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Committee moves study group forward

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

HOLYOKE – A City Council subcommittee voted this past Tuesday unanimously to move forward with a revised proposal about the formation of a Data Center Study Committee, which will now be sent to the full council for a decision after a long and lengthy discussion.

The official revision of the order kept intact that the group would consist of 13 in total, which looks to feature one member Holyoke Water Works or the Water Commission, Holyoke Gas & Electric (HG&E), the Conservation Commission, the Planning Department, along with the Massachusetts Green High Performance (MGHPCC), along with the newly amended inclusion of dropping the requirement of a City Council Rep. in favor of adding a rep from the Board of Health or the Health Commission, and increased the total from one community rep to seven, which will now include two

See **STUDY**, page 10

FREE BIRD



Resident Dennis Lee captured a hawk recently in front of an American flag in the city.

Submitted photo

Man found dead in motel

HOLYOKE – The Massachusetts State Police Detective Unit assigned to the Hampden District Attorney's Office, in conjunction with the Holyoke Police Department and Hartford Connecticut Police Department, investigated the death of a Connecticut man at a Holyoke motel on Thursday, June 18.

At approximately 8 a.m., investigators were notified that a vehicle sought in connection with a homicide investigation in Hartford, Connecticut, had been located at a motel in Holyoke. The vehicle was initially observed by an off-duty Massachusetts State Police dispatcher who recognized it while driving home from work and reported the sighting to authorities. The vehicle, a 2024 Mitsubishi Outlander, had been identified by the Hartford Police Department as being associated with Chad Petipias, 46, of Uncasville, Connecticut.

See **MOTEL**, page 10

Community celebrates Juneteenth

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

HOLYOKE – Exactly one week ago, the Wistariahurst Museum hosted its 4th annual 'Juneteenth Celebration,' which captured the attention and focus of the Paper City on Friday, June 19.

As hundreds of attendees stopped by and were treated to a variety of activities, such as author spotlights, a storyteller, food trucks, an interactive art project, and countless vendors.

And before festivities kicked off, Holyoke Mayor Joshua Garcia took a moment to reflect upon the importance of the

national holiday.

"I feel Juneteenth is the first step towards offering a space for citizens and neighbors to come together and have the ability to reflect and understand the challenges that our history contains," Garcia said. "Because the truth is I feel that it's important to remember that even though our history isn't perfect, it is now up to us to have the conversation and understand their's still plenty of work still to be done, and with Holyoke being a non-traditional city, we will always offer the opportunity to celebrate all walks of

life, because no matter the background everyone is always welcome, and that's a message I will continue to provide while we pursue a better future, compared to the past we have left behind."

Echoing similar sentiments was Museum Director Megan Seiler.

"So this is our 4th year, and were really excited to have Eshu Bumpus back for storytime, we got DJ Pzo Pete back, we got Voices of Praise, and we feel it's our goal to raise the bar from the year prior, while holding onto the value of knowing it's truly a special honor to have the platform to play host to this event, while staying true to honoring and

respecting the importance of Juneteenth." She then continued her thoughts, sharing, "We all feel and want this holiday to be celebrated for what it truly is, while understanding what this represents not only to our community but the country as well, because it's important to remember that representation matters," Seiler said. "And we feel this is a day of connection as we offer and extend the invite to other organizations to have a chance to showcase their work, and celebrate actual freedom."

She then pivoted to discuss the initial along the fence line interactive art exhibit, which caught the attention of many throughout the afternoon.

"So today we are creating and allowing those here to join and partake in 'On The Fence Line' art exhibit," she said. "The process is really cool, the premise is you come up, create a painting, and then later on, on it becomes a fence line exhibit, so you can walk and learn about influential black people from the region and the country. So later on, we look to

See **CELEBRATE** page 12

Data center incentives halted by governor

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

HOLYOKE – In addition, adding to the overall narrative in terms of Data Centers in the commonwealth, last week, Gov. Maura Healey did announce that she will not accept applications for data center tax incentives until further notice, as she simultaneously rolled out the guidance that she had pledged would focus on energy independence and environmental impacts.

According to reports, Healey said the hold on applications for the 20-year sales and use tax exemption for qualified data centers, which she agreed to as part of a 2024 economic development law, will remain in effect "until we have strong protections in place for our residents and communities against higher gas and electric bills."

Final regulations launched the exemption last month, but Healey's administration said it had not yet received any applications for the incentives.

"Data centers can support innovation and economic growth, but if developers want to build in

Massachusetts, they need to first demonstrate that they can do so without driving up costs or harming our communities," Healey said.

In addition, the Healey administration has publicly acknowledged that it has embraced the artificial intelligence industry that is driving much of the data center boom but remains steadfast in ensuring to shore up state environmental protections. As last month during a radio interview, this month Healey laid out her "absolutely imperative" guiding principles for data centers: "you can't suck energy off the grid and hurt other ratepayers, and you can't do harm to our environment, especially when it comes to water." Adding to this, Healey's framework also states that data center projects "are expected to bring their own clean energy, avoid shifting or increasing costs to other energy consumers, protect environmental and community health, avoid placing additional environmental and social burdens on already Burdened Areas, and contribute meaningfully to the local and state economy and clean energy goals."



Turley photos by Brendan Rooney
Local author Patricia Spradley holds her book Positive on Purpose before her booth gets filled with people.

Pastor Bernard Smith from Bethlehem Baptist Community Church takes the mic.

Dino Trail Week stomps back in July

HOLYOKE – Stomp through the Connecticut River Valley and beyond to uncover the local history of dinosaurs at an array of dinosaur events. Dino Trail Week is being held July 11 to 19, with so many events to explore. Events are being hosted by Piti Theatre, Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association,

the Beneski Museum of Natural History, Springfield Museums, Wistariahurst Museum, Great Falls Discovery Center, Jurassic Roadshow, Dinosaur State Park, and The Trustees of Reservations' Dinosaur Footprints in Holyoke. These organizations offer a series of family-friendly events to engage people of all ages

with our region's unique dinos and local history. All events are free or free with general admission tickets.

Last year, these organizations joined forces to create the Connecticut River Valley's own Dino Trail, with its own Dino Trail Week, which drew 500+

See **DINO**, page 10

State Senator John Velis files bill related to data centers

HOLYOKE – As Massachusetts continues to navigate rising utility demands and the accelerating growth of the datacenter industry, State Senator John C. Velis today announced the filing of a comprehensive amendment to ensure that data centers—not residents, local communities, or small businesses—bear the full cost of all electricity and water consumption.

The amendment, which inserts a new section into M.G.L. Chapter 164, establishes firm ratepayer protections, wateruse safeguards, and full financial account-

ability for any data center operating at or above 20 megawatts. These legislative efforts come after continued public advocacy from Senator Velis on this issue.

“Massachusetts must continue to be a national leader in technological advancement. But innovation cannot—and will not—come at the expense of our residents,” said Senator Velis. “Families are already feeling financial pressure, and no community should be asked to subsidize the staggering electric and water needs of these massive facilities. This amendment makes

one thing clear: data centers must pay their own way.”

Key Provisions of Amendment #140 – Data Center Cost Responsibility

The newly filed amendment requires:

- Full electricinfrastructure cost responsibility — Data centers must cover all direct and indirect utility system costs associated with serving their facilities. No portion may be shifted onto ratepayers.
- Binding costrecovery and financialassurance mechanisms — Each data center must enter enforceable agreements and provide finan-

cial security to guarantee full reimbursement of utility infrastructure and service costs.

- Transparency and reporting standards — Electric distribution companies must separately track and report all datacenterrelated expenses, engineering studies, and costallocation analyses.
- Mandatory watercompatibility reviews — Before any municipal contract is approved, a facility must obtain a Water Compatibility Statement certifying that its usage will not jeopardize local drinkingwater reliability.

- Droughtresponse requirements — Data centers must adhere to local and state droughtmanagement mandates, reducing water usage during declared drought periods just as large industrial users must.
- Annual publicsupply reporting — Facilities must provide annual summaries of total withdrawals, reclaimed-water use, and estimated consumption to local water suppliers.

Filed to legislation being taken up by the Senate this week, the amendment from Senator Velis will be considered during the Senate’s

debate tomorrow. Senator Velis also noted he will continue to pursue this issue regardless of the amendment’s outcome.

“This amendment is about fairness, accountability, and ensuring that Massachusetts communities are never left footing the bill,” Velis added. “I’m grateful for the collaborative work done so far by state agencies, municipalities, and my colleagues in the legislature, and I will continue pushing for balanced, responsible oversight of datacenter development statewide.”

HMC recognized for excellence

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Medical Center (HMC) has once again received the American Heart Association’s Get With The Guidelines - Stroke Gold Plus quality achievement award. The hospital has received this award based on their commitment to ensuring people experiencing stroke receive timely, appropriate treatment based on nationally recognized, research-based guidelines, ultimately helping to save lives and reduce disability. HMC has been recognized annually with Get With The Guidelines Stroke awards since 2007.

HMC also received the American Heart Association’s Target: Stroke Elite Plus award. To qualify for this recognition, hospitals must meet specific criteria that reduce the time between an eligible patient’s arrival at the hospital and treatment

with thrombolytic therapy.

Additionally, HMC received the American Heart Association’s Target: Type 2 Diabetes™ Honor Roll award. Target: Type 2 Diabetes aims to ensure patients with Type 2 diabetes, who might be at higher risk for complications, receive the most up-to-date, evidence-based care when hospitalized due to stroke.

As a Primary Stroke Center, HMC meets specific scientific guidelines featuring a comprehensive system for rapid diagnosis and treatment of stroke patients admitted to the emergency department. HMC also educates patients to help them manage their health and recovery at home.

Stroke is the number four cause of death and a leading cause of disability in the United States, according to the American Heart Association’s 2026 Heart Disease and Stroke Statistics

Report. A stroke occurs when a blood vessel supplying the brain is blocked by a clot or ruptures, preventing blood and oxygen from reaching brain tissue. When this happens, brain cells begin to die. Early detection and rapid treatment are critical to improving survival, minimizing disability and supporting faster recovery.

Get With The Guidelines brings the expertise of the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association into hospitals nationwide, helping ensure patient care is aligned with the latest research- and evidence-based guidelines. Get With The Guidelines - Stroke is an in-hospital program designed to improve stroke care through consistent adherence to these guidelines, which can minimize long-term effects of stroke and help prevent death.

Women’s Fund of Western Massachusetts awards \$195,000 in local area grants

SPRINGFIELD – The Women’s Fund of Western Massachusetts (The Fund) is pleased to announce \$195,000 in general cycle grant awards to 17 organizations serving women, girls, and gender-diverse people across Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, and Hampshire counties in June.

The Fund’s total fiscal-year grant cycle, between August 2025 and June 2026, awarded \$450,000 in community investment grants that were distributed throughout the 4-county region.

The Fund highlighted their 30-year anniversary of grantmaking to reflect on decades-long partnerships throughout Western Massachusetts, while inviting new partners to expand its network. “This is an opportunity to reflect on 30 years of grantmaking,” says Kelley Bryant, Director of Grantmaking and Impact at the Fund. “The Community Investments committee, board, and staff sought to invest in close partners and new partners that sustain local communities and fuel

gender equity in Western Massachusetts.”

Julia Keosaian, Executive Director of Berkshire Nursing Families, adds, “This support strengthens our ability to provide free, compassionate perinatal and lactation care to families across our region during one of the most vulnerable and transformative times of their lives. Maternal and child health in the Berkshires depends on the kind of sustained, community-centered investment that the Women’s Fund has championed—and we’re proud to be partners in that work.”

Turmoil in the national funding landscape is causing instability for organizations providing direct support in the region. “This investment in our organization comes at a meaningful time...flexible funding such as this allows us to remain responsive, innovative, and grounded in our mission of supporting and uplifting our community,” says Jasarah Burgos, Executive Director, Enlace de Familias / Holyoke Family Network.

