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Sun

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Keeping seniors safe in the heat

By Quinn Suomala
Correspondent

With summer time in full swing, already communities have been facing record temperatures. It is important to keep in mind key safety tips to keep seniors safe in the heat.

High temperatures lead to an increased risk for conditions like heat stroke and heat exhaustion.

Seniors are especially at risk for heat stroke due to a decrease in the body’s ability to regulate temperature as they age.

Signs to watch out for for heat stroke include: a body temperature of 104 degrees Fahrenheit, a change in mental state (including confusion, delirium, or irritability), a change in sweating pattern, nausea, flushed skin, rapid heart rate or breathing, and a headache.

If you notice any of these signs, call for medical assistance and then get the person inside or into shade, remove excess clothes and take action to cool them down immediately.

Senior centers do their best to remind elders of steps to take for prevention.

“We encourage them to turn their air conditioners on, even despite the costs, and to drink lots of water,” Executive Director of the Agawam Senior Center Cynthia Sullivan said.

Senior centers like Agawam’s also have people on staff who keep an eye on seniors who are visiting.

“We’re always checking up on people to see how they’re doing,” Sullivan said. “We see many of the people here quite often, so we know when they don’t look okay.”

If people do want to get

See HEAT, page 6

Wistariahurst hosts DINO TRAIL WEEK

By Christina Gioscia
Correspondent

HOLYOKE – On Tuesday July 14, Wistariahurst Museum had their doors open for Dino Trail Week. This weeklong event started the July 11 and will end the 19. People of all ages are encouraged to come have a look at the dinosaur and plant fossils in the driveway at the Museum and see the fossils on display. Then attendees can go through Massachusetts, continuing along the trail of fossils. The fossils on display are from all throughout Holyoke and belong to Wistariahurst Museum. They include shellfish, leaf prints, wood, and of course dinosaurs. Event Coordinator Rachel Powell was working the table with the fossils and helping guests navigate the fossil driveway, educating them with fun facts about the pieces of history.

Powell provided some details about the history behind the fossils.

“We always kind of wanted to do a, like, Dino Day, because we have this very unique feature,” Powell said. “And then, last year there was a partnership of museums that came together and said, ‘Hey, we also have dinosaur stuff.’ So, we got to link with them, and I know that they want this to be a reoccurring event. And we’re so excited so join along with them because it shows just how unique Western Mass’s history is, and some of the like really unique features that we have here that people can engage with.”

Powell said fossils making up the driveway of the museum were installed by Belle Skinner around 1924.

“It gets people to connect with the past. I can’t imagine there’s any kid that isn’t somewhat interested in dinos, but also adults who are interested in dinos,” Powell said. “And more than anything, people really enjoy like touching things and getting to have that physical connection as well



Top photo, Fossils on display at Wistariahurst Museum on July 14 for Dino Trail Week. Above, One of the dinosaur footprints in the driveway at Wistariahurst Museum.

Turley Photos By Christina Gioscia

as having that knowledge connection. It gets people to engage, which is exciting. And it becomes more

interesting for people to get interested in their local history, present, past or like prehistoric past.”

“It gets people to connect with the past. I can’t imagine there’s any kid that isn’t somewhat interested in dinos, but also adults who are interested in dinos.”

- Event Coordinator Rachel Powell

Powell then shared information about the Beneski Museum of Natural History, which is on the trail. “Amherst College, they have magnificent slabs of dinosaur tracks. They have different skeletons and everything. They have interactive drawers; you can like pull out to see some of the smaller fossils. So, they have a really nice in-depth idea of some of the fossils that were here in some of the history. It’s really exciting to get to work with them.”

Museum Director Megan Seiler emphasized the importance of sharing local history along with Dino Week.

“I think it’s really great

to highlight such an amazing natural resource that we have, which are these dinosaur fossils and to celebrate what makes this area so unique,” Seiler. “It’s also a great way to connect people to other institutions doing really great work. It’s a fun way to get people thinking about everything that we have to offer. There’s just a lot of really great opportunities to, you know, learn about the fossils in this region, to connect people with different institutions, and really, you know, to draw in some new people to enjoy these spaces.”

Powell and Seiler care

See DINOS, page 10

The race is on for U.S. Senate

Rep. Seth Moulton challenges Sen. Ed Markey

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – The race for the Senate is on, and last Wednesday, July 8, 79-year-old incumbent Sen. Ed Markey (D) took the stage in the first televised debate against challenger 47-year-old Rep. Seth Moulton (D-MA-06), right here in Western Mass.

This was the 1st official debate between the candidates, as the state primary election fast approaches, on Sept. 1, with early voting beginning on Aug. 22.

The debate was included panelist from multiple local media outlets.

Markey, the incumbent,

is seeking another six-year term. He was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1976 and has served in the Senate since 2013. If victorious, Markey confessed this would be his last year running for re-election.

been left behind.”

Moulton argued it’s time for a new generation of Democratic leadership.

“A lot of people in Massachusetts feel like they don’t have a voice in politics, and they’re struggling to afford

the years, and start making Democrats win again.”

Rallies for both candidates took place prior to the debate.

Moulton first arrived and revealed that this is the 6th time he has been in Western Mass, reinforcing the congressman’s emphasis on the region’s importance throughout the commonwealth as the race continues to tighten.

“Being here in Western Mass is huge, it’s where my uncle [Andy] grew up, it’s where my chief of staff went to school, my district director

See SENATE, page 10



Rep. Seth Moulton



Sen. Ed Markey



“I need one more term to finish the agenda, this progressive agenda,” Markey stated. “And then I will step down. But we need to complete the agenda. We need Medicare For All, we need a green new deal, we need to make sure that we are fighting for every family who is out there who justifiably feels that they have

basic needs, and we need a fighter,” Moulton said. “We need someone who’s going to change the playbook, invest in a new generation of

The International Volleyball Hall of Fame to unveil new Puerto Rico exhibit July 30

HOLYOKE – The International Volleyball Hall of Fame at 444 Dwight Street, in cooperation with the City of Holyoke will unveil its newest exhibit, Puerto Rico Volleyball, on Thursday, July 30, at 11 a.m. to celebrate one of the world’s most passionate volleyball nations while kicking off the opening day of Holyoke’s annual Fiestas Patronales.

According to a press release made by Mayor Joshua Garcia’s office, the Hall of Fame invites volleyball fans, families, and community members to attend this free event and experience the story of Puerto Rico’s volleyball tradition while enjoying one of Holyoke’s signature cultural festivals.

The grand opening honors Puerto Rico’s volleyball legacy and

the longstanding relationship between Holyoke and Puerto Rico. The exhibit showcases the history of volleyball in Puerto Rico through historic artifacts and profiles of legendary athletes, coaches, and leaders. Researched and organized by Holyoke resident Jimmy Camacho over several years — including multiple research trips throughout Puerto Rico to collect photographs and the stories behind them. The exhibit is designed and fabricated by Gaddier Rosario Fine Art Studio.

The grand opening will welcome representatives from the Puerto Rico Volleyball Hall of Fame, led by President Pedrito Rodríguez and Vice President Rafel Rodríguez, along with guests from the municipalities of Naranjito

See HALL, page 6

Holyoke Elks launch community fundraising initiative

HOLYOKE – Elks Lodge member Sal Canata issued the following press release/statement regarding the initiative to raise money for the Elks Lodge:

If you've lived in the Greater Holyoke area for any length of time, chances are the Holyoke Elks Lodge has been part of your life.

Perhaps you attended a wedding, celebrated a retirement, enjoyed a birthday party, gathered with family following a funeral, attended a Jack and Jill, or participated in one of the many charitable fundraisers hosted at the Lodge. Maybe you've enjoyed live music, played BINGO, tested your knowledge at trivia night, joined us for Burger Night, used the golf simulators, or attended one of the many community events held throughout the year.

If you're a soccer parent, your child may have played on the Elks soccer field, which the Lodge has proudly made available to

local soccer clubs for years. Community organizations such as the Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade Committee and Alcoholics Anonymous have used the Lodge as a meeting and event space. Organizations including Magic For Maddie have also used our facility as a gathering place before sponsoring road races, charity walks, and fundraising events at the Ashley Reservoir.

