• Lemonade & Laughter at the Merry Go Round - fall 2025

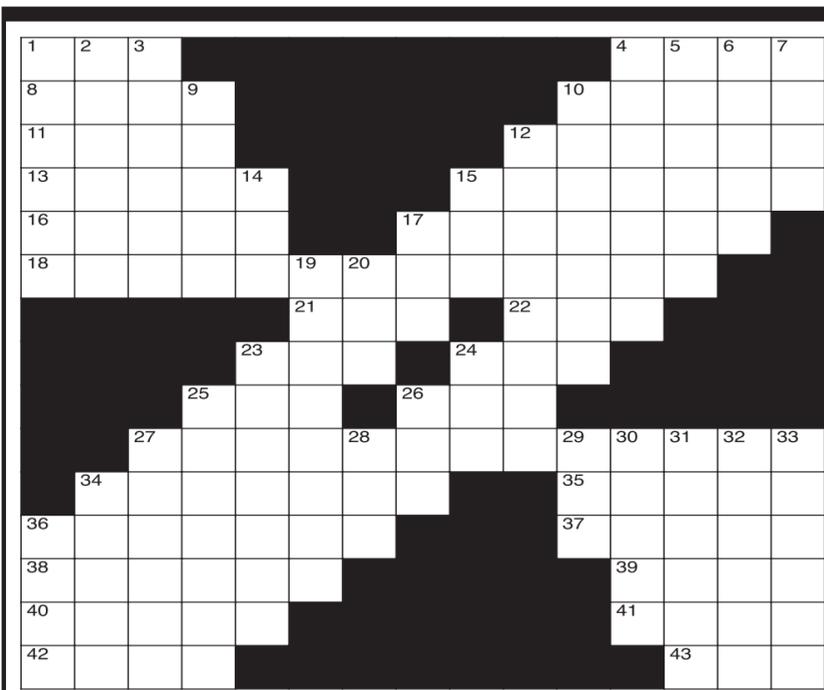
• Holyoke Canals and its Mills - fall 2025

• B B J Spring Spectacular Showing: A free night of musical theater - fall 2025

More information on all these events can be found at [ExploreHolyoke.com](https://www.exploreholyokey.com)

To learn more about TAC, visit <https://www.holyoke.org/departments/tourism-advisory-committee/>.

If you are interested in joining TAC please send cover letter and resume to vegae@holyokey.org at the Office of Planning and Economic Development.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Racquet sports association
4. Places to sleep
8. Native American tribe
10. Small platforms
11. Egg shape
12. Running out
13. French painter
15. Some are "of the Caribbean"
16. Painful intestinal problem
17. More irritated
18. Prove yourself
21. Catch
22. Supplement with difficulty
23. American automotive giant
24. Form of "to be"

CLUES DOWN

25. Boxing's GOAT
26. Peyton's little brother
27. Eli's big brother
34. Capable of producing
35. Reproductive structures in fungi
36. Allowed to go forward
37. Smiles
38. Arteries
39. VVV
40. Win a series without losing a game
41. This (Spanish)
42. Opposites of beginnings
43. Germanic mythological god

CLUES DOWN

1. Consisting of uncombined atoms
2. Island country
3. Heavenly body
4. Caribbean island
5. Copyread
6. A place to eat
7. Drops down
9. Native group of Alaska
10. Engage in
12. "Desperate Housewives" lane
14. Thyroid-stimulating hormone
15. Foot (Latin)
17. A place to bathe
19. Animosities

20. Partner to cheese
23. Venus __, plant
24. A donation
25. Pokes holes in the ground
26. Midway between northeast and east
27. Looked into
28. Not young
29. Annoy constantly
30. Something one can strike
31. Most glacial
32. Ten less than one hundred
33. Idle talker
34. Has moved through the air
36. Container for shipping

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 8

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Your Community Church

Blessed Sacrament Parish

Rev. Duy Le
frduyle@blessedsacramentholyoke.org
 1945 Northampton St., Holyoke
 PARISH RECTORY: 413-532-0713
 OFFICE HOURS:
 Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 Friday 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 WEEKEND MASSES:
 Saturday 4 p.m.
 Sunday 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
 DAILY MASS AND ROSARY
 Monday - Friday: ROSARY 6:15 a.m.
 Monday - Friday: MASS 6:45 a.m.
 Legal Holidays: ROSARY 7:30 a.m.
 Legal Holidays: MASS 8 a.m.
 ROSARY AND MEDITATION
 Monday Evening: 6 p.m.
www.blessedsacramentholyoke.org
 Facebook: @bspholyokema