Grantees from this cycle

reflect The Fund’s focus areas of leadership, economic security, and freedom from gender-based violence. The awarded organizations include: Amherst Survival Center, Arise for Social Justice, Berkshire Nursing Families, Community Action Pioneer Valley, Enlace de Familias/Holyoke Family Network, Flying Cloud Institute, Gardening the Community, Girls Inc. of the Valley, Girls on the Run, Neighbor to Neighbor, Northampton Survival Center, Planned Parenthood - Western Massachusetts Health Center of Springfield, Rites of Passage and Empowerment, Salasin Project, The Care Center, The Heartwing Center, and Volunteers in Medicine Berkshires.

Grant funding is provided by donors and foundations that rely on The Fund’s knowledge of regional gender-equity challenges and expertise in identifying promising solutions. Support gender equity and become a donor at mywomensfund.org/give-now/.

Holyoke Community College president, board selected for national collaborative

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College President George Timmons and the HCC Board of Trustees have been selected to join the second cohort of the Aspen Presidents & Trustees Collaborative.

This year-long initiative, led by the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program, brings together colleges nationwide to strengthen alignment between boards and presidential leadership and advance long-term student success.

Through this collaboration, President Timmons and

HCC trustees will engage with national experts and peer institutions, learning from best practices of Aspen Prize-winning colleges and leveraging Aspen’s Trustee Framework. The goal is to build sustainable governance practices that drive meaningful reforms in student success.

According to the Aspen Institute, “Aspen’s research into community college excellence reveals that long-term, scaled change depends on college presidents and trustees having a shared understanding of why student-outcome reforms are

needed, agreeing on prioritized reform strategies, and aligning their review of metrics, policies, and budgets to those priorities.”

The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program aims to strengthen higher education leadership and practice to improve student outcomes, with the ultimate goal of advancing economic mobility and developing talent for the good of each individual and society as a whole.

Learn more about the program: <https://as.pn/presidentsandtrusteescollaborative>.

Trinity United brings back summer concert series

SPRINGFIELD – After a several-year hiatus, the historic Summer Carillon Concert Series is returning to Trinity United Methodist Church, 361 Sumner Avenue, Springfield, with concerts each Thursday evening in July at 7 p.m. The concerts are free and open to the public.

“Following a hiatus due to the COVID pandemic, summer Carillon concerts at Trinity are resuming,” said Dr. Bruce Glenn, Director of Music Ministries at Trinity United Methodist Church. “With bells weighing up to 8,000 pounds, our nearly 100-year-old carillon will again ring on each Thursday evening in July.”

Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets, a picnic dinner, and non-alcoholic beverages. Complimentary water and desserts will be provided by the church, and food trucks will be available beginning at 6 p.m.

This year’s concert series features an outstanding lineup of nationally and internationally recognized carillonists: Check out their details on our website:

www.trintysprigfield.org

- **July 2:** Ellen Dickinson
University Carillonneur at Yale University and Trinity College Hartford
- **July 9:** Margaret Angelini
College Carillonneur at Wellesley College
- **July 16:** Jeremy Ng
Recent Yale University graduate who studied carillon performance in Belgium
- **July 23:** Jennifer Hermann
Boston-area attorney and freelance carillonneur performing regularly throughout New England.
- **July 30:** Paul Stelben
Philadelphia-based freelance carillonneur and published arranger of music for the carillon.

Trinity’s carillon has been an important musical and architectural landmark in Springfield for nearly a century. The instrument was given to the church and the Springfield community by prominent businessman Horace A. Moses. The Springfield Republican reported on April 27, 1927, that Moses announced plans for what was then described

as a 60-bell carillon weighing approximately 48,000 pounds. The article noted that Moses envisioned the bells as “a gift to the community as a whole rather than to Trinity church itself.”

The carillon was dedicated on September 11, 1928. Cast by the renowned British foundry Taylor, the instrument today consists of 48 bells and includes an identical practice console.

In 2024, the carillon underwent a major restoration by Meeks, Watson & Company LLC. The 2026 concert season comes just two years after that restoration and serves as an early celebration leading toward the carillon’s 100th anniversary in 2028.

“The carillon has been part of Springfield’s soundscape for nearly a century,” said Dr. Glenn. “These concerts celebrate not only a remarkable musical instrument, but also the generosity of Horace A. Moses and the community that has preserved this treasure for future generations. We are delighted to once again share its music with the city.”

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HMC wins patient experience award

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Medical Center, an independent community hospital, was recently named the winner of the 2026 Swaay. Health Patient Experience Program of the Year Award. The award was presented at the annual Swaay.Health LIVE event in Foxboro, MA.

The Swaay.Health Awards celebrate the achievements, excellence, and creativity of healthcare marketers, PR professionals, communications leaders,

and patient experience advocates nationwide. Holyoke Medical Center was recognized specifically for the hospital’s mobile pre-check process, which allows patients to provide their personal registration information directly and securely through cell phone, computer, in-office kiosk or iPad. The process begins with an appointment reminder message via text or email a few days in advance with a secure link to the mobile registration.

“Holyoke Medical Center is at the forefront of using technology to improve the patient experience,” says Carl Cameron, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Holyoke Medical Center and Valley Health Systems. “We are very proud of our team, those patient-facing as well as behind the scenes, for working together and creating a better, secure, more private process for our patients.”

This award goes to the

provider organization that puts patients at the heart of everything. It’s for the program that turns everyday care into an experience that feels personal, seamless, and respectful. Through innovative technology, compassionate design, and a commitment to truly listening, the winner proves that when patients feel heard and cared for, everybody wins.

The 2026 awards program was highly competitive, making the recognition particularly meaningful.

“Winning a Swaay. Health Award is no small feat. We received hundreds of high-quality nominations. This year’s winners were truly the best of the best,” said Colin Hung, Editor-in-Chief at Swaay.Health.

“Swaay.Health has always been about lifting each other up,” explained John Lynn, founder of Swaay.Health. “We feel it is our duty to share the good work being done by others so that we can all learn. The 2026 winners are inspiring.”

Restoration grave work continues

HOLYOKE – The Veterans Services will host a graves restoration event on Saturday, July 18, at the Calvary Cemetery, 2140 Northampton Street. The event will begin at 10 am. Rain Date will be July 25. Tools and supplies will be provided. There are no hazardous chemicals used in the process of restoration. Contact Wayne Klinge at klingew@holyoke.org or 413-322-5630.

Behavioral Health expert offers heat safety tips to help prevent serious illness

HOLYOKE – With Massachusetts experiencing another period of extreme heat, MiraVista Behavioral Health Center is reminding community members that high temperatures can pose unique health risks for individuals taking certain medications used to treat mental health conditions.

While anyone can become ill during periods of excessive heat, some psychiatric medications may affect the body’s ability to regulate temperature, reduce sweating, or increase the risk of dehydration. MiraVista is encouraging patients, caregivers, and healthcare providers to be especially mindful of heat safety and to recognize the warning signs of heat-related illness.

“Many psychiatric medications are both safe and effective, but some can make it more difficult for the body to regulate temperature or maintain proper hydration,” said Kenneth Richmond, MD, MSOL,

FAPA, Medical Director of MiraVista Behavioral Health Center. “During periods of extreme heat, patients should take extra precautions, stay well hydrated, and never stop taking their medication without first speaking with their healthcare provider.”

Dr. Richmond emphasized that medications should never be discontinued or adjusted because of hot weather without first consulting the prescribing clinician.

“Behavioral health doesn’t exist separately from physical health,” Dr. Richmond added. “Something as simple as staying hydrated, recognizing the early signs of heat illness, and checking in on a loved one during a heat wave can help prevent a medical emergency. If you have questions about your medications or how they may be affected by extreme temperatures, reach out to your healthcare provider before making any changes.”

Tips for Staying Safe

- Drink water regular-

ly throughout the day, even before you feel thirsty.

- Spend time in air-conditioned buildings whenever possible.
- Wear lightweight, loose-fitting clothing.
- Avoid prolonged outdoor activity during the hottest hours of the day.
- Check on family members, friends, neighbors, and others who may be more vulnerable to heat-related illness.

Know the Warning Signs

Seek immediate medical attention if you or someone you know experiences:

- Confusion or unusual drowsiness
- Dizziness or fainting
- Severe headache
- Nausea or vomiting
- Muscle cramps
- Rapid heartbeat
- Difficulty cooling down despite being indoors or in the shade
- A high body temperature or loss of consciousness

“Summer should be a time for enjoying the out-

doors and spending time with family and friends,” Dr. Richmond added. “With a little extra awareness and preparation, most heat-related illnesses can be prevented.”

MiraVista Behavioral Health Center encourages anyone with concerns about their medications or behavioral health to speak with their healthcare provider. Those experiencing a medical emergency should call 911 immediately.



Second Annual Elks Music Festival set for July 19

HOLYOKE – The Second Annual Holyoke Elks Music Festival will take place on Sunday, July 19 from 12 to 6 p.m. located at 250 Whitney Ave.

Enjoy an afternoon of outstanding live music featuring some of the area’s favorite bands and performers across three separate venues (weather permitting), including:

- The 60’s Experience
 - 91 South
 - Joe Canata and The Memories
 - CO2
 - Patty Curran and Dave Motroni (from Off The Record)
 - Midnight Ramblers
 - The Storytellers
 - Union Jack British Invasion Band
- Tickets are \$20 for

adults, \$5 for children ages 5–12, and free for children under 5. Tickets are available at the Holyoke Elks Rathskellar Bar and a limited number will be available the day of the event.

Join us for a wonderful afternoon of great music, food, and fellowship at one of Holyoke’s most treasured and valuable assets, the Holyoke Lodge of Elks #902.

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**Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is 3.75% as of July 6, 2026. Minimum deposit to open and earn the stated APY is \$500. A new or existing Florence Bank personal checking account is required to open the certificate of deposit and receive the stated APY. This account must be opened in person and is not available online. A penalty may be imposed for early withdrawal. Interest will be compounded monthly and credited to the account monthly. Fees may reduce earnings. Offer may be withdrawn at any time.

SOCIAL SECURITY
Matters
By Russell Gloor



When should my wife claim Social Security?

Dear Rusty:
We could use guidance on optimum dates for my spouse to begin taking Social Security.

She doesn't have enough work credits on her own, so she will be using mine for spousal benefits. I was born in 1955, and I now get \$3,886 in monthly SS benefits.

My wife was born in 1961. We currently receive about \$50,000 per year in royalties and VA disability payments that will stop upon my death.

So, with that in mind, can you suggest optimum dates for my wife to claim, based on my projected death in early 2027 or early 2030? My wife is very healthy and will likely live beyond 2040.

Of course no one can predict their own passing; these are just random dates I came up with based on probabilities with my health issues.

Signed: Planning Ahead

Dear Planning Ahead:

Life expectancy and financial need are primary factors for your wife to consider at this point, plus whether she is now working. Her Full Retirement Age for Social Security purposes is age 67 and, if she takes her spouse benefit before that, the monthly amount will be reduced by about 8.3% for each year early, and she will also be subject to Social Security's Annual Earning Test, which limits how much she can earn from working prior to reaching her FRA.

Statistically, your wife's life expectancy is about 87 that's the average longevity for a woman your wife's current age. Even though she isn't eligible for her own SS retirement benefits, she can still get a spousal benefit while you are both living and will get an even higher surviving spouse benefit when you die.

That's because her spousal benefit while both living will be based on 50% of your Full Retirement Age entitlement, but your wife's surviving spouse benefits when you die will be based upon 100% of the benefit you were receiving at your death.

Generally, if you believe you will pass within the next few years and your wife isn't working, her best option would be to claim her regular spouse benefit now.

Although she will initially get less than 50% of your FRA entitlement, that amount will be replaced automatically by her higher survivor benefit when you pass. Depending on her age when you pass, she will get the full \$3,886 monthly amount you are receiving at your death plus any COLA yet to be awarded.

If that happens before she reaches her full retirement age, her monthly survivor amount will be actuarially reduced based upon how far before her FRA it is claimed. Generally, the survivor benefit reduction will be about 4.75% for each full year claimed early about .396% for each month early.