And if you've ever enjoyed a walk around the Ashley Reservoir, there is a good chance you've parked in the Holyoke Elks parking lot.

For generations, the Holyoke Elks Lodge has quietly served the Greater Holyoke community in ways that extend far beyond our membership. Today, we are asking the community to help us continue that tradition.

Several years ago, the City of Holyoke closed the former public access point to the Ashley Reservoir, directing visitors to the Holyoke Elks parking lot. Since then,

our lot has become the primary parking area for thousands of walkers, runners, cyclists, families, and outdoor enthusiasts who enjoy one of Holyoke's most treasured recreational destinations.

What many people may not realize is that this parking lot is privately owned and maintained by the Holyoke Elks Lodge — not the City of Holyoke.

The Lodge is responsible for all costs associated with this property, including paving, repairs, lighting, landscaping, snow removal, insurance, utilities, taxes, and ongoing maintenance. As usage has increased, so have challenges including vandalism, property damage, vagrancy concerns, and significant amounts of trash left behind.

Several years ago, we created a voluntary parking donation program with a QR code and donation information near the entrance to the back lot. Visitors are encouraged to make a suggested \$3

donation to help offset these ongoing expenses. Today, we are renewing and expanding that effort.

This initiative is not about charging for parking. It is about preserving a community resource.

We are sincerely grateful for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding that allowed us to complete much-needed paving of our back parking lot. Those funds helped address an important one-time capital improvement, but maintaining a busy community facility requires continued investment.

Our lodge building, grounds, and front parking lot are now more than 50 years old. Like any facility that welcomes thousands of guests each year, they require regular maintenance, repairs, and improvements to remain safe, welcoming, and available to the public.

Every dollar contributed through this parking lot fundraising initiative stays right here at the Holyoke Elks

Lodge. These donations help maintain the parking area, preserve our facility, improve our grounds, and ensure that we can continue opening our doors to the community.

The Holyoke Elks is much more than a building. It is a place where families celebrate life's milestones, where friends gather, where local musicians perform, where organizations meet, and where neighbors come together throughout the year.

It is also a place that gives back.

Through scholarships, charitable donations, veterans' programs, youth activities, community partnerships, and the use of our facilities and grounds for public benefit, the Holyoke Elks has remained committed to serving the Greater Holyoke community for well over a century.

In many ways, the Lodge belongs to the community it serves.

That is why we are asking for your help.

The next time you park in our lot to enjoy the Ashley Reservoir, please consider making a suggested \$3 parking donation by scanning the QR code on one of our signs or using the donation box.

Three dollars may seem small, but when thousands of visitors contribute a few dollars, together we can preserve a place that has been serving Holyoke for generations.

You've celebrated with us.

You've gathered with us.

You've parked with us.

Now, help us preserve the Holyoke Elks for the next generation.

Suggested Parking Donation: \$3

"The Holyoke Elks Lodge has never been just a building. It is a place where our community comes together—to celebrate, to support one another, and to create lasting memories. We are simply asking those who benefit from this special place to help us preserve it for future generations."

Helping children prepare, build confidence for summer camp

HOLYOKE – For many children, summer camp is filled with adventure, new friendships, and memories that last a lifetime. But for others, it may also be their first experience spending time away from home—a milestone that can bring both excitement and understandable anxiety.

According to Karyn Rossacci, DNP, MSN, NP-C, RN, CCRN, Chief Nursing Officer for MiraVista and TaraVista Behavioral Health Centers and a parent herself, those nervous feelings are not something to fear. In fact, they can become an important part

of a child's emotional growth.

"Summer camp gives children the opportunity to discover something incredibly important," said Rossacci. "They learn that they can try something unfamiliar, experience uncertainty, and come through it stronger on the other side."

Rossacci encourages parents and caregivers to resist the temptation to eliminate every anxious feeling before camp begins.

"Our goal isn't to eliminate every anxious feeling. It's to help children discover they can move through those feel-

ings with confidence, knowing they're capable, resilient, and never alone."

Instead, Rossacci recommends helping children prepare for the experience while reinforcing their growing independence.

- Talk about camp with excitement, focusing on the friendships, activities, and experiences they'll enjoy.
- Practice independence before camp through sleepovers with grandparents or relatives, day trips with trusted adults, or encouraging children to make age-appropriate decisions on their own.

- Normalize anxious feelings by reminding children that feeling nervous doesn't mean they aren't ready, it simply means they're doing something new.
- Pack a small reminder of home, such as a favorite stuffed animal, family photo, or handwritten note.
- Keep goodbyes warm, loving, and brief. Children often take emotional cues from the adults around them, and a calm farewell communicates confidence in their ability to succeed.
- Celebrate courage when camp is over. Whether

they conquered the climbing wall, made a new friend, or simply spent their first night away from home, recognize the bravery it took to try something unfamiliar.

"Growing up isn't about never feeling anxious," Rossacci said. "It's about learning that we can face those feelings, ask for support when we need it, and discover we're stronger than we thought."

While some pre-camp jitters are a normal part of childhood, Rossacci notes that trusted adult caregivers should pay attention if anxiety becomes persistent, over-

whelming, or begins interfering with a child's daily life. In those cases, conversations with a pediatrician or mental health professional can provide additional guidance and support.

"As parents, we naturally want to protect our children from discomfort," Rossacci added. "But some of life's greatest confidence comes from discovering that we can do hard things. Camp often becomes one of those experiences children remember for the rest of their lives—not because they were never nervous, but because they found the courage to keep going."

A PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit, You who made me see everything and showed me the way to reach my ideal. You, who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and you, who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue want to thank you for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from you no matter how great the material desire may be. I want to be with you and my loved ones in your perpetual glory. Amen. Thank you for your love towards me and my loved ones. Persons must pray the prayer three consecutive days without asking your wish. After third day wish will be granted no matter how difficult it may be. Then promise to publish this dialogue as soon as this favor is granted. I will never stop trusting God and His power.

REJ

ST. JUDE'S NOVENA

May The Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now, and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, Helper of the Hopeless, pray for us. Say this prayer 9 times a day. By the 8th day your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised.

Thank you St. Jude, for granting my petition.

REJ

Read The Holyoke Sun online at www.sun.turley.com

Greater Holyoke Chamber invites local businesses to 58th Annual 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.

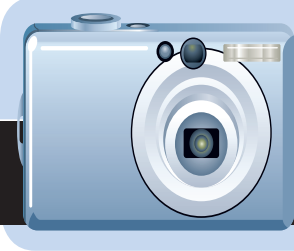
Businesses can participate in several ways, including registering a foursome, becoming an event sponsor,

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. For sponsors

and raffle donors, the event provides added exposure before and during the tournament, helping businesses stay visible among a broad and engaged audience.

The Greater Holyoke Chamber encourages businesses to register early, secure sponsorship opportunities, and plan now for participation in the 2026 Chamber Cup. Companies interested in playing, sponsoring, donating raffle prizes, or volunteering can visit holyokechamber.com or contact the Chamber for more information.



Send Us Your Photos!

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Work continues on various school projects

HOLYOKE – The HPS Operations and Facilities team is hard at work this summer managing a wide range of repairs, replacements, and improvements throughout the district, including:

- Roof repairs and replacements at Holyoke High School North, Donahue Elementary, Kelly Elementary, McMahon Elementary, and Sullivan

Middle School;

- New playground equipment for Morgan School;
- Auditorium sound system upgrades at HHS North;
- Replacements of dishwashers, sidewalks, flooring, counters, burglar alarms, hot water heaters, doors, and heating and ventilation components;
- Painting projects; and
- Summer deep-cleaning

work at all schools.

The majority of this work has been labeled "critical" for completion this summer, except the summer deep-cleaning work which has been labeled "necessary" and routinely completed each year.

All work is expected to be completed in stages throughout the summer, with all facilities ready for the return of students in August.