First Baptist Church

Pastor Theresa Temple
 1976 Northampton St., Holyoke
 (413) 533-7728
firstbaptistchurchholyokey.com
 Facebook: First Baptist Church of Holyoke, MA
 HOURS: Sunday worship service (winter hours) at 10:30 a.m. (summer hours) at 10 a.m.
 Wednesday Bible Studies, one at 11 a.m. and one at 5:30 p.m.

Our Lady of the Cross Catholic Parish

Pastor: Fr. Albert Scherer, OFM Conv.
 Email: pastor@ourladyofthecross.com
 Holy Cross Ave., Holyoke
 Parish Offices are located at: 15 Maple Street, Holyoke
 (413) 532-5661
parish@ourladyofthecross.com
 OFFICE HOURS:
 Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
 WEEKEND MASSES:
 Saturday 4 p.m.
 Sunday 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m. (Polish), and 10:30 a.m.
 DAILY MASS:
 Monday - Saturday 8:30 a.m.
 Legal Holidays Mass 9 a.m.
 Reconciliation (Confession) Monday - Saturday 8 a.m.
 Saturday 3:15pm
 Anytime by Appointment
 DEVOTIONS
 Monday - Saturday
 Divine Mercy Chaplet - 7:50 a.m.
 ROSARY 8:05 a.m.
www.ourladyofthecross.com

St. Peter's Lutheran Church

Rev. Debora Stein
 34 Jarvis Ave., Holyoke
 Office: (413) 536-3369
 Office: stpetersholyokey@gmail.com
 Pastor: revdebma@gmail.com
 Website: www.stpetersholyokey.org
 Social media: [facebook.com/stpetersholyokey](https://www.facebook.com/stpetersholyokey)
 OFFICE HOURS:
 Monday - Wednesday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Thursday 2 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. (Call first)
 WORSHIP:
 Sundays at 9:30 a.m. (also on Facebook Live) & Thursdays at 7 p.m.
 Other: Prayers with Pastor - Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. - on Facebook Live.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

The Rev. Canon Joel Martinez
 485 Appleton St., Holyoke
 413-532-5060
Office@StPaulsholyoke.org
StPaulsholyoke.org
 Instagram: [stpaulsepiscopalchurch_holyoke](https://www.instagram.com/stpaulsepiscopalchurch_holyoke)
 OFFICE HOURS:
 Tuesday - Friday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 Days and Hours of Services:
 Sunday: 8 a.m.
 Sunday: 10 a.m.
 Sunday: 5 p.m. (Spanish)

In The News



Ashlie Bombardier, Shannon O'Connell, and Wafer the lab.



Janna Brown, President Heather Heeb, and Mary Ann Cilley ready to rock out for pets.



Members of Fairway here to support Pets Rock.



Tracy Root and her artwork from Lovingly Made by T.J.



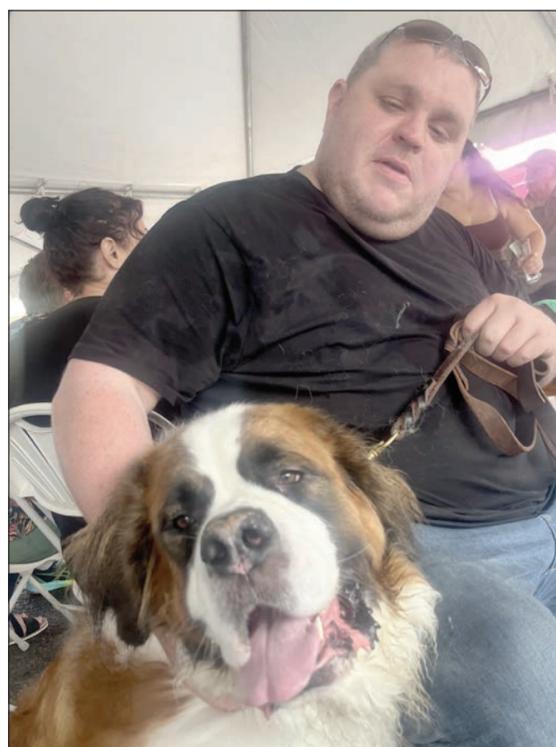
Jody Maple with Ghydro Dog Grooming.