So, to a large degree, your wife's options for spouse and survivor ben-

efits are based on your expected longevity. If you have reason to believe you will pass within the next few years, then your wife should probably claim her spousal benefit now while you are both living.

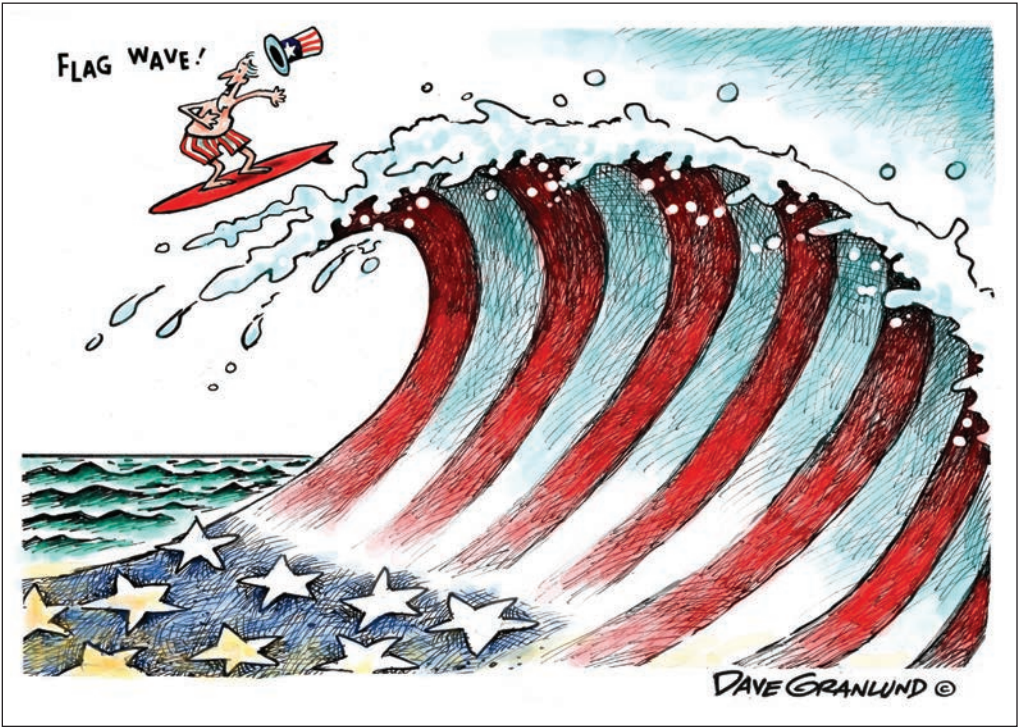
Because she is a bit shy of 65 years old, her initial SS spouse benefit will be reduced she'll get about 42% of your FRA benefit amount, instead of the 50% she would get if she claimed at age 67.

She can collect that amount until you die, at which time she will receive her survivor's benefit as your widow. If she has reached age 67 when that happens, your wife's benefit will become the same as yours was when you died, the \$3,986, plus any COLA since awarded.

And she will collect that higher SS survivor benefit for the remainder of her life which, from what you've shared, would likely be about 20+ years. Assuming her life expectancy is at least average, that is how your wife would get the most cumulative Social Security benefits over her lifetime.

As you have said, no one can predict how long they will live, but from the information you've provided, I expect that the above would likely be your wife's best Social Security strategy. And, for the record, I admire you exploring your wife's options in advance. I hope this answers your question, but rest assured we are always here if you need any further information.

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.



Reminiscing brings butterflies to mind

My husband and I were sitting on the porch reminiscing.

To be honest I felt a bit melancholy. Where has time gone?

With empty nesting feeling like it's right around the corner, it's easy to drift back in time and wish just for a moment that the kids were little again.

Boy, did we read lots of books. I remember one of the girls' favorites was "Butterfly Count" by Sneed B. Collard III.

In honor of "days gone by," enjoy this column right out of the archives

The basic premise of the book highlights the North American Butterfly Association's Fourth of July butterfly count with a simple story of a mother and daughter counting butterflies at a prairie restoration site named after the girl's great great-grandmother Nora Belle.

When Nora traveled west as a child, "regal fritillaries by the thousands danced over the bluestem grasses, setting the prairie afire with butterfly wings" yet today they are gone, "their prairie homes are farms and houses now." The story ends with mother and daughter finding the rare butterfly in an undisturbed area of the preserve, the tiny cemetery in which her great great-grandparents are buried.

Reading the book got me thinking about what we

could do as gardeners to encourage healthy butterfly populations. According to the North American Butterfly Association

it isn't enough to simply choose specific flowering "nectar" plants to attract butterflies, we must also choose plants that will feed caterpillars- that way we are providing for the entire life cycle of the insect.

Some of the best nectar plants for our area include native wildflowers such as boneset, Joe-pye-weed, milkweed, black-eyed Susan and purple coneflower. Other common wildflowers like hawkweed, ox-eye daisy and Queen Anne's Lace make good nectar plants as well.

Top caterpillar food plants for our region include carrot, dill, parsley, fennel, milkweed, nasturtium and verberna.

The largest number of but-

terfly species will be drawn to our yards if we imitate how plants grow in the wild. To do so, we should install a diverse mixture of trees, shrubs, perennial and annual flowers and herbs that bloom throughout the growing season.

Trees such as aspens, willows, poplars, and wild cherry make great host plants for caterpillars. In addition, they give butterflies shelter from the wind, protection from predators and spots to roost at night.

A good habitat should also include some form of water source that will provide butterflies with additional moisture when dew and rain are scarce. "The Family Butterfly Book" by Rick Mikula (Storey Publishing, \$29.95) offers a fun project to make with your kids called a waterless pond.

Line a shallow hole in the garden with a trash bag, fill it with stones and add water. Dew will collect on the rocks in the morning and slide down the cracks.

Butterflies can land on the rocks and sip water from the crevices. Put a narrow band of sand around your pond and this area will serve double-duty as a "puddling station," a place for male butterflies to imbibe salts and minerals in preparation for mating.

Another important feature in a butterfly garden is a basking station. To be able to fly, these solar powered creatures must warm up.

In fact, Mikula reports that their flight muscles must achieve 83 degrees before lift-off!

Light colored stepping

See GARDEN, page 5



*in my*
BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer

John Kunhardt of Belchertown took this photo of a northern yellow warbler near Lake Wallace in Belchertown.

Northern yellow warblers are small, evenly proportioned songbirds with medium-length tails and rounded heads. They are 4.7 to 5.1 inches long. For a warbler, the straight, thin bill is relatively large.

Northern yellow warblers are uniformly yellow birds. Males are a bright, egg-yolk yellow with reddish streaks

on the underparts. Females are also yellow but appear slightly duller.

Both sexes flash yellow patches in the tail. The face is unmarked, accentuating the large black eye.

People may look for these warblers near the tops of tall shrubs and small trees.

They forage restlessly, with quick hops along small branches and twigs to glean caterpillars and other insects. Males sing their sweet, whistled songs from high perches.

Northern yellow warblers



Northern yellow warbler

breed in shrubby thickets and woods, particularly along watercourses and in wetlands. Common trees include willows, alders and cottonwoods across North America

In winter these warblers inhabit a variety of wooded habitats including mangroves, deciduous forests and tropical evergreen forests, as well as gardens, town plazas, second growth, brushy pastures, hedgerows, agricultural lands

and plantations.

Their song sounds like "sweet-sweet-sweet, I'm so sweet."

Yellow warblers usually build their nests in shrubs or small trees, typically 3 to 10 feet above the ground. The nest is often placed in dense foliage, making it difficult for predators to spot.

They commonly select willows, alders or other shrubs near water. The surrounding leaves provide camouflage and protection from harsh weather.

A typical yellow warbler clutch contains about three to five pale greenish or bluish white eggs with small brown or gray speckles.

The female incubates the eggs for roughly 11 to 12 days, rarely leaving the nest except to feed. Once the chicks hatch, both parents help feed them.

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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Feeding mealworms

After seeing a pair of bluebirds, I started putting out mealworms on the picnic table every day. I figured black bears would not bother with mealworms.

I was right and the birds ate them up quickly. Yes, the bluebirds came for the mealworms, but so did two catbirds and a male robin.

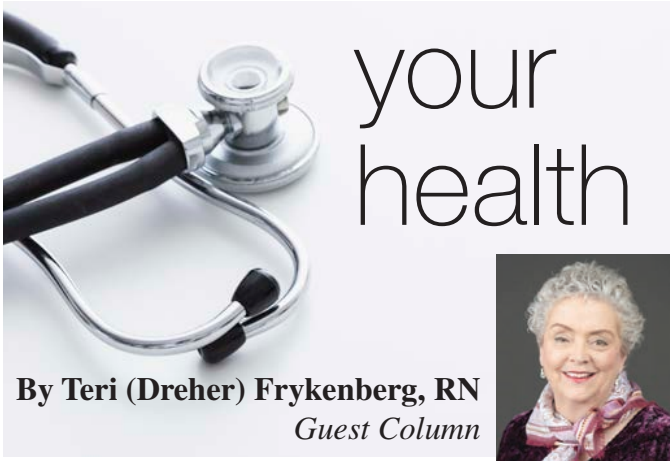
The other day the pair of catbirds landed on the table as I spread out the mealworms. I've noticed them check the table for mealworms before I put them out.

Red-shouldered hawk

A woman in Montgomery reported a red-shouldered hawk in her yard. It's one of the most distinctively marked common hawks with barred reddish-peachy underparts and a

See BIRDS, page 5

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By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN
Guest Column

Get out and stay out (of the hospital)

Getting out of the hospital is good. Having to return a week or a month later? Not so much.

With all of the attention hospitals and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) give to reducing rehospitalization rates, it's still a major challenge in health care. Discharge protocols, prevention strategies and penalties levied by CMS only go so far. Patients and their families have a big role to play.

And some need more help than they're perhaps willing to admit.

Hospital readmissions are often the result of a complex web of factors involved in transitioning from hospital to home, meaning that pinning down numbers and

exact causes is difficult. Researchers have identified the major reasons, generally broken down into medical or clinical factors and the "transition" gap.

Certain chronic conditions, such as heart failure and COPD, are most often involved in readmission within 30 days. Older, frail patients, those with multiple and complex conditions, those who experience surgical complications or who have diseases that gradually worsen are some of the most frequent readmissions.

What I've seen as a private patient advocate, however, has more to do with the gaps between hospital care and home care. This is where careful planning and communication, along with support

from loved ones or an advocate, can make all the difference in keeping you from being a "frequent flyer."

One of the most common reasons for hospital readmission is mismanagement of medications. Getting discharged sometimes means being presented with a more complicated medication regimen. You're told to stop taking some things, start these others, and take this one twice a day. If someone isn't there to ask what the meds do and confirm how they're supposed to be taken, medications can literally fall through the cracks.

Other issues with medications are affordability, side effects, a patient's vision or cognitive decline, and polypharmacy, the problem of multiple medications prescribed by different providers that shouldn't be taken together.

Another major gap is in follow-up care. During a discharge planning meeting, patients are often instructed to follow up with their primary care provider within seven to 10 days. Enforcing this, however, is hit-and-miss. Some

patients may not have a primary. Some may not have a ride to the doctor's office.

Ideally, the primary care practice will reach out after a hospitalization for follow-up, but if there's poor coordination between the hospital and the provider, this may not happen, especially if they happen to be in different health systems.

Then there's the discharge process itself. Some hospitals do a great job with this, assigning certain nurses to spend as much time as needed to help patients and families understand what needs to be done. But sometimes, it's a very rushed five-minute conversation leaving a lot of questions on the table.

If discharge instructions are too complex or not provided in a patient-friendly way, it becomes more difficult to recognize "red flag" symptoms before they become serious enough to require another hospital stay.