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Frederick Douglass

Duglass exhibit on display

HOLYOKE – Frederick Douglass: Advocate for Equality, is now available for view at the Holyoke Public Library through Thursday, July 23.

This 6-panel exhibition from the Gilder Lehrman Institute explores Douglass’s epic life from 1818 to 1895, examining his escape from slavery, his work as an abolitionist, and his relentless fight for equality for all individuals during the Jim Crow era.

Groups and individuals welcome to view during all Library hours

Presented in recognition of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and its ongoing promise.

Ashley Reservoir regulations announced

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Water Works announces Ashley Reservoir is public drinking water supply and governing public use regulations.

With growing concerns of illegal uses of public access in Ashley and Whiting Reservoirs we would like to remind the public that both reservoirs are strictly monitored by the Hampden County Sheriffs Dept. and Holyoke Police Department. All illegal activity in these reservoirs are subject to officers’ discretion, and these illegal activities will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

Pedestrian traffic is allowed after dawn and before dusk only on paths and roadways specifically designated and marked by the symbol ▲. Pedestrian traffic shall include walking, jogging, running and bicycling. Path and roadways marked by the symbol ▲ including all other activities

listed below are STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

DO NOT:

- Walking dogs or any other domestic animals including horses or horseback riding;
- Use of motorcycles, ATV’s /all terrain vehicles, snowmobiles, class III and IV E-bikes or any other form of recreational vehicles;
- Fishing, hunting, bathing, swimming, picnicking, wading or launching / operating boats or other watercraft;
- Throwing or disposing dirt, rubbish, refuse or any matter;
- Drawing or causing to be removed any water from any source;
- Any act of drunkenness, inebriation, breach of peace, profanity or other disorderly conduct offensive to the general public;
- Possession of any alcohol beverages or controlled substance;
- Conducting any activi-

ty which could injure, defile, deface, destroy or pollute waterworks property;

- Conducting group events without special permit by the Board of Water Commissioners;
- No ice skating or standing on the ice;
- Use of personal drones is prohibited;

Take notice that the Holyoke Board of Water Commissioners, pursuant to 1884 Mass. Acts 67, 310 CMR 22.22 and the Holyoke Code of Ordinances, hereby closes from dusk to dawn the land and the waterways of the Whiting Street Reservoir.

Entry in or upon the land or waterways of the Whiting Street Reservoir before dawn or after dusk by any person not authorized by the Board of Water Commissioners is strictly prohibited.

Estas regulaciones el uso publico de aqua potable. Por favor traduzca inmediata-
mence.

COLLEGE NOTES

Holyoke Community announces Dean’s List for Spring 2026

HOLYOKE – Each semester Holyoke Community College recognizes superior scholarship through the Dean’s List. A student is placed on the Dean’s List if their G.P.A. is 3.2 or higher. The Holyoke students listed below have earned Dean’s List honors for the Spring 2026 semester.

Whitney Elizabeth Allen, Dayshel Erika Allen, Andher Felix Almonte Canela, Jeritza Michelle, Alvarez Ohlinger, Alexia Nevaeh Amburgey, Lily Margaret Angers, Ruth Marie Arzuaga Rodriguez, Hector Giovanni Arzuaga Santiago, Elia Marie Ayala, Henry Aidan Bayne, William Beatty, Elda Mary Benvenutty, Zoe Bisbing, Iziah Carlos Bonilla, Dawne K. Brown, Pearl Abigail Burns, Mia Natalie Buzzeo, Tania Liz Caraballo, Euren Pasaol Carabuena, Franchesca Marie Carattini, Aztiney Caudle, Shaina Maris Colon, Nancy Yolanda Colon, DeMichael Colon Baez, Yaris Beatriz Conde Estremera, Enmanuel Ruben Contin Pimentel, Sophia Snow DeBlase, Ivy Wrenne Drude Demetriou, Billy Escobar Descant, Harman Singh Dhaliwal, Alexis Alan Durchasek, Drew Fox, Jordan Gagner, Paula Marie Gonzalez, Kimberly Gordon, Christian Guzik, Adaryn Livingstion Hagar, Nicole Louise Henchey, Gabriel P. Hermann, Nicholas A. Hoag, Dhyani Ife, Dylan Kennedy, Alicia

B. Knapp, Daniel Gerald Leary, Raymond Ariel Lozada, Melina Lozada, Eric Edward Lukomski, Tiffany Pearl Mackey, Hannah Allisabeth Maiorano, Deshaun Christopher Malave Sr., Ziarra Lee Martinez, Makayla Marty, Dominick Josiah Mastromonaco, Vincent Aldo Maupin, Rose Adrienne Michaud, Destiny Miller, Misteny Montano, Jamil Navarro, Lily Marie O’Connor, Eimylette Ortiz Viera, Emely Palacio, Ross Spencer Pare, Judeilly Polanco, Lauren Powell, Anna Claire Puttick, Anastasiia Pylypenko, Sara K. Quaglia, Mariely Ramos, Isabel Maria Ramos-Alicea, Aramis Jaromy Reyes, Ashanti Ridley, Rafael Yadiel Rivera, Lanaiya Carmen Rodriguez, Jovany Rodriguez, Judeliz Rodriguez, Mayrangelique Rojas De Leon, Angel Luis Romero, Karina Marylyn Romero, Katelyn Roque, Aiden Leith Ross, Olivia Rose Royland, Abdulsalam Ahmad Sabbagh, Junna Sreileak San, Makeyla Luz Santos, Erick Santos, Melissa Ann Sepulveda, Morgan Ashley Sheehan, Megan Ellyse Sicard, Monica Silva, Amanda Smith, Seline Solis Suero, Enid Magaly Soto, Aidan Stark, Sadie Francis Swindell, Nicholas Michael Sylvester, Jennifer Terhune, Sabrina Colette Vaissiere, Sidney Omarys Valentin, Vladimir Vazquez, Amani Willis, Jack Douglas Wresien.

Wreath bazaar applications open

AGAWAM – Agawam Congregational Church is now accepting applications for the Holly Wreath Christmas Bazaar to be held on Saturday, Nov. 21 at 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you are interested in participating

contact the church office at 786-7111 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon for an application.

You may pick one up at the church office or request one be sent to you by email. The church email is office@agawamcong.com.

Greek Festival set for Aug. 22

HOLYOKE – Holy Trinity Church in Holyoke is celebrating its 5th Greek Festival on Aug. 22 from 11-5 p.m.

The community event will raise funds to support the Ladies of the Philoptochos (Friends of the Poor) Society whose main mission is to support those facing hardships.

As America celebrates 250 years, this year’s features will include live music, a community-wide charity drive (personal care items, Walmart Gift-Cards, and slightly used backpacks), honor those who protect and serve by offering First Responders \$5 off any purchase with ID, and a crowd-pleasing baklava sundae.

Cooling centers available during excessive heat

HOLYOKE – Due to high heat and humidity, the Holyoke Emergency Management Department has announced the opening of cooling centers through Friday, July 17, during regular business hours at the War Memorial Building at 310 Appleton Street, the Center for Human Development (CHD) at 696 Dwight Street, the Holyoke Public Library at 250 Chestnut Street, and

the Holyoke Senior Center at 291 Pine Street.

The Pouliot swimming pool at 575 Maple Street (behind the ice skating rink) is now open seven days a week: Adult Swim Daily, 9 to 11 a.m.; Open Swim, Monday - Friday, 1 to 6 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m..

Splash pads for children are up and running at Springdale Park, Pulaski

Park, Community Field, Pina Park, Carlos Vega Park, and Heritage State Park. The splash pad at Pouliot pool also is open.

Holyoke Emergency Management urges residents to avoid excessive outdoor activity, to exercise caution with the elderly, children, and individuals with chronic illnesses, and to stay hydrated by drinking water.

Modern Holyoke photograph display comes to Wistariahurst

HOLYOKE – Photographer Charles Abel is bringing an exhibit to Wistariahurst Museum’s Gallery that shows visitors a view of Holyoke they’ve never seen before. Pictorially Speaking features cameras from Wistariahurst’s archive alongside photos Abel has taken of Holyoke. Abel captures views of modern-day Holyoke from a historical perspective- literally.