Pat Kelly of Rock 102 getting ready to be dunked!



The mobile dog grooming truck available to give free grooming to all dogs at Pets Rock.



Mishka the St. Bernard with his dad enjoying some chips.



Ray Guillemette Jr. singing his heart out for the pets.

SHELTER, from page 1

these animals, and it's something we want to be a part of. It's amazing so many people came out despite the weather, and it's even the best turnout," said Pat Kelly of Rock 102.

Bruno, with Drunken Rabbit, offered to host Pets Rock, and after nine years, has remained a steadfast supporter.

"That's what this is - a bunch of people who came together to raise some money to help the animals, and that's why we are

here," said Kelly.

"Two things I love about TJO - first of all, I'm an animal lover, and I'll never stop raising money for these animals. We want to make sure we get them into homes, that's my number one priority," said Brown. "The second is that I love the community engagement and welcoming people to come in and have a good time."

Brown spent six years volunteering for the foundation and fell in love with it, moving on to work full-time for it.

"The foundation is always looking for the com-

munity to help out, whether it's volunteering or fostering," said Brown. "We want everyone to know there's an animal crisis in this area and there's a veterinary crisis. We need all the help we can get."

TJO holds online campaigns for you to donate, and some donate in memory of a beloved pet, which you can find on their website.

"Moving forward, we are excited to bring in some resources, because not everyone can afford to keep their animals, so these are some initiatives we are looking forward to bringing in in the next few years."

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Grilled Chops \$7 per person

Saturday Night 4-6 pm only
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Bankers grab win as Tri-County opens season

HOLYOKE – The Tri-County Baseball League, which still contains the best quality adult baseball in the region, was back in action last week.

Multi-time champion PeoplesBank opened up their season last Thursday at Holyoke's Mackenzie Stadium and defeated Hilltown Tents 15-5.

James Flahive got the win while catcher Pete Hogan homered for the Bankers.



Right, Johnny Gegetskas is safe at home.
Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Catcher Pete Hogan slides safely into third.



Cam Rivest catches a fly ball to right.

Cam MacDonald comes up throwing home.

Lefty James Flahive delivers home



Dave Clark fields a ground ball to second.

Valley Blue Sox walk off against Ocean State Waves

HOLYOKE – It was a great day for baseball on Sunday afternoon at MacKenzie Stadium, the home of the Valley Blue Sox. Valley took on the Ocean State Waves in what was a close game.

Ocean State's shortstop Greg Pettay started at the plate with a productive

at bat. Pettay hit a ball in the gap towards center field for a lead off single. Valley's catcher Cade Carr tried to catch the speedy shortstop but he missed the throw to second allowing Pettay to also steal third. The Blue Sox defense held strong, not allowing any runs in the top of the first despite the error

made by Carr. In the bottom of the first, center fielder Tyler Bak kept his dominant success at the plate and walked in his first at bat. Carr was second in the lineup for Valley and hit a nice single into center field to give the Blue Sox two runners on base. Right fielder Clay Burdette hit a

sacrifice pop fly to give the Blue Sox a quick 1-0 lead after one inning of play.

Valley had another productive inning at the plate in the bottom of the third thanks to Sebastian Mexico's first homerun of the season to extend their lead to 2-0.

The Waves fought back and scored their own two

runs thanks to the leadoff batter, right fielder, Ryan Gerety being walked and successfully stealing second. Blue Sox's pitcher Jack Levine had a wild pitch and Gerety stole third. Center fielder Gavin Greger hit a double that drove in one run to put Ocean State on the board.

Catcher Brandyn Durand hit a pop fly to tie the game at two apiece. In the bottom of the fourth Valley almost jumped back out in front but shortstop Michael Elko was not able to steal home successfully due to

See SOX, page 10

Mutiny return home to record win

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW – Even though the weather was miserable, it was still an enjoyable evening for the New England Mutiny players and their faithful supporters.

The Mutiny, who scored a pair of second half goals, defeated the Ole' Eagles, 2-0, in front of a large crowd on a rainy night at Lusitano Stadium last Saturday

"It's always nice to win at home," said Mutiny head coach Federico Molinari. "I thought we played very well tonight, especially during the second half."