In my experience, some patients – eager to get home – are less than honest about the support system they have in

place. They may tell the discharge nurse that, of course, they can handle their personal needs (hygiene, meals, etc.), but if that's not the case, that patient may be facing a quick round-trip to the hospital. If you don't have support at home, the hospital's social worker or a patient advocate can help get it arranged.

The transition gap is sometimes wider because of what researchers call "social determinants of health": Does the patient live alone? Are they uninsured? Do they need an interpreter because English isn't their first language? Do they have transportation to follow-up appointments? Can they afford groceries needed for a healthier diet? All of these are critical issues, and they don't necessarily make it into the patient's medical record.

The hospitals don't want to see you back, so they are increasingly turning to our old friend A.I. to develop predictive tools that help them understand which patients are at the highest risk of returning before they even leave the hospital. One such measure is

the LACE Index, which looks at length of stay, acuity of admission, comorbidities and emergency department visits.

The effectiveness of these tools is not yet where it needs to be, unfortunately. So it's up to us humans – patients, families, medical professionals and advocates alike – to recognize post-hospital speed-bumps and do all we can to avoid them.

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, R.N., a registered nurse and board-certified patient advocate, is the founder of www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com, which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. A Monson, MA resident, she is the author of "How to Be a Healthcare Advocate for Yourself & Your Loved Ones" and her new book, "Advocating Well: Strategies for Finding Strength and Understanding in Health Care," available at Amazon.com. Contact her at Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com to set up a free phone consultation.

BIRDS, from page 4

strongly banded tail.

Wild turkey encounter

My daughter, Paula, was walking her dog, JoJo on the rail trail in Gilbertville along the river. A hen turkey was hidden on the side of the trail. She states, "When JoJo and I ran by, she flew up. One of the babies panicked and started running after mom flew off, which caused mom to charge at us making a bunch of noise."

She states, "JoJo and I sprinted a good 20 feet before she decided we weren't a threat anymore."

She continues, "But this was definitely the closest encounter we've ever had. JoJo now ranks turkeys in the 'scary' category along with Canada geese."

Brimfield birds

A Brimfield resident emailed, "A pair of yellow-bellied sapsuckers spent a few days visiting a native

dogwood tree in the yard awhile back. And we have seen a few warblers, a common yellowthroat checked me out when I was working in the garden yesterday. We have at least two male hummingbirds visiting the yard and feeders and at least one female."

He stated, "I saw a female rose-breasted grosbeak collecting nesting material so I'm going to look for a nest. Several years ago I found a grosbeak nest near our shed."

Osprey

The Brimfield resident stated in his email, "The Osprey nest in Warren looks like the chicks have hatched based on the behavior of an adult at the nest yesterday. In the past it is usually mid June before I see chicks in the nest. When they are very young osprey chicks mostly lay down in the nest waiting to be fed."

He reported four great

blue heron nests at the pond I visit in Warren where the Ospreys nest.

Bird count

The Brimfield resident also stated, "The Allen Bird Club of Springfield does a spring bird count each year in mid May. We use the Christmas Bird Count count circle, I have covered Ludlow since 1989. I only managed 50 species this year, partly because my hearing isn't what it used to be."

He stated, "I did manage to find a Tennessee and Parula warbler, about a dozen yellow-rumped warblers, two common loons, one each solitary and spotted sandpiper and a black-billed cuckoo. I hadn't seen a cuckoo in a few years."

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edownner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

GARDEN, from page 4

stones placed about the garden will reflect the sun, allowing the insects upper and lower wing surfaces to heat up at the same time.

After researching this arti-

cle I realize just how little I know about butterflies. Luckily, some of the plants mentioned above already grow on my property, and butterflies often frequent the premises.

For more information on or to participate in the North American Butterfly Association's butterfly count consult their website at

www.naba.org.

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.

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
firstbaptistchurchholyokeye@comcast.net
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.
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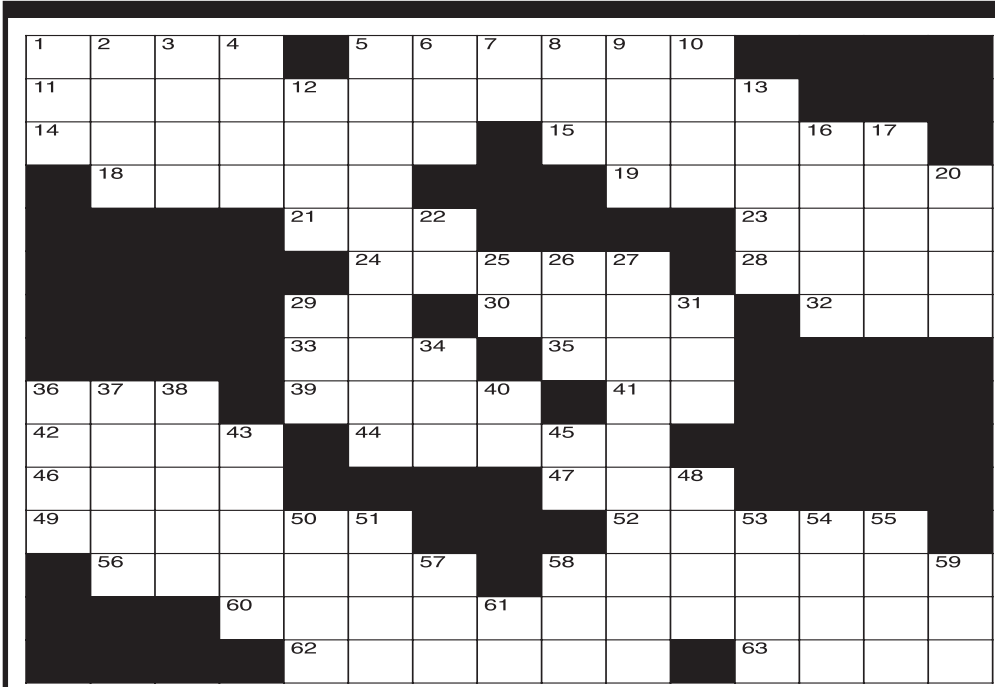
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Other: Prayers with Pastor - Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. - on Facebook Live.

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The Rev. Canon Joel Martinez
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413-532-5060
Office@StPaulsholyoke.org
StPaulsholyoke.org
Instagram: [stpaulsepiscopalchurch_holyoke](https://instagram.com/stpaulsepiscopalchurch_holyoke)
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Sunday: 10 a.m.
Sunday: 5 p.m. (Spanish)

First Lutheran Church

1810 Northampton St.
Holyoke, MA 01040
Every Sunday at 9 a.m.



CLUES ACROSS

1. chat
5. Statue near the Pyramids
11. A process to change the look
14. Herb
15. Think about excessively
18. Bass vocal part
19. Supreme Allied Cmdr. of NATO
21. A major division of geological time
23. New Zealand parrot
24. Cognitive contents
28. Lump of yarn
29. Atomic #109
30. Let go of
32. Indian title of respect
33. Whereabouts unknown
35. Electronic data processing

CLUES DOWN

1. Corporate executive
2. A plant used for flavoring food
36. Drivers' licenses count
39. Snakelike fishes
41. They precede C
42. Popular personal computers
44. Intermediate community stage in ecological succession
46. Wings
47. Indicates position
49. Pleasantly smooth or soft

CLUES ACROSS

3. Opinion or belief
4. Sheep in their second year
5. Intensities of sound
6. Indicates support for
7. Expression of laughter
8. OJ trial judge
9. Pointed ends of pens
10. True bugs genus
12. Lawyers argue theirs
13. Body parts
16. Closes tightly
17. World Heritage site in Nigeria
20. Islamic calendar month
22. Commercial
25. "Westworld" actor Harris
26. They
27. Religious guilds

CLUES DOWN

29. Woman (French)
31. Parts per billion (abbr.)
34. Brew
36. Spiritual leader
37. Indigo bush
38. Burn with a hot liquid
40. Older citizen
43. Scad fish genus
45. Morning
48. Line passing through the center (abbr.)
50. Double S-shaped curve
51. Small, thin person
53. Older
54. Mars crater
55. Humanities
57. Word element meaning ear
58. To the degree
59. Residue
61. It cools your home

Holyoke Community College Summer Youth Programs begin July 7

H O L Y O K E – Registration is open for 2026 Summer Youth Programs at Holyoke Community College. Starting July 7 and running through August 8, HCC will offer 16 week-long, in-person summer programs for youth aged 8 to 16. For more than 40 years, HCC has offered fun, challenging summer education activities for youth, providing early opportunities for students to experience a college environment guided and encouraged by experienced professionals. HCC’s 2026 on-campus summer youth programs run Monday through Friday, some for a full day and others for a half day. All in-person programs will be held on the main HCC campus, 303 Homestead Ave., except for cooking classes, which are held at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute, 164 Race St., Holyoke

July 6-10
Cooking without Borders with Chef Marangelly Vargas-Gonzalez (ages 9-16)
In this lively hands-on camp, young chefs will team up to chop, stir, and create tasty dishes from around the world. Each day brings a new theme and a chance to discover fresh ingredients, cool cooking techniques, and the joy of working together in the kitchen. By week’s end, they’ll walk away with new cooking skills, delicious recipes to show off at home, and plenty of tasty memories. (9 a.m. – 3 p.m., \$425)
Fun Bites with Chef Diana Swanigan (ages 9-16)
Join us for an exciting week of hands-on culinary fun, where young chefs will discover the joy of cooking delicious, easy-to-prepare meals to share with family and friends. Participants will work together to chop, sea-

son, cook, and taste a variety of recipes – all made from scratch. Each day introduces new menu themes, ingredients, and techniques designed to build confidence in the kitchen. (9 a.m. – 3 p.m., \$425)
July 13-17
Cooking without Borders with Chef Marangelly Vargas-Gonzalez (ages 9-16, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., \$425)
Fun Bites with Chef Diana Swanigan (ages 9-16, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., \$425)
ROBLOX Coders (ages 8-10; 11-14)
Discover the Lua coding language while designing experiences in ROBLOX, an online universe where you can create anything you dream of. New developers will learn to use ROBLOX’s Studio software to reimagine the popular game genres with their own custom code. Instructor Brittany

Pietskowski. (9 a.m. to noon for ages 8-10; 1 to 4 p.m. for ages 11-14, \$199)
July 20-24
Around the World with Chef Diana Swanigan (ages 9-16)
Cuisine around the world serves as a universal language that unites people across cultures through shared flavors, traditions, and stories. Learn to prepare full-course meals from Asia, Puerto Rico, Greece, Italy, and New Orleans. (9 a.m. – 3 p.m., \$425)
Make Your First Video Game (ages 8-10; 11-14)
Go beyond the limitations of traditional 2D game design classes and create an immersive 3D world. Students will learn the physics behind 3D games, explore beginner event scripting, level design, controlling the flow of gameplay, and storytelling. Instructor Brittany Pietskowski. (9 a.m. – noon for ages 8-10; 1 – 4 p.m. for ages 11-14, \$199)
Passport to Flavors with Chef Marangelly Vargas-Gonzalez (ages 9-16)
This hands-on cooking camp takes kids on a delicious journey across global cuisines, exploring flavors, techniques, and ingredients that make each culture unique. Dive into fun daily themes like diner classics, Mexican favorites, Mediterranean feasts, Filipino street bites, and southern comfort food, all while building confidence one tasty dish at a time. (9 a.m. – 3 p.m., \$425)
July 27-31
Around the World with Chef Diana Swanigan (ages 9-16, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., \$425)
Minecraft Designers (ages 8-10; 11-14)
Learn how to create a custom map, design structures to share between

worlds, build with Redstone and Command blocks, and create custom textures for you to import at home or share with friends. Instructor Brittany Pietskowski. (9 a.m. – noon for ages 8-10; 1 – 4 p.m. for ages 11-14, \$199).
Passport to Flavors with Chef Marangelly Vargas-Gonzalez (ages 9-16, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., \$425)
August 3-7
Python Programmers (ages 8-10; 11-14)
Learn the world’s fastest-growing programming language favored by Google, NASA, YouTube, and the CIA. Learn how to code with Python to create engaging apps and games. Instructor Brittany Pietskowski. (9 a.m. – noon for ages 8-10; 1 – 4 p.m. for ages 11-14, \$199).
To register for in person or online Summer Youth Program classes, please go to: hcc.edu/summer-youth.