Abel says, “I saw the 5x7 field camera, and I knew that was the one. After cleaning the camera and testing it for light-leaks, I made a few sample images to get a feel for the camera...In the end, this series of photographs is a combination of modern documentary images taken in the Pictorialist style with a 100-year-old camera and 125-year-old lens.”

Museum Director Megan Seiler looks forward to this

exhibit, saying, “We get to look at the present through the past’s lens.”

Wistariahurst welcomes visitors to the opening reception of Pictorially Speaking on Aug. 3 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. The exhibit will be on view through Sept. 8, during open gallery hours, Mondays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Tuesdays, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

NOTICE

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

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Guest Column

SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor



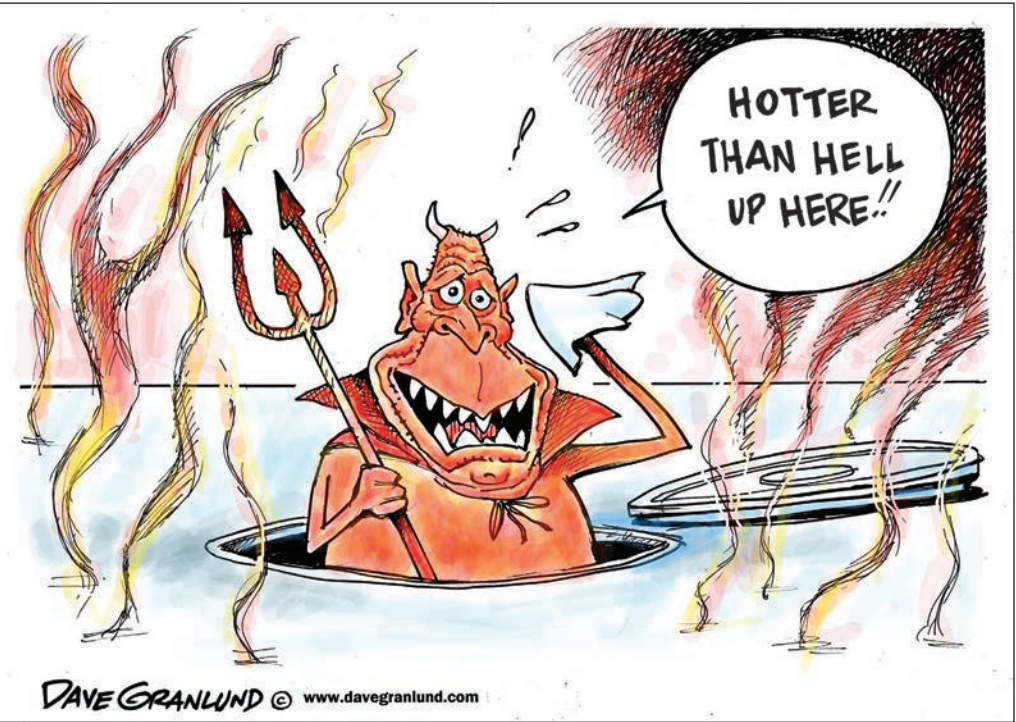
Should I claim spouse benefits now, or my own Social Security benefit?

Dear Rusty:
I am writing to get advice on the optimal time to sign up for Social Security benefits.
I am a 64-year-old female and my birthdate is August 1961. My husband is already taking his SS benefits, so I have also wondered if it be advisable to take spousal benefits or full benefits.

Signed:
Wondering Spouse

Dear Wondering:
If you take your Social Security benefits at age 64, they will be permanently reduced.
And, for information, you cannot take only your spousal benefit; you must take your own SS retirement benefit whenever you claim and, if you are entitled to more as your husband's spouse, you will also get a "spousal boost" to bring your monthly payment up to what you are entitled to as a spouse.
If you claim at any time before your SS Full Retirement Age of 67, both your own SS retirement amount and your spousal boost amount will be actuarially reduced for claiming early.
All of which means that claiming before your FRA (e.g., at 64) will mean your monthly benefit will be less than 50% of your husband's monthly FRA amount.
Now, for clarity, it's important to know how spouse benefits are calculated: if your FRA entitlement is less than 50% of your husband's FRA entitlement, then you will get a "spousal boost" added to your own SS retirement amount.
Note that FRA amounts are always used to calculate spousal amounts, regardless of the age at which benefits are claimed. If your husband waited until age 70 to get a higher monthly benefit or even if he claimed before his FRA, your spousal amount would still be based on his FRA entitlement. If your FRA benefit is less than half of his FRA entitlement, you will get a spousal boost. If not, you won't.
Assuming you will be entitled to a "spousal boost," the decision you must make is whether to claim early (e.g., now at 64) or wait until you are 67 to get your maximum amount as your husband's spouse. The factors to consider are these:
Are you still working? If so, claiming before FRA means you will be subject to an annual earnings limit until you reach FRA. The earnings limit for early filers in 2026 is \$24,480 and, if that is exceeded, SS will take away benefits of \$1 for

every \$2 you are over the limit (the limit increases a bit yearly).
If you substantially exceed the earnings limit by working, you may even be temporarily ineligible for SS benefits until you either reach your FRA or stop working full time.
Do you expect your husband to predecease you? If so, then your benefit as a widow will be 100% of the larger amount he is collecting when he passes provided when that occurs you've reached your FRA and your own SS retirement is less.
Depending on timing, that may mean that taking a reduced spouse benefit now, which will be replaced by your larger widow benefit later, is a logical choice.
What is your own life expectancy? If you have health issues or have other reasons to believe you will not achieve "average" life expectancy average is about 87 for a woman your current age, then claiming your Social Security benefits early is likely a prudent choice.
So, as you can see, you must evaluate your personal circumstances to make this decision. Although we aren't able to say exactly when you should claim your SS benefits, I hope this provides the information you need to make an informed decision.
The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



Guest Column

Endless supply of flowers for the windowsill

I must admit that I feel unmotivated in the flower garden this summer. It took me forever to sow my seeds, and even longer to install the resulting plants.
The seedlings finally went into the ground a good two weeks after Memorial Day (gasp!) but they are making up for lost time despite my bad attitude! Just last week the first bouquet graced the kitchen windowsill.
In a few weeks I will have a collection of different vases filled with flowers in that very spot; it's something I look forward to doing every summer. But if I am going to have flowers to fill the vases, I have to keep up with maintenance.
It's not enough to sit back and watch them grow.
Here is some great advice worth repeating that will help to keep summer annuals looking their best.
Deadhead
Most annuals will continue to bloom abundantly if they are deadheaded on a regular basis. Deadheading is an entertaining term used to define the removal of spent flowers.
You see, a plant produces flowers for one purpose: to survive. Once a flower has been pollinated it will produce seed, seed that will grow future plants.
If a plant has produced enough flowers that have gone to seed it will consider its job to be done, flower production will cease and it will begin to decline.
By deadheading, we keep the plant in reproductive mode, in other words, in flower! When you remove dying blossoms, make sure to pinch off the entire flower, not just the petals, or it will do no good. Include the stem as well to keep the plant tidy.
Petunias, marigolds, zinnias and salvia, among others, are examples of plants that require regular deadheading to look their best throughout the growing season.
Shear them back to encourage new growth
Some annuals start to get a leggy appearance about now. Others may have brown tips. These plants require more drastic measures to bring back their youthful good looks.
Give them a good haircut. Simply look within the plant and find healthy, green growth. Cut calendulas, pansies and snapdragon back to that point.
Alyssum or lobelia can often be sheared to within inches of the ground.
Don't worry; they won't look bad for long! You can jump start regrowth with a bit of liquid fertilizer.
Feed your plants
Occasionally, even plants that are well fertilized at planting time begin to have issues. If foliage is pale and flower production is nil, pull back the bark mulch and sprinkle some organic fertilizer granules at the base of each plant.
Cultivate gently and water in.
You can also use a water soluble liquid fertilizer every couple of weeks. If going natural is your cup of tea, make some!
Compost or manure tea has long been used to keep growth lush. Steep a burlap bag of either compost or aged manure in a large trash bucket filled with water and use as needed. Smaller batches can be made right in a watering can.
Likewise, there are numerous blends of seaweed and fish emulsion on the market that can be watered in or used as a foliar feed.
Water, water, water
If Mother Nature fails to provide at least an inch of rain each week, then unfortunately we must make up the difference. It is so easy to forget to perform this very obvious maintenance task, especially when we are busy doing other things.
If we are negligent often enough, however, our plants will suffer.
Sometimes pale green foliage is a nitrogen deficiency from simply a lack of water. When you water the



By Ellenor Downer
My daughter, Paula, saw a black and white warbler and as the name implies it has black and white feathers.
The black and white warbler is easy to spot and easy to recognize. Its former name was the black and white creeper. Like the white-breasted and red-breasted nuthatches and the brown creeper, it climbs about on the trunks and major limbs of trees seeking



Black and white warbler
insects in the bark crevices. It often feeds low, and nests even lower, usually on the ground.