The Mutiny (2-0) began the regular season by posting a 4-1 home win over



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Chloe Laizer gets ready to send the ball away.

See MUTINY, page 8

Pioneers celebrate seniors

By Abigail McCoy
Staff Writer
amccoy@turley.com

LUDLOW – The evening of May 31 was filled with pride, emotion, and celebration as the Western United Pioneers Football Club honored 37 graduating seniors during a special halftime ceremony at historic Lusitano Stadium. Held under the lights and light rain, the event brought together families, coaches, alumni, and soccer fans to recognize the achievements of student-athletes who have helped shape the club's legacy.

"These individuals have been more than just players on the field," said Western United Pioneers

FC President Carlos Chaves in his opening remarks. "They have been ambassadors of the club and pillars of our community. Their dedication, passion, and sportsmanship have left an indelible mark on our organization."

The evening's recognition ceremony honored graduating players from the club's junior academy, many of whom are continuing their athletic careers at the collegiate level. Chaves emphasized that the event was more than a send-off, it was a celebration of personal growth, commitment, and the role these players have played in the club's success.

Among the honorees were standout players such as Chloe Laizer, Abigail

Toomey, and Hudson Manzolini. One graduate, Chloe Laizer, was even the starting goalkeeper for the night's match with the New England Mutiny, the region's senior women's professional team that shares a deep connection with the youth academy.

"Most of the women on the Mutiny roster are NCAA Division I collegiate athletes," Chaves explained. "And Chloe, a high school senior, started in goal tonight. That tells you what kind of talent and commitment we're celebrating."

Founded with the mission of developing young talent, the Western United Pioneers program today

See PIONEERS, page 10

Sports

MUTINY, from page 9

Maine Footy two weeks earlier. That match was stopped by the referee in the middle of the second half due to a thunderstorm.

The Ole' Eagles (0-1), who are from Trumbull Connecticut, is a first year member of United Women's Soccer, which is celebrating its tenth season.

A couple of the Mutiny players saw their first action in the second home match of the regular season.

Chloe Laizer, who's graduating this week from West Springfield High School, was the starting goalie.

During the second minute of the first half, Alexa Pino fired a shot from the left side of the box, but Laizer made the diving save keep the visiting team off the scoreboard.

"This was my first start

with the Mutiny, and I was a little bit nervous before the game. I had a lot more confidence after making the early save," said Laizer, who'll be a freshman on the St. Michael's College women's soccer team in the fall.

"Playing a game in the rain and wind is very challenging, especially as a goalie." Pino, who'll be a freshman at the University of South Carolina in the fall, is the two-time Connecticut Gatorade Player of the Year.

The Mutiny back-up goalie was Maddie Riley, who's a member of the girls' varsity soccer team at Ludlow High School.

Both teams had several corner kicks during the first half, but the match was still scoreless at halftime.

The Mutiny finally broke the ice with a corner kick goal in the 56th minute.

Avery Galante sent the ball into the box from

the left corner where Maya Mathis, who's a defender, sent a shot into the back of the net past goalie Emily Robinson for her first goal as a Mutiny player.

"Avery and I are best friends. We used to play on a club soccer team together," Mathis said. "My younger sister, Sadie, was also on the field when I scored my goal, so it was very exciting sharing that moment with them."

Maya Mathis, who graduated from Acton Boxboro Regional High School, was a member of the UConn women's soccer team during the past two seasons before entering the transfer portal. She'll be joining the University of Kansas women's soccer team this fall.

"I just wanted to make a change and go to a part of the country where I've never been before," Maya Mathis said. "I'm really

excited about playing soccer at Kansas."

Sadie Mathis will be playing soccer at Boston College.

About twenty minutes later, the Mutiny were given a penalty kick following a foul inside the box.

Taylor Jenkins, who also plays at UConn, put the PK into the right corner making the score 2-0.

A couple of local players who played in the home match are Maddy Theriault (Palmer), Tennessee Murphy (Monson) Kylie Ray (Minnechaug), Bella Meadows (Pope Francis/Chicopee) Olivia Crespo (Ludlow), and Avery Klingensmith (Belchertown).

The New England Mutiny will be one of the four teams competing in the inaugural Brandi Chastain Cup. The Mutiny will be facing Richmond Ivy of the USL W-league at City

Stadium in Richmond, VA. On Thursday night.