HCC offering intro golf lessons

HOLYOKE – Interested in learning to play golf but don’t know where to start? Holyoke Community College is offering weekly introductory golf lessons at Twin Hills Country Club in Longmeadow led by LPGA teaching pro Marissa Kulig Crow. Saturday sessions meet from 10-11 a.m. June 20 through July 25 (no class on July 4). Kulig Crow is an LPGA professional from Westfield and director of instruction at Twin Hills. These introductory golf classes are designed for beginners. In five, one-hour long sessions, she will teach new golfers everything they need to know to play their first round of golf. Classes will cover the basics of the golf swing, putting, short game techniques, rules and etiquette. Golf clubs will be provided at the course; and Kulig Crow will make equipment recommen-

dations for players who want to buy their own. The cost for each five-week series is \$199, which includes a golf workbook and reference guide. Please note that in accordance with golf course etiquette, men should wear collared shirts, pants, or golf shorts. Cargo shorts, cut-off shorts, and jeans are not allowed. Women should wear pants, skirts or golf shorts. Jeans, leggings, racer back or tube tops, short shorts, or short skirts are not allowed. To register for a five-week introductory golf lesson series, please go to: hcc.edu/golf

District to continue Summer Eats free lunch program for kids, teens

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Public Schools’ Summer Eats program, in partnership with the district’s food service provider Sodexo, is returning this summer to provide free lunch for kids and teens (ages 18 and under) at eight locations across the City of Holyoke starting on June 30. Select sites will feature the HPS food truck, while others will offer meals in pop-up tents served by staff members in uniform. No registration or identification is required. HPS is kicking off its annual free summer meals program with a festive barbecue on Monday, June 29 from 12-1 p.m. , at Holyoke Heritage State Park, 221 Appleton Street. During this event, kids and teens can enjoy a free lunch along with face paint, lawn games, and free merry-go-round rides during the event. Individuals over the age of 18 are required to pay \$5 for lunch service. Summer Eats will run Mondays through Fridays from June 30 through August 14. Free lunches will be served daily at the following eight locations:
• Carlos Vega Park, Hamilton Street, HPS food truck site, 11–11:40 a.m.
• Holyoke Heritage State Park, 221 Appleton Street. A tent and tables will be set up behind the merry-go-round, 11 a.m.–12 p.m.
• Community Field, Community Field Road, tent and table site, 11:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m.
• Holyoke Public Library, 250 Chestnut Street. Tables will be set up near the front entrance and moved inside as needed for weather, 11:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m.
• McMahon Field, 75 Kane Road, tent and table site, 11:30–12:30 p.m.

- Pouliot Pool, 575 Maple Street. Tents and tables will be set up outside the pool area, 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
- Springdale Park, 844 Main Street. The HPS food truck will be parked on the street near the splash pad, 11:55 a.m.–12:35 p.m.
- Holyoke Hills, 360 Tokeneke Road. The HPS food truck will be parked near the community center, 12:50 p.m.- 1:30 p.m.

Times and locations can also be viewed on this Google map. Additional information, including menus, a printable location list, and sites in neighboring communities can be found on the Summer Eats website. In the event of weather changes or cancellations, we will post updated information as a news story on the district website as well as on the district’s Facebook page.

Send Us Your Community Autumn Events

Turley Publications will print your Autumn event
FREE OF CHARGE in our **Autumn Fest Supplement**
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Total circulation of 85,000 which reaches
over 200,000 readers in the Pioneer Valley.
Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

FREE Calendar Listings Reaching over 200,000 Readers in the Pioneer Valley

Event Name _____

Date/Time _____

Location _____

Description _____

Cost _____

Contact name & phone number for more information _____



Deadline for Calendar submissions is August 19.

MAIL YOUR LISTING INFORMATION TO:
Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn,
24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069
or email* them to: jamie@turley.com
***Be sure to indicate “Autumn Event” in the subject line of your email.**

Tykes Tuesday returns to mall

HOLYOKE – Summer is just around the corner and that means Tykes Tuesday is back for free family fun at Holyoke Mall Tuesday mornings from July 7 through Aug. 18. Tykes Tuesday features seven weeks of free family activities and exclusive discounts on Tuesdays starting at 11 a.m. on the lower level in Macy’s Court. The kids’ program is free, open to the public, and is best suited for children ages 12 and under. Tykes Tuesday Schedule:
• **July 7:** The Science of Suds with CT Science Center
• **July 14:** Piti Theatre’s Story Wizards (3pm-4pm)
• **July 21:** Celebrate Christmas in July with Mrs. Claus, Face Painting and More
• **July 27:** Sing and Learn with Something Royal Party Co. & Pickleball 101 Class for Kids 7+ (at Pickleball Kingdom)
• **Aug. 4:** Wildlife on Wheels with Forest Park Zoo
• **Aug. 11:** Kimberly’s Pocket Circus
• **Aug. 18:** Nature Time with Mass Audubon and Face



Painting with Clowntique
Please note the time change for the event on July 14. Families are encouraged to pre-register at <https://www.holyokemall.com/tykes-tuesday-2026/>. Registration is required for the Pickleball 101 class and is for children 7 and older. The event that week will be held inside and in the common area outside of Pickleball Kingdom, on the lower level, near JCPenney.
More information about Holyoke Mall stores, restaurants, and entertainment venues, can be found at Holyokemall.com. Follow and share your stories at the center on Facebook and Instagram.

Chamber invites businesses to Chamber Cup

HOLYOKE – The Greater Holyoke Chamber is inviting businesses, professionals, local leaders, and community partners from across Western Massachusetts to participate in the 58th Annual Chamber Cup on Friday, Sept. 25, at Westover Golf Course. Registration is now open for the annual event, which brings together the regional business community for a day of golf, networking, visibility, and relationship-building. The Chamber Cup offers companies and organizations a valuable way to connect outside the traditional meeting setting. Participants can build business relationships, strengthen team connections, and engage with professionals from across the region in a relaxed and welcoming environment. The event is open to Chamber members and non-members alike, making it a regional opportunity for businesses looking to expand their reach and community presence. Businesses can participate in several ways, including registering a foursome, becoming an event sponsor, sponsoring a hole or meal, donating raffle prizes, or volunteering during the event. Each option offers a different path to visibility and engagement, whether a company wants to host clients, recognize employees, promote its brand, or support a signature community event. The day will include golf at Westover Golf Course, breakfast, lunch, raffles, and opportunities to connect with business owners, executives, public officials, nonprofit leaders, and professionals from throughout Western Massachusetts. The Greater Holyoke Chamber encourages businesses interested in playing, sponsoring, donating raffle prizes, or volunteering can visit holyokechamber.com or contact the Chamber for more information.



SPORTS

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sports.turley.com

Aldenville Legion scores shutout over Monson

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

PALMER – The final American Legion baseball game of the regular season at historic Legion Field in Palmer was a vintage pitcher's duel.

Aldenville (Chicopee) Post 337, who only had nine players available for the road game, snapped its four-game losing streak by edging Monson Post 241, 1-0, last Wednesday night.

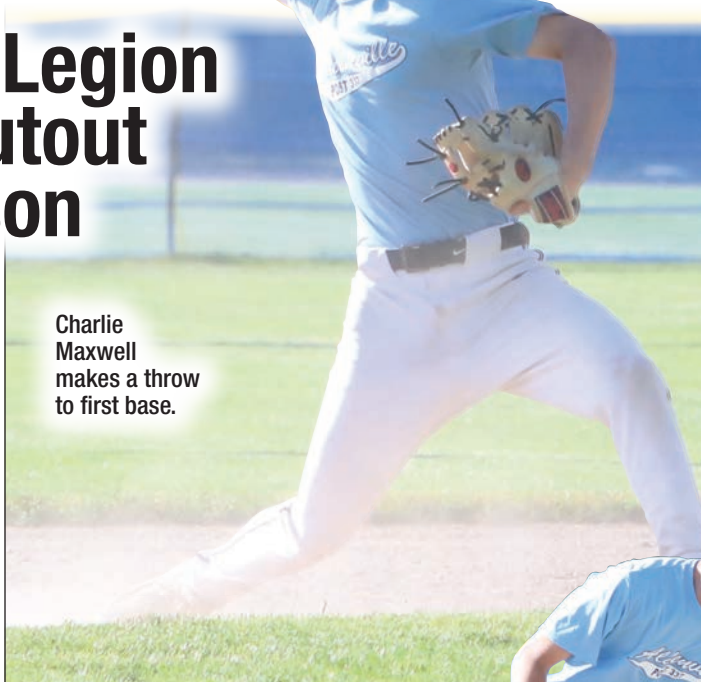
"We battled the entire game," said Matt Sutton, who was the winning pitcher for Aldenville. "I focused on staying calm on the mound, pitch to pitch, and this is a huge win for us."

Aldenville had a 2-4-1 record following the shutout victory, while Monson fell to 2-4.

The two squads were scheduled to face each other for the second time this summer at St. Joe's Park in Thorndike on Wednesday night.

Monson is also scheduled to face Longmeadow Post 175 in another home game at St. Joe's Park on Thursday night, and West Springfield Post 207 at Veteran's Field in Monson on Monday night.

Last Wednesday's contest marked Sutton's first career victory as a member of the Aldenville Post 337 baseball team.



Charlie Maxwell makes a throw to first base.



Matt Sutton delivers a pitch.

ball team.

Sutton, who was a junior member of the Chicopee Comp's varsity baseball team this past spring, gave up only three base hits while striking out eight in his performance against Monson. The righthander issued four walks and hit a pair of batters in six innings. He threw a total of 102 pitches.

"I thought Matt pitched a great game," said Aldenville manager Nate Carillon. "We've been mostly using him as a relief pitcher so far this season. He stepped up in tonight's game."

Sutton, who earned a save in Aldenville's season opening road victory against Westfield Post 124, made his second start of the Legion season. His first start came against Northampton Post 28, which was a home loss a couple of weeks ago.

Memphis Huertas, who's normally Aldenville's start-



Ryan Netkovick fields a grounder.

ing catcher, didn't attend last Wednesday's game at Legion Field. Noah Carillon, who's Nate's younger brother, strapped on the catcher's gear for just the second time during his Legion career.

"Noah used to be a catcher in little league. He also caught a Legion game at North Adams last year," Nate Carillon said. "He played

very well back there."

Noah Carillon made a diving catch on a foul pop-up in the first inning and threw out a runner trying to steal third base in the third inning.

"It was Noah's first time as a starting catcher and he did a great job behind the plate," Sutton said. "I'm very proud of him."

Monson righthander



Michael Letellier makes a catch at first on a grounder.

Brayden Mega, graduated from Pathfinder Tech in 2025 and is currently a member of the Monroe University baseball team, also pitched very well. He went the distance in his start against Aldenville, allowing a run on two hits with four walks and nine strikeouts.

"It was another outstanding performance by Brayden," said Monson manager Steve Tripp. "He only had two hits and a couple of walks. We've just been struggling offensively. We had guys on base in every inning and couldn't

score a run."

Aldenville centerfielder Justin Rivera led off the top of the first inning with a line-drive single to the gap in right center. Rivera advanced to second base following a fielding error. After the next two struck out and grounded out, Noah Carillon drew a walk extending the inning.

Mega escaped the jam with a pop-up caught by shortstop Matt Santos, who recently received the Karl Oliveira Memorial

See LEGION, page 8

New England Mutiny shut out by Vermont Green FC

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW – Even though the New England Mutiny had already been eliminated from the USL W playoffs, they still had a chance to influence the race for first place in the Northeast Division entering the regular-season finale.

Had the Mutiny pulled off an upset victory against Vermont Green FC, the Hudson Valley Crusaders would have finished at the top of the Northeast Division table.