This warbler inhabits forests, woodlands, shrubs, Savannas, and thickets from Alaska and the north, California, eastern Canada, Florida, Great Lakes, mid Atlantic, New England, northwest, Plains, Rocky Mountains, southeast, southwest, Texas and Western Canada.
Spring migration begins rather early and takes place mainly at night. Migration is spread over a lengthy period in both spring and fall.
The sexes are similar

See BIRDS, page 5

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.
Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon. Please email (preferred) letters to thesun@turley.com. Mailed letters can be sent to *The Sun*, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

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

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

The Holyoke Sun welcomes election letters to the editor

The Holyoke Sun welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to *The Holyoke Sun*, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to thesun@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Friday's

newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.
For more information, call 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspa-

per plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.
Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in *The Holyoke Sun*.

Second Chance offering vaccine clinic July 17

HEAT, from page 1

Additionally, many senior centers are open as cooling centers for the public during heat waves. The Agawam Senior Center, the Holyoke Senior Center, the RiverMills Senior Center and the Wilbraham Senior Center are just some of the options available.

Second Chance gratefully acknowledges the support of Petco Love alongside the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture (MDAR) in conjunction with the Holyoke Board of Health for helping to make this clinic possible. For more information, visit www.secondchanceanimals.org.

“Every trip to Puerto Rico uncovered another incredible story, another artifact and another person whose contributions deserved to be remembered,” Camacho said. “This exhibit is a tribute to the athletes,



"Holyoke is proud to be the birthplace of volleyball, but just as importantly, we are proud to celebrate the communities that have embraced and elevated the sport across the globe," said Holyoke Mayor Joshua A. Garcia. "The Puerto Rico Volleyball Exhibition reflects the deep cultural

The exhibit and grand opening gained support from Set to Serve, USA International Sports Group, Explore Holyoke, and the City of Holyoke.

The Agawam Senior Center, for example, has a performance by the band Solar Eclipse on July 14 at 5:30 p.m. (with free ice cream included) and Bunko

For those interested, the RiverMills Senior Center is also offering an ice cream social on July 17 at 1:30p.m.

"Come in and eat, our meals are \$4," Sullivan said. "There is no need to turn on

The senior centers always welcome people to come by while they are open and take advantage of their activities and air conditioning. Utilizing them is a great way to beat the heat and have some fun.

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No.
HD26P1429GD
In the matter of:
Nathan Purvis
Of: Holyoke, MA
RESPONDENT
Alleged Incapacitated Person
CITATION GIVING NOTICE**

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of **07/31/2026**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds

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A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administra-

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Planning Board:
Lauren Niles, Chairperson
07/10, 07/17/2026

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Martine Worrall-Turgeon eyes a teammate up the field.

SPORTS

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Here for Beer shuts out Monson

S O U T H HADLEY – Last Thursday evening, Here for Beer scored a big win over Monson Mustangs 5-0 in Women's summer soccer action. The two teams were in a

key matchup with both teams near the top of the Women's Division in the PVSSL. Here for Beer is now alone in second place at 6-1 while Monson is now 5-2 heading into the final weeks of the regular season.



Turley photos by David Henry
www.sweetdogphotos.com
Shean Smith socks a free kick away.



Gwen Duggan makes a pass toward midfield.



Lilly Jaeger sends a pass away for Monson.



Ciara Monaghan tries to stop a ball.



Goalie Morgan Wesson punts the ball away.



Caitlin Bonavita makes a stop.

Blue Sox get offense going in win over Keene

KEENE, NH – The Valley Blue Sox (11-14-1) have hit an offensive stride in its past three games, and finally capitalized on it in a 7-6 win over the Keene Swampbats on July 11 at Alumni Field in Keene, NH. Throughout the three games, the same face has been the center of it all.

Blue Sox's catcher Chris Cancel (UConn) does not normally see the letters "DH" written next to his name in the starting lineup. According to head coach John Raiola, the decision to keep Cancel in the lineup on a usual off-day came down to his swing path.

Raiola would know. He previously served on the SwampBats coaching staff in 2011, making him closely familiar with Alumni Field's dimensions. The right-field foul pole is 354 feet from home plate and the center field fence is 352 feet from home plate. This creates an abnormally short right-center field gap.

"It's the first time in the DH all year, because all he's got to do was take his normal swing and hit a ball well to the right center, and

See SOX, page 8

St. Joe's grabs win over PeoplesBank

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

HOLYOKE – Since 1995, the PeoplesBank baseball team has built a dynasty in the Tri-County League, capturing 21 championship titles, including each of the last 13 seasons.

The St. Joseph's Saints, who are looking to win the TCL championship title for the first time in two decades, are determined to knock PeoplesBank from its perch this summer.

In a span of 48 hours last week, the Saints celebrated two victories in the rivalry series.

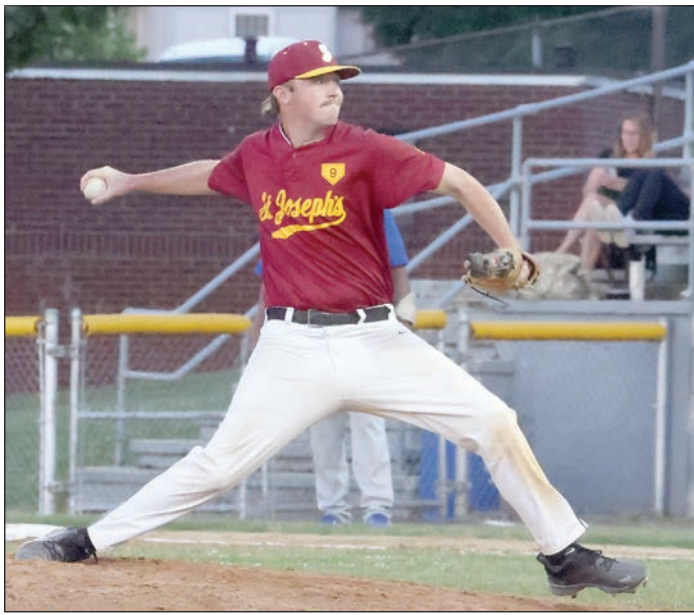
St. Joseph's traveled to Mackenzie Stadium in Holyoke last Wednesday night and defeated PeoplesBank, 10-5, which kept them in first place in the league standings.

"We've faced Peoples in the championship series the past couple of years, and they've gotten the best of us," said St. Joe's shortstop Devin Slattery, who had a base hit and scored three runs in last Wednesday's game. "We beat them in a regular season game last year and they're a great team. We're also outstanding team this year and we're trying to win the championship title."

St. Joe's entered this week's action with a 13-3 overall record, while Peoples had an 11-3-1 mark.

"We made a couple of mental errors in tonight's

See TRI-COUNTY, page 8



Jack Feltovic sends a pitch away.