"It's really special for us to be regarded as one of the top teams in our league," said Klingensmith, who's is a member of the American University women's soccer "We're very exciting about playing in that game. The team that we'll be playing has some quality players, so it'll be a challenging match for us."

If the Mutiny defeats Richmond Ivy, they'll be hosting the finals of the Brandi Chastain Cup on June 18 at Lusitano Stadium. The California Storm beat Pan World Elite, 4-1, in the other semifinal, which was held in May.

The Mutiny will also play two regular season road matches against NJ Alliance and the Ole' Eagles before returning home to face Racing Power FC on June 14.

Rain hurts racing schedule

WINCHESTER, NH – Once again, Mother Nature has forced the Management of Monadnock Speedway to cancel the Saturday, June 7 event.

Next event will be on Saturday, June 14 featuring the Teddy Bear Pools & Spas Triple Crown Series and Open Track Party.

If Saturday, June 14 rains out, the speedway is working on approval to hold that race on Sunday, June 15.

Email us at sports@turley.com

Public Notices

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD25C0191CA
In the matter of: Isaac Wycliffe Bayne
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME
A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Isaac Wycliffe Bayne of Holyoke, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Val Wycliffe Bayne
IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/02/2025.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.

Date: June 04, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
06/13/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD25C0183CA
In the matter of: Jose Antonio Cartagena
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME
A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Jose Antonio Cartagena of Holyoke, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Joseph Anthony Franqui
IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/30/2025.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance

if you object to this proceeding. WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.

Date: June 04, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
06/13/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD25P1166GD
In the matter of: Matthew Drum
Of: Holyoke, MA
RESPONDENT
Alleged Incapacitated Person
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Department of Mental Health of Northampton, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Matthew Drum is in need of a Guardian and requesting that (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond. The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of **06/30/2025.** This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named

person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M. Hyland, First Justice of this Court.

Date: June 02, 2025
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
06/13/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD25P0999EA
Estate of: Lawrence Emil Jodoin
Also known as: Lawrence E Jodoin
Date of Death: 11/17/2024
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for S/A -Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Harriet N Jodoin of Chicopee, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Stanley A Szlachetka, Esq. of Chicopee, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration. **IMPORTANT NOTICE** You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/02/2025.** This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without

further notice to you. **UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**

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

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.

Date: June 04, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
06/13/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD25P1185EA
Estate of: Robert F Loughrey
Date of Death: 03/19/2025
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Robert J Loughrey of South Hadley, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Robert J Loughrey of South Hadley, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration. **IMPORTANT NOTICE** You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/02/2025.** This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must

file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.

Date: June 04, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
06/13/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD25A0048AD
In the matter of: Muziik Ishmayah Otero
CITATION G.L. c. 210, §6

To: Yancy Marie Otero any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth. A petition has been presented to said court by: Nancy Otero of Springfield, MA requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed. If you object to this adoption you are entitled to the appointment of an attorney if you are an indigent person. An indigent person is defined by SJC Rule 3.10. The definition includes but is not limited to persons receiving TAFDC, EACDC, poverty related veteran's benefits, Medicaid, and SSI. The Court will determine if you are indigent. Contact an Assistant Judicial Case Manager or Adoption Clerk of the Court on or before the date listed below to obtain the necessary forms. **IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT Springfield ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON: 06/19/2025.** WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.