However, it was Vermont Green FC players and their rowdy supporters doing all the celebrating following a 3-0 shutout win over the Mutiny at Lusitano Stadium last Saturday night.

"We wanted to play the spoiler role in today's match," said New England Mutiny midfielder Avery Klingensmith, who's from Belchertown. "We were hoping to make the playoffs in our first season playing in this league, but it's always a lot of fun trying to impact another team's season."

Vermont Green FC captured the inaugural USL W League Northeast title with a 6-0-4 overall record.

They're scheduled to host the Eastern Conference playoffs this weekend

One of the Vermont Green's ties came at Lusitano Stadium against the Mutiny (1-1) on May 26.

Vermont Green squeaked out a 2-1 home win in the second meeting between the two squads at the beginning of June.

The Mutiny finished their



Brigid Moore winds up for a free kick.

season with a 2-6-2 overall record.

"We lost a couple of close games this season," Klingensmith said. "We also had a lot of new players, and it was a rebuilding year for us. We always tried to do our best in every game."

Kate Howarth and Megan Cunningham made their first starts of the season in last Saturday's match.

"I played with both of them in the past and it was a lot of fun having them back on the field again today," Klingensmith said. "They're a big part of this organization."

Howarth, who also played for the Orlando Pride of the National Women's Soccer League, is the

See MUTINY, page 8



Avery Klingensmith is closely pressured by an opponent.



Trinity Clark collects a pass.



Addyson Earl tries to outrun an opponent.



Goalie Chloe Lazier sends a free kick away.



Sadie Mathis brings in a pass while on the run.

Playoffs hopes still alive after Pioneers shutout

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW – Had the Western Mass. Pioneers failed to secure a victory in last Friday night’s match against AC Connecticut, their playoff hopes would have vanished for the first time since they entered USL League Two in 2019.

The Pioneers kept their postseason dreams alive a little bit longer thanks to a hard-earned 1–0 shutout win at Lusitano Stadium.

“We didn’t get the result that we wanted in our last match on Tuesday night, and we had a tie here last week,” said Pioneers assistant coach Tomas Duben. “It was very important for us to get the three points and the win in tonight’s game. We’re still battling for a postseason berth.”

Duben took over the head coaching duties from longtime Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari, who spent last weekend coaching a Western United Pioneers U-16 girls’ team at a tournament in Virginia.

Since 2024, Duben has a 3-0-1 record as the Pioneers interim head coach.

“My playing career ended a couple of years ago because of a knee injury,” he said. “I really enjoyed playing for this soccer team. I’m very grateful that Federico gave me this coaching opportunity and I’m still learning.”

The Pioneers improved to 6-2-2 (20 points) following the home shutout victory, solidifying their hold on third place in the Northeast Division. They trail first place Vermont Green FC (10-0-1, 31 points) and second place NEC (10-1-1, 30 points). Only the top two teams in the Northeast Division qualify for the league playoffs.

Western Mass. finished at the top of the Northeast table in both 2019 and 2021. They made it all the way to the National Semifinals in 2021. They’ve finished in second place during the past four seasons.

Between 2010 and 2018, the Pioneers only qualified for the USL PDL playoffs once.

AC Connecticut (1-10-0) had several scoring chances during the first twenty

five minutes of the opening half, but Pioneers goalie Ben Alexander made the saves which kept the match scoreless.

“Ben played very well in tonight’s match,” Duben said. “The defense also gave him a lot of support back there.

Alexander returned to action after missing a couple of games due to an injury.

It was the Pioneers’ fourth 1-0 win of the regular season. They also played a scoreless draw in a road match against Black Rock FC at the beginning of June.

The Pioneers, who have a 3-1-1 home record, took advantage of a mistake made by AC Connecticut goalie Asger Hemmer-Hansen to take a 1-0 late in the first half.

Alfred Baafi put a shot into the back of the net giving the Pioneers a 1-0 lead at the end of the first half.

“The goalie attempted to clear the ball, but I stole it away from him,” said Baafi, who scored his third goal of the season. “Then I put a shot into the wide open net, which felt really good. We’re still hoping to make the playoffs”

Baafi, who’s from Techiman, Ghana, is a first-year member of the Pioneers.

“The atmosphere at this stadium is always outstanding,” he said. “We get plenty of support at our home games.”

Baafi is also a member of the men’s soccer team at High Point University in High Point,



Martin Echarren looks up the field.

North Carolina.

Two years ago, Baafi was a member of the Seacoast United Phantoms, which captured the USL-League Two National Championship title.

“It was an amazing feeling after my team won the championship game two years ago,” said Baafi, who’s going to be a senior in the fall. “I just needed a change and decided

to play for the Pioneers this year. I’m also hoping to be drafted by a MLS team.”

The Pioneers had an opportunity to score another goal at the start of the second half.

M a r t i n Echarren sent a pass

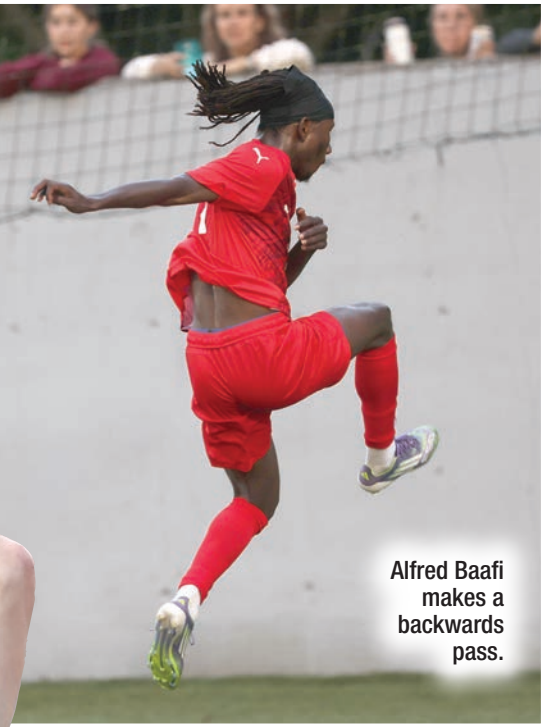
into the box to Juan Galindrez, whose shot attempt skipped wide of the goal.

The Western Mass. squad also had several more chances to score, but the score remained 1-0.

The Pioneers are scheduled to host Black Rock FC at 7:30 p.m. on Friday night.



Jaiden Williams goes for the throw-in.



Alfred Baafi makes a backwards pass.



William Fauth watches his pass move away.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

LEGION, from page 7

Scholarship Award.

Then Mega retired the next ten Post 337 batters.

Meanwhile, Monson left six runners on base, including five in scoring position, during the first five innings.

With two outs in the bottom of the second, Monson second baseman Grayson Griswold, who singled to left leading off the frame, was tagged out by Carillon trying to steal home.

Two innings later, Monson first baseman Liam McGrath hit a leadoff single and left fielder Josiel Ortiz was safe at first base with two outs following a throwing error. Ortiz stole second

before Sutton ended the threat with a strikeout.

Aldenville leftfielder Adam Ozga lined a single into left field before being thrown out trying to steal second base by Monson catcher Kyle Kaczuwka.

The visitors would then break the scoreless deadlock with a run in the following frame without the benefit of a base hit.

Rivera drew a one-out walk before stealing both second and third. Shortstop Charlie Maxwell also walked, putting runners at the corners. Then Ryan Netkovick, who was Aldenville’s starting second baseman, hit a ground ball to Santos. His throw to

the plate was dropped and Rivera scored what turned out to be the only run of the ballgame.

Then Carillon was walked intentionally, which loaded the bases.

Mega managed to get out of the jam with a strike-out and a ground ball out.

Monson had an opportunity to tie the score in the bottom half of the frame, but they had a runner tagged out by Sutton trying to score on a passed ball.

Maxwell relieved Sutton before the start of the seventh inning. The righty issued an one-out walk to Dayne Shanley before retiring the next two batters to earn the save.



Noah Carillon frames a low pitch.



Adam Ozga takes a swing.

MUTINY, from page 7

Mutiny’s all-time leading goalscorer and point-scorer.

Klingensmith is also one of the Mutiny’s veteran players. She joined the squad after graduating from Belchertown High School in August.

“It has been a great journey playing for this team,” said Klingensmith, who graduated from American University in May. “I only live about 15 minutes away and this place is very special to me. I’m hoping to play for this soccer team again next year.”

Klingensmith is planning to play for a professional soccer team in Greece beginning in August.

The other players from Western Mass. listed on the Mutiny roster are Mila Dillard (Chicopee), Hope Santiniello (Agawam), and Tennessee Mugawm) (Monson). None of those players played in the final match of the regular season.

During the opening half of last Saturday’s match, the Mutiny had two free kicks, but both attempts were saved by Vermont Green goalie Olivia Shippee.

The visitors from Burlington took a 1-0 lead during the 28th minute following a goal from Georgina Clark.

Emily Mara, who assisted on Clark’s goal, booted the ball into the net three minutes later.

The score remained 2-0 until the 73rd minute when Lauren DeGroot netted another goal for Vermont Green.

Valley Blue Sox drop third straight game, falling to Danbury

HOLYOKE – The Valley Blue Sox dropped their third consecutive game after suffering a 5-2 loss to the Danbury Westerners on Saturday night. The Blue Sox had won their two previous matchups against Danbury but struggled to get on base early in tonight’s game, which contributed to the outcome.

The top of the first inning came and went for the Blue Sox as Danbury’s starting pitcher, Cole Gibson, retired the batters in order, giving the Westerners a chance to set the tone. For Valley, Andrew Oppenheimer made his season debut, joining the team due to personnel changes in the Blue Sox’s bullpen.

Postgame, head coach John Raiola touched on having players come onto the team in the middle of the season, but made it clear that he has to rely on those who have been here from the beginning.

“It does take some guys here and there to come in and replace some guys that we lost,” said Raiola. “Our core is our core [and] they are all here for a reason...they know what it takes to be successful at this level.”

Oppenheimer began the bottom of the inning by walking the lead-off hitter, Jack Lutte, who advanced to second when Kyle Garbowski grounded out. Collin Mowry then hit an RBI double with Lutte in scoring position, giving Danbury an early 1-0 lead.

Gibson continued his impressive start in the second by retiring the batters in order once again, but this time Oppenheimer followed suit, quickly regrouping from his first inning.

Valley still had trouble finding a way on base in the third, and Danbury



See SOX, page 9

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP 2026-67M
FY2027 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS, AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION SERVICES

The purpose of this solicitation is the selection of a qualified firm, organization, or individual to provide community engagement, strategic communications, stakeholder outreach, civic participation, facilitation, and public engagement services to the City of Holyoke. The City seeks a strategic partner capable of designing and implementing authentic, inclusive, and community-centered engagement processes that strengthen relationships between residents and municipal government, improve transparency, expand participation in public decision-making, and ensure community priorities are communicated to City leadership and incorporated into future planning and implementation efforts.

The City will evaluate all timely responses to ensure that all required submittals have been included and that all responses meet the selection criteria. Responses deemed complete shall be presented to a selection committee. The highest-ranked respondents may be invited to participate in interviews prior to final selection.

Documents are available starting on 6/29/2026 by requesting electronically from morrowj@holyoke.org. **SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE ELECTRONICALLY to morrowj@holyoke.org, NO LATER THAN July 16, 2026 @ 2PM.** Submissions will need to have “**Submission RFQ 2026-67M Community Engagement**” in the Subject Line. Submissions will need to have 2 PDF Attachments, one clearly marked “**Technical Proposals**” and one PDF File clearly marked “**Price Proposals**”. The email received time will be the official time of record. **NO LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** The city follows CH.30B, 30-39M, and all other local, state and federal applicable laws.