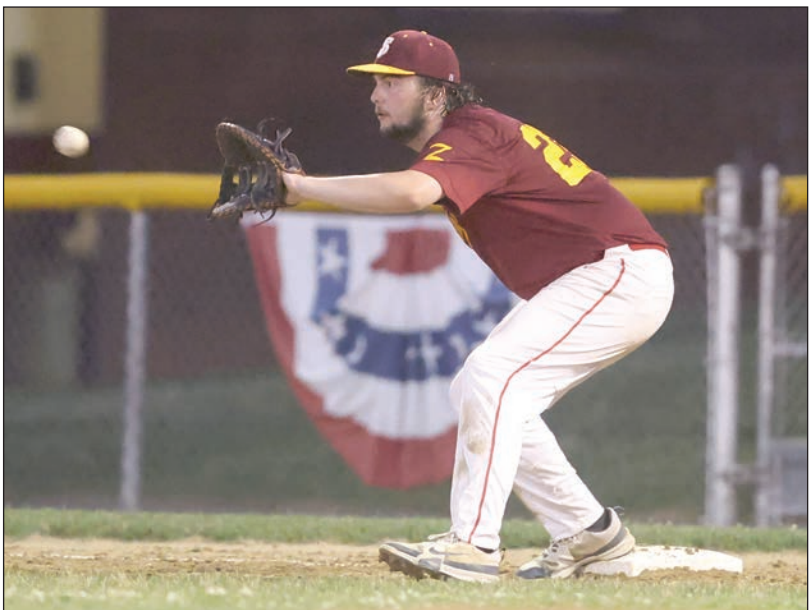


Cam MacDonald sends a throw across the diamond.



James Flahive delivers a pitch for PeoplesBank.

Turley photos by David Henry



Dillon Slattery makes the catch at first for an out.

Vermont Green hands Pioneers defeat

By **Tim Peterson**
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW – The members of the Western Mass. Pioneers gathered for a team photo before kicking off their regularseason finale against rival Vermont Green FC last Friday night.

Having been eliminated from the USL League 2 play-offs for the first time since 2018, the Pioneers were hoping to end Vermont Green’s long unbeaten streak.

The Pioneers overcame a 2-0 halftime deficit to tie the score early in the second half, but Vermont Green stretched their unbeaten streak to 37 matches following a 4-2 victory before a large crowd at Lusitano Stadium.

“Our main goal was to make the playoffs, which we’ve been able to do every year since 2018,” said Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari. “We battled back in the second half, but it just wasn’t enough.”

Vermont Green (13-0-1), who are the defending USL League 2 champions, haven’t suffered a loss since a 3-0 setback against Seacoast United in the 2024 Eastern Conference semifinals.

Alfred Baafi, who completed his first season playing for the Pioneers, was a member of the Seacoast United squad, which wound up winning the National championship title, two years ago.

“We really wanted to beat our rivals in tonight’s game,” said Baafi, who led the Pioneers with four assists. “It was a great feeling after my Seacoast team beat them in the playoffs two years ago. I really enjoyed playing for the Pioneers this summer. My dream is to play for a professional soccer team.”

One of the Pioneers veteran players is Santiago Blasco Gomez, who was the team captain.

“This is my third season playing for the Pioneers and I love this place,” Gomez said. “We’ve made the playoffs the past two years, which was an amazing experience. It’s disappointing not making it this

year. I’m hoping to play here again next year.”

Gomez, who’s from Alborache, Spain, was a graduate student on the Bryant University men’s soccer team a year ago.

The Pioneers, who finished their season with an 8-3-3 overall record, haven’t beaten their archrivals from Burlington since a 1-0 road win on June 17, 2023.

Vermont Green, who are hosting the first two rounds of the playoffs this weekend, now holds a 4-3-2 edge in the series against the Western Mass. squad.

Vermont Green took the lead when Samson Kpardeh sent a pass from the left side into the box where Jeremy Fancou fired a shot into the right corner past Western Mass. goalie Ben Alexander during the 24th minute of the opening half.

Fancou scored his second goal seven minutes later, which was assisted by Ryan Zellefrow.

The score was 2-0 at intermission.

Nine minutes into the second half, the Pioneers sliced their deficit in half following a corner kick goal.

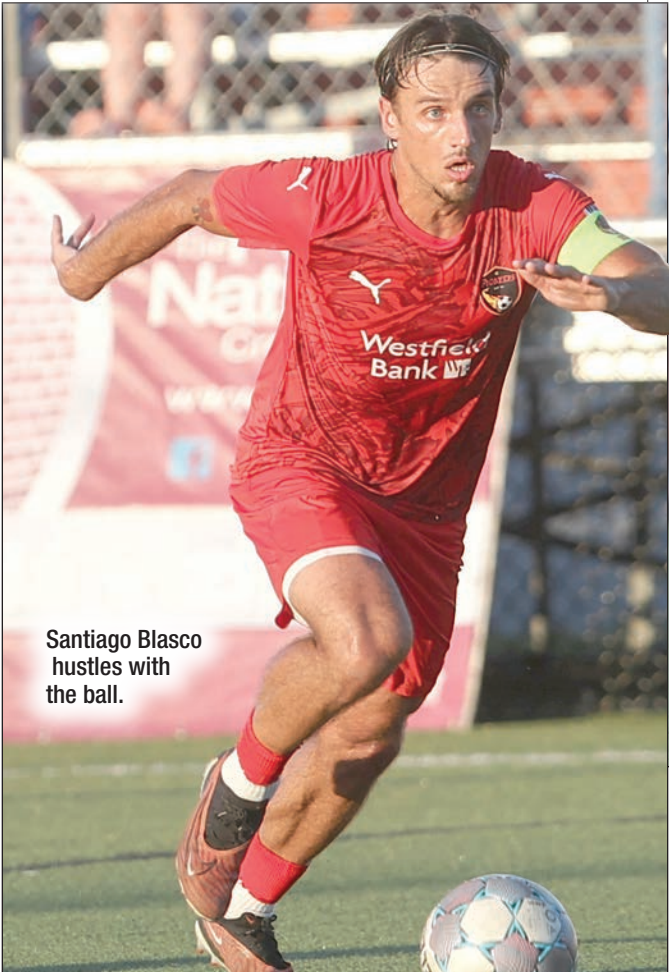
Ronan O’Brien booted the ball into the box from the left corner. After the ball was headed by Dylan Hunston, Riley Priddy put another header into the left corner past Vermont Green back-up goalie Seth Wilson.

During the 59th minute, Martin Echarren booted a free kick into the right corner tying the score at 2-2. It was also his team leading seventh goal of the season.

Vermont Green retook the lead following a goal by Kpardeh during the 74th minute.

Another goal by William Sawin during stoppage time sent the Vermont Green rowdy supporters into a frenzy.

The Pioneers will be looking to qualify for the league playoffs, and they’ll also be looking to celebrate a victory against the Vermont Green during the summer of 2027.



Santiago Blasco hustles with the ball.



Alfred Baafi approaches the ball.



Shun Murasawa sends a free kick away.



Martin Echarren goes for the goal.



Ronan O'Brien heads past midfield.

T-Birds unveil 2026-2027 season schedule

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds, the proud American Hockey League affiliate of the St. Louis Blues, released their full schedule for their 2026-27 regular season on Thursday in conjunction with the AHL. The T-Birds will be celebrating their 10th playing season as an AHL member club, as well as their sixth playing season in affiliation with the Blues. Springfield has qualified for the Calder Cup Playoffs in four of its past five seasons, coming off a run to within one win of the Eastern Conference Finals.

For the first time in seven seasons, the Thunderbirds will begin their regular season on the road, on Saturday, Oct. 3, in Wilkes-Barre against the Penguins in a rematch of the Atlantic Division Finals. The T-Birds will kick off their home ice season at the Thunderdome against the Laval Rocket on Saturday, Oct. 10 on Opening Night. Puck drop is set for 6:05 p.m.

Fans are advised that, for a second straight season, all Saturday games at the MassMutual Center will start at 6:05 p.m.

The Thunderbirds will face every Eastern Conference team at least twice during the

2026-27 regular season, except for the Cleveland Monsters and Toronto Marlies. Once again, the AHL season will consist of all 32 clubs playing 72 games (36 home, 36 away).