Date: May 22, 2025
Rosemary A. Saccomani

06/13/2025

06/13/2025

06/13/2025

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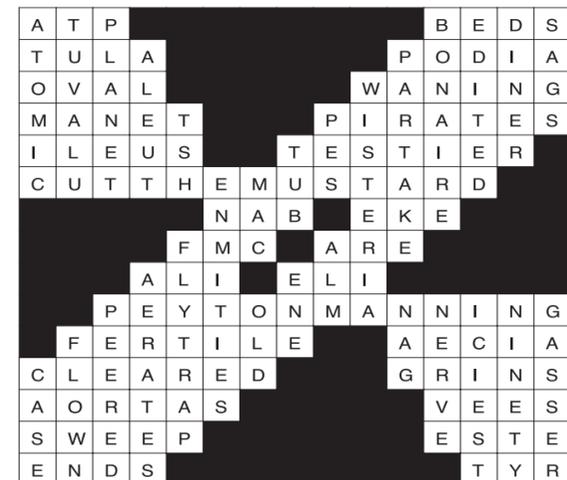
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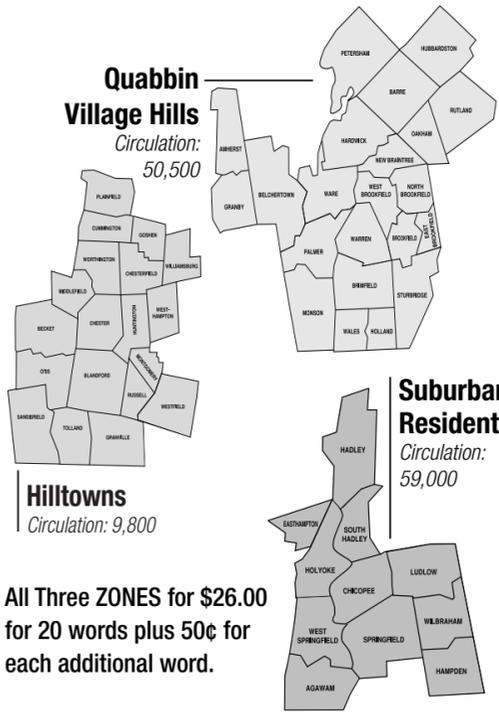
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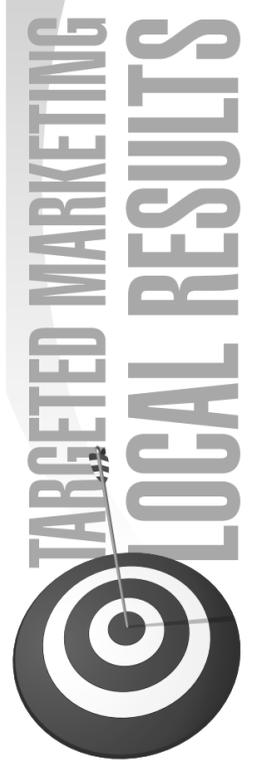
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PIONEERS, from page 9

serves around 800 athletes, half boys and half girls, from ages 4 through high school. The program has grown into a vital part of the regional soccer landscape, nurturing talent and fostering community spirit.

“Tonight is about all 37 of our graduating seniors,” said Chaves. “Whether they’re going on to play in college or moving forward in life in other ways, we’re proud of them. We want to recognize the dedication and passion they’ve shown not just to the sport, but to our community.”

Names of all the graduates were read aloud during the halftime ceremony, receiving enthusiastic applause from the packed stands. The full list includes:

Katelyn Gilhooly, Calleigh Foley, Avery D’Amour, Allison Morris, Mia Carvalho, Evan Costa, Sophia Scyocurka, Brianna Ribeiro, Robert Bustamante, Ethan Sousa, Eleanor Leland, Colette Thayer, Taylor Colberg, Taryn Cariveau, Madeline Hockman, Parker Tunley, Gabriella Fialho, Lilliana Barkyoub, Derke Lonczak, Ryan Baublitz, Madison Rathbone, Norah Walsh, Nicholas Byrnes, Matthew Ryan, Loretta Petraszewicz, Carlos David, Thomas Wadas, Otis Chuan, Pasquale D’Ascoli, Helen Vissas, Casimir Pierre, Chloe Laizer, Joey Borelli, Abigail

Toomey, Ryleigh Remillard, Fallon Clancy, and Hudson Manzolini.

The evening also marked a confluence of tradition and celebration. Lusitano Stadium, one of the nation’s oldest soccer-specific stadiums, served as a fitting venue for such an occasion. Built in the 1920s, the walled stadium is home to both the Western Mass Pioneers (USL League Two) and the New England Mutiny (United Women’s Soccer), both of which maintain strong ties to the junior academy.

“What makes this place special is the culture,” said Chaves. “It’s intimate, it’s family-driven. You’ve got volunteers in the kitchen and at the bar. You’ve got local beer and Portuguese sandwiches being served. It feels like home.”

Despite dreary weather earlier in the day, spirits remained high following the club’s spring picnic held before the match. Over 450 players, families, and supporters turned out for the event, which blended the grassroots spirit of the club with the professionalism of a matchday experience.

“Our kids had their picnic in the rain, and then they stayed for the game,” Chaves said. “That’s what community looks like.”