The city reserves the right to reject any and all submissions or waive minor informalities if in the city’s best interest. 07/03/2026

Request for Quotes 2026-65SD Door & Hardware Replacements at 2 Schools
The Holyoke School Department is soliciting quotes for the removal and replacement

of the existing doors and hardware at Holyoke High School, 500 Beech Street, Holyoke, MA 01040, and Morgan School, 596 South Bridge Street, Holyoke, MA 01040. Remove and install new doors and hardware at HHS at door number 16. The removal of old closet doors and the installation of new doors and hardware at Morgan in the hallway. The installation of new window kits in the wooden classroom doors at Morgan.

Documents will be available electronically starting July 1st, 10:00 am, at morrowj@holyoke.org. Electronic submissions will be accepted at morrowj@holyoke.org no later than July 21st, 2:00 pm.

Non-Mandatory but highly recommended, a pre-bid walk-through will be held on July 10th at 12:00 pm. Holyoke High School first, then on to Morgan School.

The city follows, CH.149 CH.30B, 30-39M, and all other local, state and federal applicable laws.

The city reserves the right to reject any and all submissions or waive minor informalities if in the city’s best interest. 07/03/2026

**City of Holyoke
Office of Purchasing
INVITATION TO BID
HOLYOKE FIRE
DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS
ROOF REPLACEMENT
(MGL c.149 Over \$150K)
Project. No. IFB 2026-36
REBID**

The CITY OF HOLYOKE, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for the Holyoke Fire Department Headquarters Roof Replacement Bidding project in Holyoke, Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by ARCHITECTURE ENVIRONMENT LIFE, INC. The Work of Project is defined by the Contract Documents and consists of but not limited to: Demolition of the existing asphalt shingle roofing system located on the sloped roof areas and installation of a new asphalt shingle roofing system in the same locations. The new roofing system shall include asphalt shingles, felt paper and ice and water shield, which will be tied into the existing to remain flat roofing system. Existing roofing components that are to remain and integrated with the new roofing system including the low-slope membrane roofing system, associated lap flashing, copper flashing, copper fascia and cleats, copper gutters and downspouts, existing roof

decking and electrical/ mechanical systems located on the roof. The Work of Project is defined by the Contract Documents and consists of demo of existing roof and installation of new roofing on sloped asphalt roofing areas, and masonry pointing and cap for the elevator shaft for the Holyoke Fire Department Headquarters building for the City of Holyoke.

The work is estimated to cost \$150,000.00. **DOCUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE STARTING ON JULY 1, 2026 at 10AM** by requesting electronically from morrowj@holyoke.org

All bidding Requests for Information (RFIs) shall be submitted online via email to the Holyoke Purchasing/Procurement Officer Jaime Morrow at morrowj@holyoke.org by July 17, 2026 at 4PM EST for General Bids. Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §§26 to 27H inclusive. General bidders must be certified by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) in the following category of work, “General Building Construction”, and/or “Roofing and Flashing” and must submit a current DCAMM Certificate of Eligibility and signed DCAMM Prime/General Contractor Update Statement. **General Bids will be received until July 23, 2026 on 2:00PM EDT and publicly opened online, forthwith.** General bids and sub-bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (including all alternates), and made payable to the CITY OF HOLYOKE.

PRE-BID CONFERENCE / SITE VISIT:
Scheduled Date and Time: July 14, 2026 at 10:00AM EDT
Address: Conduct conference at the Holyoke Fire Department Headquarters, 600 High Street, Holyoke.

The city reserves the right to reject any and all bids and waive minor informalities if in the city’s best interest. 07/03/2026

Request for Quotes 2026-64SD Hot Water Heater Replacement
The removal of the existing water heater and furnish and install new water heaters at Donahue School
The Holyoke School Department is soliciting quotes for the removal and replacement of the water heater at Donahue School, 216 Whittings Farms Road, Holyoke, MA 01040.

The old, non-working water heater is to be removed, and the installation of the new water heater system is to be completed per the drawings and specifications. Furnish and install new domestic electric hot water heaters, mixing valve, recirculation pump, and associated valves and equipment as indicated on plans.

Documents will be available electronically starting July 1st, 10:00am, at morrowj@holyoke.org. Electronic submissions will be accepted at morrowj@holyoke.org no later than July 21st, 1:30 pm.

Non-Mandatory but highly recommended, a pre-bid walk-through will be held on July 10th at 10:00 am at Donahue School. The city follows, CH.149 CH.30B, 30-39M, and all other local, state and federal applicable laws.

The city reserves the right to reject any and all submissions or waive minor informalities if in the city’s best interest. 07/03/2026

Request for Quotes 2026-66SD HVAC SPLIT REPLACEMENT CENTRAL SUPPLY Replace 2-ton and 4-ton split system – Central Supply

The Holyoke School Department is soliciting quotes for the removal and replacement of the existing 2-ton and 4-ton split system that serves the Facilities Director’s offices and IT Department offices, Central Supply, 728 Main Street, 3rd Floor, Holyoke, MA 01040. Remove and replace the existing 2-ton and 4-ton split system HVAC units. Scope includes installation of new gas furnaces, matching cased evaporator coils, and outdoor condensing units. The new condensing units shall be relocated to the indoor warehouse area as specified, including full repiping of refrigerant lines to accommodate the new layout. Refrigeration piping will be properly supported, insulated, and installed in accordance with manufacturer specifications and industry standards. Scope also includes installation of new electrical components and wiring to serve both condensing units, ensuring all electrical work complies with applicable codes. Gas piping shall be modified and repiped as required to properly serve the new furnace equipment, including all necessary fittings, isolation valves, and leak testing.

Documents will be available electronically starting July 1st, 10:00 am, at morrowj@holyoke.org. Electronic submissions will be accepted at

morrowj@holyoke.org no later than July 21st, 2:30 pm.

Non-Mandatory but highly recommended, a pre-bid walk-through will be held on July 10th at 2:00 pm. Meet at the front door of 728 Main Street, then we will head upstairs to the 3rd floor.

The city follows, CH.149 CH.30B, 30-39M, and all other local, state and federal applicable laws.

The city reserves the right to reject any and all submissions or waive minor informalities if in the city’s best interest. 07/03/2026

**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.
HD26P1370EA
Estate of:
Stanley W Olechna
Date of Death: 05/09/2026
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Richard S Olechna of East Otis, MA** and **Linda J Minarik of Westfield, 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 **Richard S Olechna of East Otis, MA** and **Linda J Minarik of Westfield, 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 07/22/2026. 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. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: June 24, 2026

Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
07/03/2026

**LEGAL NOTICE
CITY OF HOLYOKE
GAS & ELECTRIC
DEPARTMENT
NATURAL GAS WELDING
SERVICES ANNUAL
CONTRACT - REBID**

Sealed bids for the above contract will be received by Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept. until **2:00 p.m., August 4, 2026**, at the Office of the Manager, 99 Suffolk St., Holyoke, MA 01040, at which time proposals will be publicly opened and read.

Bid Deposit:
A Bid Deposit in the amount of \$6,250 must accompany all bids and may be in the form of a certified, treasurer’s, or cashier’s check payable to HG&E from a responsible bank or trust company; cash; or a bid bond from a licensed surety payable to HG&E.

Prevailing Wage Rates:
Rates, which are to apply to the work, are set by the Mass. Dept. of Labor & Industries.

Additional information may be obtained from:

Chi Wong
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept.
99 Suffolk St.
Holyoke, MA 01040
(413) 536-9308
cwong@hged.com

The right is hereby reserved to reject any or all proposals, or to accept any proposal that in the opinion of the Manager may be in the best interest of the City of Holyoke.

Please mark sealed envelopes, “**Bid for Natural Gas Welding Services Annual Contract**” and address them to:

James M. Lavelle, Manager
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept.
99 Suffolk St.
Holyoke, MA 01040
07/03/2026

SOX, from page 8

kept capitalizing on the Blue Sox’s shortcomings as Noel Rivera got walked, advanced to second, and scored on a wild pitch, putting Valley behind 2-0.

The fifth inning had Valley getting two men on base when Eddison Esquivel hit a single out to center field, and Nick Tomasetto was walked. Unfortunately, the next three hitters were retired by Gibson, ending Valley’s chance at a scoring opportunity.

Danbury did not waste any time starting the bottom of the frame as Peter Link hit a long homer out to center field, extending the deficit to 3-0. However, Anthony

Grabau responded with a home run of his own during the sixth, leading the team in the home run category and getting Valley their first tally of the game.

The Blue Sox finally got the momentum on their side with Trevor Harmon getting walked and moving to second off another Esquivel single. Nick Tomasetto hit a single of his own and sent Harmon home, bringing Valley within one run of a tie game.

Owen Basso replaced Oppenheimer in the bottom of the sixth and ended up loading the bases after hitting Ronan Donohue with a pitch and walking Michael Delph and Gavin Donohue. Basso then threw a wild pitch that allowed Ronan

Donohue to score Danbury’s fourth run.

There were no runs scored in the seventh, and unlike Danbury, Valley was not able to get on the board in the eighth. The final run of the game was another home run from the Westerners as Gavin Donohue hit the ball out of Rogers Park, putting a late Blue Sox comeback out of reach.

Valley’s focus now shifts to their next game, and Coach Raiola spoke about what he hopes to see from his team when they play the Sharks.

“More compete, more fight, more energy,” said Raiola. “Tomorrow’s a new day...and [an] opportunity to put together a more complete game.”

Sports

Now Hiring!

Advertising Sales Representative

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➤ If so, then join our team! Turley Publications is looking for an outgoing, energetic person interested in selling advertising for our community newspapers an suppléments. The right candidate will assume an established territory with a portfolio of customers.

➤ You must be a self-starter with excellent communication and organizational skills. Basic computer skills are required. Previous print sales experience is preferred but we will train the right candidate.

➤ Do you want a career supporting local journalism, which tells the unique stories of our communities?

Turley Publications is a locally owned family business, offers a competitive commission structure, 401k, and health plan.

Send resume & cover letter to:
Jamie Joslyn
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069
Email: jamie@turley.com

The Holyoke Sun OBITUARY POLICY

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 for their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

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More pickleball courts added to Buttery Brook Park

By Ben Hernandez
bhernandez@turley.com

SOUTH HADLEY – The inaugural serve was performed at the new Buttery Brook Park pickleball courts on June 28. 150 eager residents flocked to the grand opening, and included hamburgers, hot dogs, drinks and other refreshments. The event was kicked off with a two-hour Learn-to-Play clinic, which served as an introduction for people new to the game. According to figures provided by Friends of Buttery Brook Park President Kim Prough, 45 people were in attendance to learn the game.

“All volunteers were very helpful and full of knowledge,” said participant Dave Labonte.

Retired South Hadley High School physical education teacher and active pickleball advocate Ron Bullough also attended and was honored for his local contributions to the sport by offering the court its first official serve.

The retired teacher learned of pickleball in the 1970s during a PE convention in Boston, which inspired him to bring it back to South Hadley. Organizing the first competitive tournaments within the region, Bullough is considered the “godfather of pickleball” for the town.

During the event, Prough thanked the numerous invaluable volunteers who made the event possible. She offered



Local enthusiasts gather in a group photo to celebrate both the pickleball community and town unity.



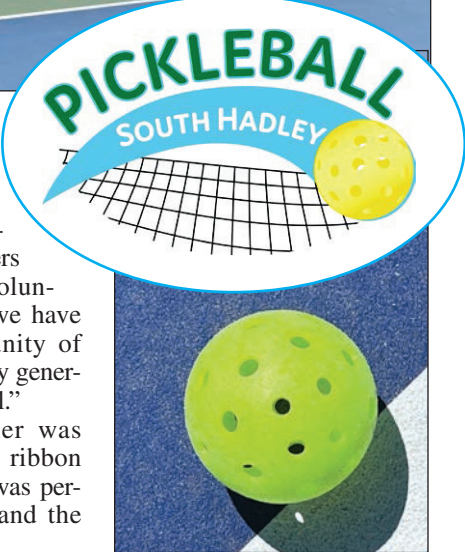
Former High School Physical Education teacher and pickleball trailblazer Ron Bullough cuts the ceremonial ribbon to commemorate the opening of the new courts.

gratitude to those involved in raising the funds required to create the four new courts and spoke on the overwhelming support she received from this completed project.