Springfield will play 52 games against Atlantic Division opponents, including their 10th playing season as an AHL member club, as well as their sixth playing season in affiliation with the Blues. Springfield has qualified for the Calder Cup Playoffs in four of its past five seasons, coming off a run to within one win of the Eastern Conference Finals.

The home-ice portion of the I-91 rivalry series against the Hartford Wolf Pack begins on Sunday, Nov. 1 at 3:05 p.m. at the Thunderdome. It marks the first of six meetings in Springfield, as the familiar rivals will also meet at the MassMutual Center on Tuesday, Nov. 10 (10:35 a.m.), Wednesday, Dec. 30 (7:05 p.m.), Saturday, Jan. 2 (6:05 p.m.), Wednesday, Jan. 13 (7:05 p.m.), and Saturday, March 6 (6:05 p.m.).

With the Atlantic Division trimmed to seven teams for the 2026-27 season, the Thunderbirds will see each of their division opponents from Pennsylvania six times in the regular season, including three head-to-head matchups each at the Thunderdome. The Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins visit on Sunday, Jan. 3 (3:05 p.m.), as well as Friday, Jan. 29 (7:05 p.m.) and Saturday, Jan. 30 (6:05 p.m.).

The Lehigh Valley Phantoms make their first stop in Springfield for a two-game weekend on Friday, Oct. 16 (7:05 p.m.) and Saturday, Oct. 17 (6:05 p.m.) before a return meeting on Saturday, Jan. 23 (6:05 p.m.).

The Hershey Bears make their trek from Chocolatetown to the Thunderdome on Friday, Nov. 6 (7:05 p.m.), Saturday, Nov. 7 (6:05 p.m.), and Sunday, April 4 (3:05 p.m.).

The Thunderbirds will also play 18 games (9 home, 9 away) against North and Pacific Division opponents. The San Diego Gulls are the lone Western Conference team on the T-Birds’ schedule, as they visit Springfield for the first time ever on Saturday, Feb. 20 (6:05 p.m.) and Sunday, Feb. 21 (3:05 p.m.)

TRI-COUNTY, from page 7

game,” said Peoples player/manager Joe Ferry. “We out hit them, but we left too many runners on base. It’s a frustrating loss.

Peoples, who fired a 6–0 shutout victory in the first meeting of the regular season between the teams, never held the lead in last Wednesday’s game.

The visitors took a 3-0 lead against lefty James Flahive in the top of the second inning.

After loading the bases with no outs, St. Joe’s second baseman Greg Vouros, who’s the Athletic Director at Westfield High School, grounded into a double play plating the game’s first run. First baseman Dillon

Slattery, who singled to center, and his older brother, Devin, (walk) both crossed the plate on an errant throw by the catcher that bounced into left field.

“I believe baseball games are won and loss on the bases,” said Devin Slattery, who played for Peoples for one season before moving to St. Joe’s. “We put some pressure on them in the second inning, and they made a throwing error.”

Dillon Slattery, who finished the game with two base hits and scored three runs, and his older brother were teammates on the Ware varsity baseball team for a couple of years.

Peoples first baseman Cam Rivest, who’s the varsity baseball coach at Ludlow High School, led off the bottom of the second with a line-drive single into left field before scoring on a wild pitch.

With two outs in the top of the fourth inning, third baseman Joey DeMichele (3-for-4) delivered a two-run single into centerfield, which increased St.Joe’s lead to 5-1.

St. Joe’s scored five more runs in the following frame with the benefit of only one base hit.

Right fielder Brian Hayes, who was hit-by-a-pitch, and Dillon Slattery (Walk) both scored on wild pitches.

Centerfielder Jacob Hayes drove home another run with a sacrifice fly. Another sacrifice fly by left-fielder Mark Jodoin scored two more runs.

PeoplesBank battled back against righty relief pitcher Jack Feltovic, who wound up as the winning

pitcher, during the final three innings.

Feltovic replaced lefty starter Jackson Hayes on the mound with two outs in the fourth inning. He allowed four runs on eight hits.

With two-outs in the bottom of the fifth, third baseman Cam McDonald drew a bases loaded walk cutting Peoples deficit to 10-2.

After scoring another run in the sixth, Peoples catcher Pete Hogan knocked home two runs with two outs in the seventh.

The home team couldn’t get any closer than five runs, as Feltovic ended the game with a groundball out.

Fueled by a complete game performance from Monson’s Trey Yesu, St. Joe’s posted an 8-5 home victory in last Friday’s contest against the Bankers.

Yesu, who was the ace of the Bridgewater State University pitching staff the past couple of years, allowed five runs on 12 hits with eight strikeouts and just one walk. He threw 108 pitches.

The two rivals are scheduled to face each other again in a make-up game before the end of the regular season.

SOX, from page 7

it’s got a shot,” Raiola said.

That’s exactly what Cancel did,going three for four with four RBI. His biggest swing of the night was a second inning two-run home run to right-center field that cleared the wall with ease and put the Blue Sox up 2-0.

“My main approach is let the ball get deep, hit it back-side,” Cancel said. “I honestly have a lot more juice that way. My swing does play very well for this field, that right center, short porch.

And I think we saw that today.”

Cancel’s two other hits were singles. The first was

a line drive to left field that scored one to tie the game at four in the sixth inning, the next a line drive off of the centerfield wall that extended Valley’s lead to 6-4 in the seventh inning.

Cancel’s three-hit day against Keene was the latest offensive success, and he’s currently riding a four-game

hit streak and three-game RBI streak. His RBI streak began July 8 when he had a three hit game in a 12-9 loss to the Newport Gulls.

Cancel recorded one RBI in that game, a solo home run to the opposite field in the right-center field gap. After that game, Cancel said the reason for his tendency to hit

the ball to the opposite field is rooted in his swing.

“I pretty much try and just be on time for the fast-ball,” Cancel said. “And then adjust to the off-speed, catch that more out in front. But yeah, work the middle of the field with the fastball.”

One of Cancel’s other two hits in the game was a

double to the opposite field.

“They are all paying attention to who’s making the lineup,” Raiola said. “You got to be swinging it well in order to get yourself in there. ... There’s a couple really good swings today. A lot to do with the park, and how he’s been swinging it rewarded that decision.”

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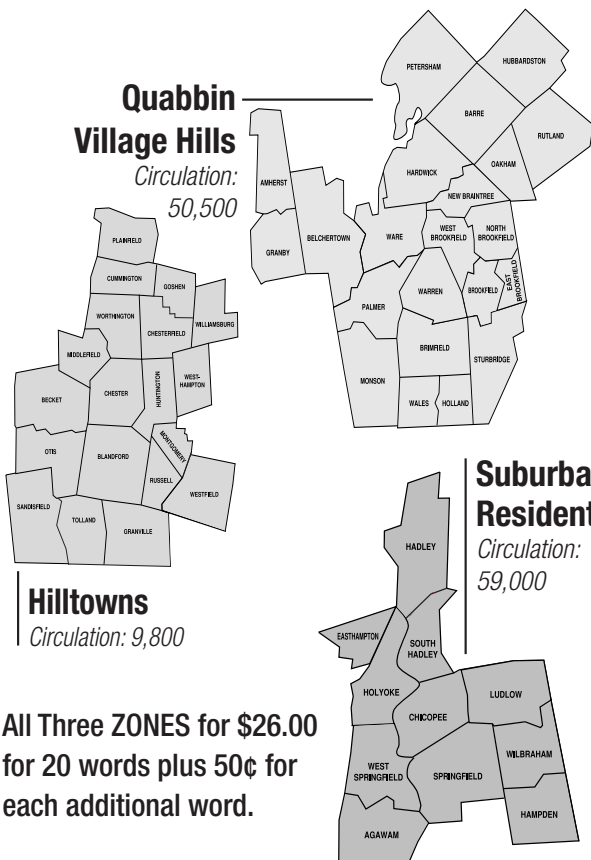
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Incumbent Sen. Ed Markey's supporters standing in unison holding signs as cars drive by as well.