As the Pioneers look to the future, leadership remains committed to fostering talent through experienced coaching and mentorship. The junior program’s Director of Coaching,



Maddy Theriault, of Palmer, makes her Mutiny season debut in their most recent home game.



Taylor Jenkins tries to out run an opponent.



Olivia Crespo makes her way up the field.



Avery Klingensmith sends the ball deep.



Laci Lewis looks to deke out an opponent.

Federico Molinari, brings the professional playing experience from Argentina and Italy and also serves as head coach for both the Mutiny and the men’s pro team.

“We’re a nonprofit,

and what sets us apart is the soccer-specific culture and family atmosphere,” Chaves said. “We’re not just building players...we’re building people.”

As the night concluded,

seniors posed for photos, hugged their teammates, and soaked in the applause one final time as youth players of the Western United Pioneers FC. The send-off was not only a tribute to past

accomplishments but a call to future greatness.

“You will always be part of our family,” said Chaves. “And we look forward to seeing the amazing things you’ll accomplish next.”

SOX, from page 9

being hesitant initially on his steal. Blue Sox Head Coach Endy Morales likes to stay aggressive even if it does not always workout.

“I want to get starting [opposing pitchers] out of the game. If we can put pressure on early and steal runs on their miscues, I want to do that,” Morales said. “[Elko] hesitated and was not quite ready but we’re going to continue to be aggressive.”

The game remained at 2-2 until extra innings started in the top of the tenth. In extra innings in the New

England Collegiate Baseball League, a runner starts on second base to start the inning and for the Waves that was Kolton Reynolds. Valley’s pitcher Ethan Slowik started the inning for the Blue Sox. Slowik threw a wild pitch and Reynolds was able to steal third base easily.

Ocean State’s Left fielder Zach Plasschaert hit a nice single to drive in Reynolds to push the Waves in front 3-2. Plasschaert stole second to put another runner in scoring position for his team. The Blue Sox managed to get one out but then Slowik balked, leading to two run-

ners on base. Slowik’s struggles continued as he walked yet another batter to load the bases.

Waves’ first baseman Jack LaRose hit a pop fly ball for the second out of the inning. Ocean State did not allow the last out to come easy. Slowik walked second baseman Sam Seidel with the bases loaded and the Waves jumped out in front by another run to make it 4-2. Center fielder Greger hit a beautiful line drive to drive in two more insurance runs, helping the Waves cruise out in front 6-2. Slowik was taken out of the game after that

hit. Carson Walsh came in to pitch for Valley and got them out of the inning down 6-2. Heading into the bottom of the tenth would be a tough comeback for the Blue Sox.

Ocean State’s pitcher Andrew Rogovic had his struggles on the mound as first baseman Chris Walsh stole third. The designated hitter for Valley Rees Kozar put up a fight in his ten pitch at bat, but was eventually walked to leave runners on the corner bases. The Blue Sox called in a pinch hitter for Wyatt Hunt which was Nicholas Spaventa. Spaventa had a great at bat hitting a

single to knock in a run to make it a score of 6-3.

Rogovic had another wild pitch allowing runners to advance to second and third. Blue Sox’s Bak was walked a third time this game to load the bases up yet again for Valley. Carr stepped up to the plate and was drilled by a fast ball to cut the deficit to two runs. Left fielder Sebastian Mexico reached first base on a walk to make the game 6-5.

The Waves saw enough of Rogovic and made a pitching change to bring in Kayden Faulcon. Ocean State was able to get one

out from Valley before third baseman Michael O’Conor was hit by a pitch to tie the game at six apiece. The shortstop for the Blue Sox stepped up to the plate. Keeping his calm, cool composure, Elko ripped a ball out of reach for the Waves and walked it off for Valley in the bottom of the tenth. The Blue Sox head coach was impressed with how his team played today.

“We learn from our mistakes, [last night’s 4-3 loss to North Shore]. We faced adversity last night but I knew we’d learn from it,” Morales said.

Send Us Your Autumn Event Information

Turley Publications will print your Autumn event **FREE OF CHARGE** in our **Autumn Fest Supplement** which will be published **September 10, 2025.**

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Deadline for Calendar submissions is August 11.

Community Autumn Events

Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

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Event Name _____

Date/Time _____

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Contact name & phone number for more information _____

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