“The total cost to build all eight courts over the past five years was over \$300,000,” Prough said. “Less than \$20,000 came from the town. The majority of the project

was funded by donations and by fundraisers held by pickleball volunteers. Not only do we have a wonderful community of players, we have a very generous community as well.”

A potluck dinner was served following the ribbon cutting. Live music was performed by band TJ and the Peepers.



Ron Bullough offers the court its first official serve. Submitted photos

MOTEL, from page 1

Investigators from multiple law enforcement agencies responded to the motel and reviewed surveillance footage, which showed Petitpas arriving at the property during the early morning hours and entering a room. Through the course of the investigation, law enforcement personnel confirmed Petitpas remained inside the room.

Due to the nature of the

Hartford homicide investigation and information indicating Petitpas may be armed, authorities established a perimeter around the motel and closed a portion of Northampton Street to protect the public. The Massachusetts State Police Special Tactical Operations (STOP) Team and Crisis Negotiation Team were requested to respond.

Negotiators established communication with Petitpas and remained in contact with him for several hours. During

those conversations, Petitpas made statements indicating he intended to harm himself.

After extensive efforts to persuade Petitpas to surrender peacefully, members of the STOP Team entered the motel room during the afternoon hours. Petitpas was located inside the room suffering from an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound. A firearm was recovered at the scene.

The investigation remains ongoing.

STUDY, from page 1

from Ward 1, two from Ward 2, and three others from any other ward. And if the council did decide to confirm the newly formed group, then the committee would be tasked with studying the environmental, economic, and infrastructure impacts of commercial data centers, along with being responsible for researching power and water demands before recommending new zoning and permitting rules to the City Council as well, and would go into service later this fall in September and would expire then on June 30th, 2027.

This comes in light of the landmark decision that the City Council made last month on June 16th, which saw a 9-4 vote to amend the city’s zoning ordinances, that now bans all future data center projects in the city, making Holyoke the first to do so in the state, with the only exception being the MGHPCC, still being allowed to operate up to 12 MW, due to being grandfathered in, and once established, it was then signed into law by Holyoke Mayor Joshua Garcia that same week, on Thursday, June 18th.

Tuesday’s meeting also saw Ordinance Chair/ Ward 7 City Councilor Meg Magrath-Smith offer clarification that the decision made by the City Council last month wasn’t in response to the proposed project from Developer Chestnut River Power and Infrastructure that looked to install and build a 200M data center at 100 Water St, despite contrary reports.

“We started this process of looking at creating a ban, which would mean no pressure at all, as the committee was then considering all kinds of ordinances around data centers and any related industries that transpired this past winter, and there was no proposed project at all, and it was interesting watching what unfolded after that,” she said. “So we did have several developers that came to one of our public hearings and weighed in and addressed that they were potentially interested, but there was never any pro-

posed address or details at that time, and so what we are really looking at is not in any way about one specific project but rather developing an ordinance that names very clearly if there are any situations where we would allow a data center, and of what size and where.”

In addition, Magrath-Smith shared that this discussion is quite new to all, as she drew a comparison to Mansfield, which has allowed small data centers of up to 1-2 MW, and additional boundaries for ones in the range of 3-5 MW, and has banned any that are 10 MW or larger, but made clear that the proposed committee would be set up to help Holyoke determine what makes sense for the city.

“Our job is going to be to ask this committee to gather the information, do the research, and come back to us, given Holyoke’s realities: environmental, social justice, to find out what makes sense for us as a city,” she said.

In attendance for the meeting were various city councilors, local representatives from local municipalities that would eventually be part of the newly formed data center study group, as in attendance was Holyoke Water Works, Acting Business Manager Joe Manzi, Rosanna Lopez from the Planning Board, John Goodhue, the Executive Director, at the MGHPCC, and Jeff Horan, Chair of the Conservation Commission, who was joined by Vice Chair Mary Moriarty, and countless other members of the public.

Starting the discussion was Ward 4 City Councilor Rick Purcell, who touched upon the environmental and general dangers of Data Centers, while citing the necessity for a community representative from each ward, before offering the conversation to explore the possibility that could transpire down the line, centered around the thought, what if, one day, the City Council voted to lift the ban. Purcell then noted that if that decision was made, he felt it would be appropriate for the public to vote on that decision and to find its way on the ballot.

Leading to the conversation of representation, especially for those who reside in the lower wards, who were close to being subjected to living with the repercussions of the Chestnut River project, a point of discussion that was introduced and touched upon by At-Large City Councilor Israel Rivera.

“I feel if we’re going to sit here and design something that people in Ward 1 & 2 will more than likely have to live with or deal with regularly, so I would argue that they should have a fair representation in terms of what the design process will entail,” Rivera said. He then pivoted to acknowledge that the lower wards, were “historically written that the poorest people in the community have always lived in Wards 1 & 2, and the richest people lived in Ward 7,” he shared, before explaining that he still has concerns about the lack of urgency in the scope of the project, which would provide a recommendation in terms of how general life would be affected.

“I feel if this is the case, then we should have more representation of the people who are going to be impacted by this, and I feel we should offer the invitation for more people to the table, and allowed to sit at the table for this unfolding discussion.”

Offering additional insight was At-Large City Councilor/City Council President Tessa Murphy-Romboletti, who told the committee that she stands by any decision that the council makes.

“I just feel at the end of the day this is a huge industry and I think the more information that we have, we will be better equipped to make decisions, that’s why I made the decision I did prior, because I was trying to make this educated conversation without emotions, but everyone has made their points super clear,” Murphy-Romboletti said. She also expressed why she decided to include the continued use and production of the MGHPCC, which was due to the wealth of knowledge the computing center has in terms of the industry.

DINO, from page 1

visitors. This year, Dino Trail Week is better than before with even more prehistoric fun for the whole family. Learn more about Dino Trail Week at dinotrail.org.

Dino Trail Week 2026 Events

- **July 11:** Dinosaur Footprints at Barton Cove: History and Geology from 1 - 2 p.m. (Rain date, Saturday, July 18)
- **July 12:** Art Naturally: Gel Printing Trace Fossils at The Great Falls Discovery Center 10:30 - 12:30 p.m., Great Hall
- **July 13-17:** Dino Drama Workshop at Greenfield Public Library from 10 a.m. - noon
- **July 14:** Holyoke Dino Foot Print Site Visit at Wistariahurst Museum and Dino Foot Print Site, Rt. 5, in Holyoke. Visitors will arrive at Wistariahurst at 9:30 a.m., then head to the Rt. 5 site for 10:15 a.m.
- **July 14:** Dino Wizards at the Holyoke Mall at 3 p.m. (Story Wizards with a dinosaur theme)
- **July 15:** Dino Trail Day at the Beneski Museum of

Natural History, 10 am – 3 pm

- **July 15:** Dino Wizards at the Greenfield Public Library, 6 pm
 - **July 16:** Evolution Revolution at Springfield Museums from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
 - **July 16:** Geologic Walking Tour of Turners Falls from 10 - 11 a.m. at Great Falls Discovery Center
 - **July 16:** Museum Tour & Track Talk at Dinosaur State Park at 1 p.m.
 - **July 17:** Kidleidoscope Story Hour: Dinosaurs at The Great Falls Discovery Center 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.
 - **July 18:** Great Greenfield DinoFest, 10 a.m. - noon on the lawn in front of the 2nd Congregational Church on the Common
 - **July 19:** Sensory Friendly Dino Day at Wistariahurst Museum, noon - 3 p.m.
 - **July 19:** Art Naturally: Make Your Own Jurassic Dinosaur Habitat Diorama and Collage Workshop 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Great Hall
- Dawn of Dino Trail Week Intrigued by Piti Theatre’s New England-wide Bee Week program and the annual BeeFest

launched by Greenfield’s Second Congregational Church, Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association’s long-time Executive Director Tim Neumann and Piti’s Co-Artistic Director Jonathan Mirin discussed how to bring dinosaur history to life for residents. Neumann states, “I thought that the rich intersection of deep time and local history might merit a new celebration around a great scientific contribution from Greenfield’s history.”

In 2017, the Great Greenfield DinoFest was born. Following the success of this annual event, a new era was born in summer 2024 as collaborating organizations collectively decided to transform DinoFest into a valley-wide Dino Trail Week. Reflecting on the evolution, Mirin states, “It just makes sense for this group of organizations to collaborate on a Dino Trail. The fascinating intersection of deep time, science, and local history in the Valley makes for great storytelling, and each of our partners tells aspects of the story in their own way, which means this series of events really has something for everyone.”

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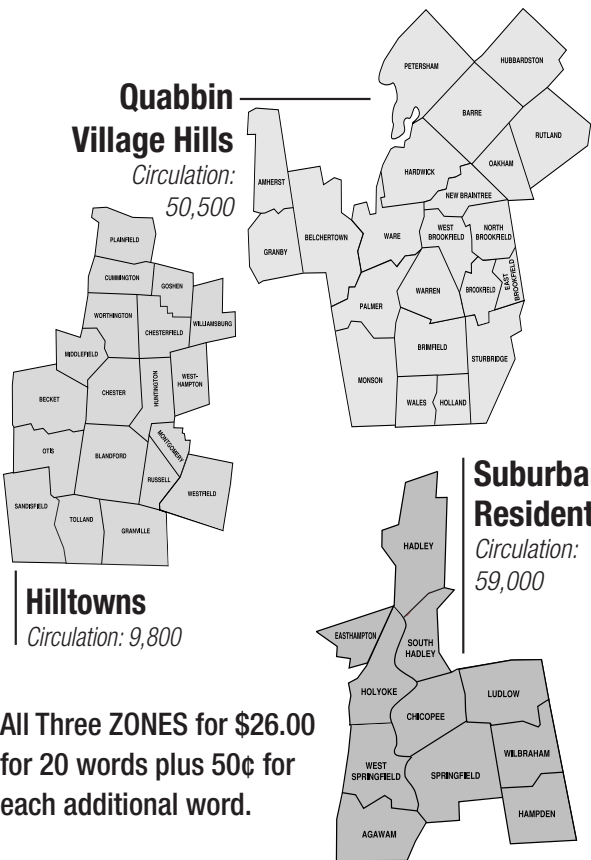
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A group of people are performing on a grassy lawn under a white canopy. A man in a patterned shirt is singing into a microphone, surrounded by women in white and striped outfits who are clapping. A purple table with "First" is visible on the left.

Turley photos by Brendan Rooney

“We’ll be having Dino days again this year because Western Mass has some of the most dinosaur footprints in fossils in the country, and we have some out front of our museum. So we’ll be participating in the Dino trail and yeah, we were also going to host additional house tours, illustrating that we have all sorts of great stuff going on all summer long, so please stop by,” Seiler said.



A woman with dark dreadlocks and glasses is speaking into a microphone. She is wearing a maroon short-sleeved top and a necklace with a large pendant. The background shows a blue and white striped banner and a large black speaker.

A man with short dark hair, wearing a light-colored vertically striped button-down shirt and blue-tinted aviator sunglasses, is speaking into a silver microphone. He is holding a white card or piece of paper in his left hand. The background shows a white canopy tent and green foliage.

A group of people are gathered under a white canopy tent outdoors. In the foreground, a long table covered with a black cloth is set up. On the table, there is a laptop, a red cup, a small display of jewelry, and some papers. Several people are seated at the table, while others stand nearby. The people are dressed in casual summer attire. In the background, there is greenery and a building. The overall atmosphere is that of a community event or fair.

A red food truck named "THAI PLACE" is parked on a grassy area. The truck has a menu board on its side and a red awning over the service window. Several people are standing in line outside the truck, including a man in a blue shirt and a woman in a green shirt. A black pickup truck is parked behind the food truck.

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This year's ceremony marks not only the 80th anniversary of the tragedy but also the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Mt. Tom Memorial, which has become a place of reflection, education, and gratitude for generations of visitors.

12 • JULY 3, 2026 • The Holyoke Sun