SENATE, from page 1

grew up here, so as you can see Western Mass has been always close to my heart,” Moulton said. He then pivoted to share how he feels that the region has been “left behind” by politicians in Washington and Boston alike.

“I’m here and have been because you deserve a senator who shows up, and I will continue to show up; that’s why I’m hosting a town hall/watch party in Chicopee tonight,” he said.

It was later revealed that the Moulton campaign took a stake in the city as the Rumbleseat Bar & Grille, which hosted the congressman and his supporters to field additional questions and watch and react to the debate live, which was his 50th town hall across the state.

Markey showed up, citing the list of local endorsements he has garnered, by revealing a few such as Holyoke Mayor Joshua Garcia, Chicopee Mayor John Vieau, and countless others, citing, “I have consistently delivered for Western Massachusetts, and I’m looking forward to being able to tell that story,” Markey said.

Its Showtime

The highly-contested Democratic Primary debate featured a plethora of national issues, as well as a variety of local topics, such as the recent

influx of local hospitals struggling, including Baystate, and funding for the West-East Rail project.

Markey kicked off the discussion by revealing that if he returns to the Senate, he would be the chairman of the subcommittee on health if the Democrats can win back the House and the Senate in the midterm elections. He then acknowledged that if that does come to term, then he would restore the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

“We’re going to restore the \$300 billion from the Affordable Care Act, which was cut, that went to people out here in western Massachusetts to ensure that there was solvency, and then we have to go beyond that,” Markey said. “We have to double funding for community health centers. We have to double the funding for NIH research on Alzheimer’s, Diabetes, Parkinson’s, Heart Disease, and all of those other diseases that run right through every single family. That has to be the goal. And in Western Massachusetts, I have stood up, and I’ve fought for this cause; I’ve met with all the hospital leaders out here, and we are going to deliver next January.”

He then added that if funding isn’t expanded and private equity isn’t weeded out, Western Mass hospitals will be in crisis.

“You have to make

sure on a permanent basis these hospitals in Western Massachusetts are not weighted by private equity, rooted in emergency rooms and our eyes, otherwise our communities are just shut down; that’s what happened in Easthampton,” Markey said.

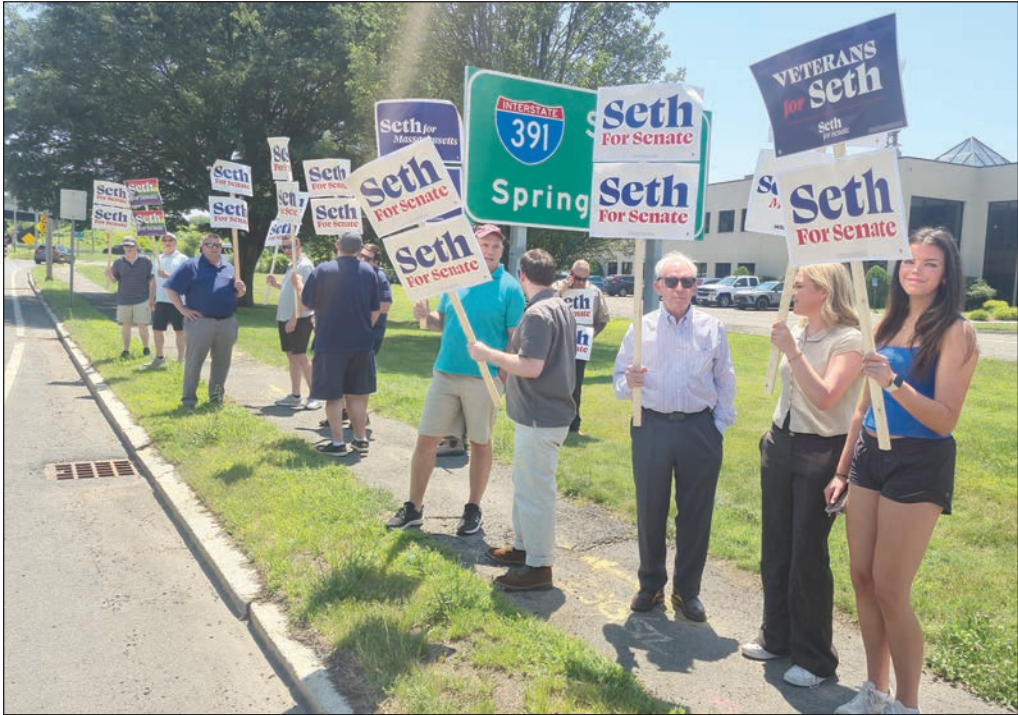
Moulton shared that he isn’t against universal healthcare, but believes that people should keep the health plan they prefer and those that unions fought for in contract negotiations.

“Look, I stand with President [Obama] and say we should have Medicare for all, but you should also be able to keep the health care plan you prefer if that’s what you want,” Moulton said.

He then shared that, as an Iraq war veteran, he chose to use Veterans Affairs benefits for healthcare in part to ensure problems with that system are improved. Markey responded, saying VA benefits are a single-payer system and that many people would appreciate the chance to receive those benefits.

Moulton responded by declaring that universal healthcare, housing, and education should be human rights.

The conversation then pivoted to the ongoing development of the West-East Rail project, a proposed concept to bring high-speed rail service from Boston to Pittsfield and Springfield. Markey revealed that he and U.S.



Moulton supporters standing in unison holding signs as cars drive by.

Turley Photos ny Brendan Rooney

Congressman Richard E. Neal, of Springfield, have secured \$157 million for the region to fund the long-overdue project.

“We were able to secure the funding for the project because it is absolutely essential that we connect the Western Mass economy to the rest of the commonwealth. I understand it’s been long overdue, and that’s why I worked so hard on the infrastructure bill of 2022 to ensure we get that funding,” Markey said. “However, we also acknowledge that we needed the funding for Springfield for this asthma crisis, which had happened, and now it is absolutely indispensable that that funding be made available, and it is there, and we are working to ensure that it gets built on in cooperation with Governor Healey as quickly as possible.”

Moulton argued that the amount Markey noted will only fund up to 10 miles of rails, which isn’t up to par.

“\$152 million will be for about 10 miles of rail; that’s not enough to get to Boston, and I want to add that no one is going to ride your train because it is too slow,” he said.

He then discussed the

prospect of linking the state together if the project was correctly funded, as he drew a comparison to the \$2 billion he delivered to the city of Lynn for infrastructure, and the possibility of what \$2 billion could do for the project instead of the \$152 million Markey and Neal raised.

“Imagine what \$2 billion would do for so many cities out here in Western Massachusetts,” Moulton said. “Imagine what that would do for job opportunities. Imagine what that would do to knit our state together. That’s why I think we need high-speed rail transportation, because not only do I think it would be transformative for the state, but I feel Americans in Massachusetts should be traveling the same speed as the rest of the world, and I’m going to continue fighting to get it done.”

Post-Debate Questions

After the debate, we then talked to both candidates, where we had an additional chance to inquire about the recent influx of Combined Sewage Overflow (CSO) issues that stem from Holyoke, Chicopee, and Springfield dumping into the Connecticut River.

Markey told us he’s

aware of the situation and shared a quick comment on how to solve the issue.

“Well, I’m going to be senior on the infrastructure committee in the Senate and we need a trillion-dollar infrastructure bill beginning in January of this year coming up to make sure the funding is there for CSO making sure the funding is there for communities who absolutely cannot pay for it by themselves. They’re going to need help. They’re going to need federal help, and I will be there to make sure that help is present,” Markey said.

Moulton opened his thoughts by sharing, “It’s just absolutely appalling that this has happened,” he said. “And it’s also happened across the commonwealth, in Haverhill, which has dumped into the Merrimack River, which flows through my district; it has closed a lot of beaches right over the holiday weekend, and this is why we need Democrats to win so that we can deliver infrastructure back here. And when the senator says he supports all these great ideas, the reality is that those great ideas cannot come to fruition if Trump and the MAGA Republicans are still in charge.”

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DINOS, from page 1

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Wistariahurst Museum hosted many activities for Dino Week. Turley Photos By Christina Gioscia

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