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Group ensemble photo of all dancers. Turley photos by Brendan Rooney

Fancy Steps

fundraiser helps children's museum

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

HOLYOKE – On Aug. 14, the Children's Museum at Holyoke kicked off its 16th annual 'Fancy Steps' fundraiser with a reception, marking the start of the event where local celebrities will dance to raise funds for the museum.

Offering a bit of history and insight into how the event came to be was Pam Brough, one of the founding board members of the children's museum, who has been with the organization

since the beginning.

"16 years ago, the museum was struggling to survive, and we realized we needed some kind of fundraiser that would pique the public's interest, and so we came up with the idea of 'Fancy Steps,'" Brough said.

Before painting the scene of the very first event being held in the Holyoke City Hall ballroom, which was a 'magical' experience, 12 dancers were among the first rendition, and close to 300 people showed up, according to Brough's reflection.

"They came (the public), the dancers raised money, and we hoped for at least 200 people would show, and tickets were \$5, but we couldn't believe the success that manifested that night, so from there on we had to go bigger, and for the past 14 years we held the event at the Log Cabin," said Brough.

Now, more than a decade later the 'Fancy Steps' event features up to 15 local celebrities with this year's roster consisting of Tommy Ashe, Executive Director of Springfield's Parks, Municipal buildings and recreation, and Springfield City Councilor,

David Blood, co-owner of Fame Lounge and Eatery.

Kate Caligaris Liberty Bank's Vice President of Human Resources & Program Management, Dr. Angela Ciocca, Owner of Fairview Eye Care, in Chicopee, Mary DiCarlo, Retired Holyoke Teacher, Miguel Rivera Colón, owner of Rewarding Insurance Agency, Michael Gay, Peoples Bank First Vice President Lead Regional Manager, Katy Brunelle Graveline, West Springfield reading specialist teacher and Holyoke Parade

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Safe Neighborhood event welcomes kids back to school

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

HOLYOKE – Last Saturday, the Holyoke Safe Neighborhood Initiative and Hampden County Sheriff's Office hosted a massive back-to-school celebration that saw more than 3,000 residents, consisting of families and kids of all ages, and 2,500 backpacks were given away, all full of various school supplies as a way to prepare for the upcoming school year.

The event took place at McNally Field behind Kelly Elementary.

Speaking on the success of the event, and reflecting on the moments of the first one, with this year being the 14th in program history, along with being an example of how the effort and strength of the community continues to grow, was Ed Caisse, the director of the Holyoke Safe Neighborhood Initiative (HSNI) who confessed, "he's

See SCHOOL, page 10



Volunteers hand out backpacks to students. Turley photo by Brendan Rooney



Kristin Rode, Executive Director of The NREC, John Goodhue, Executive Director of the MGHPC, and Mayor Joshua Garcia. Submitted photo

City officials tour energy initiatives

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

HOLYOKE – Recently, Holyoke Mayor Joshua A. Garcia and representatives from Northeast Renewable Energy Coalition (NREC) took multiple steps throughout Holyoke, and the latest reveal was the Mass Green High Performance Computing Center (MGHPCC), which has been up and running for more than a decade since its inception in 2012. In addition, the MGHPC is a data center and consortium that serves more than 20,000 researchers, students, and educators at Boston University, Harvard University, MIT, Northeastern University, the University of Massachusetts, and other institutions in the Northeast.

Running the state-of-the-art facility is John Goodhue, the Executive Director of the MGHPC, who provided additional context about the work being done behind closed doors, along with a break-

down of how all the pieces fit into the entire puzzle, during a round table discussion.

"You can do virtual experiments that are much less expensive and also come with a much faster turnaround time," Goodhue said. "For example, you're doing a discovery, you look at the mathematical model of say the COVID-19 virus, you start looking at the smaller molecules that

interfere with the operation of the virus, and once you design the virtual model, you can go into the lab, and design the simulation."

Goodhue also touched upon the creation of vaccines being implemented, citing the record time of how quickly the Moderna vaccine was made, during the pandemic, before talking about the breakdown of an analytical genome data, offering a way of tracing the chemical pathway, and understanding the disease as a whole. Illustrating a path forward, citing that concepts once deemed fictitious could be transposed into our modern-day and ever-changing landscape. Garcia then raised the proverbial question about what's next for the MGHPC. Goodhue responded with the evolution and the concepts of quantum computing and advancements in AI (Artificial Intelligence).

"It should be known that quantum computing has been around for a long time,

"Holyoke has been a great partner to work with; if anywhere else rates would be completely different, and eventually we would be forced out of affordability, if in a different location, so essentially anywhere else would be several hundred thousand dollars a month."

- John Goodhue

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Holyoke Community College holds first-ever campus police pinning ceremony

HOLYOKE – About 10 years ago, when she was promoted from campus police officer to sergeant, Jacqueline Robles remembers her boss basically sliding her new badge across a table to confer her new status.

"I had taken an exam," she said, "went through the interview process, and then, after it was announced that I got the promotion, I came into work the next day and the chief said, 'Ok, go get your uniforms, you're all set. I thought, 'Thank you?'"

Now, as HCC's new police chief, one of the changes Robles has implemented is to have more formal pinning ceremonies to celebrate the promotion of officers in the department.

"Because of that particular experience, I want to be

able to acknowledge the officers and give them pats on the back for all the hard work I know they do," Robles said.

HCC held its first Campus Police promotion ceremony on Monday, Aug. 18, recognizing four officers who received promotions and one who was newly hired.

"When I started here at Holyoke Community College, 22 years ago, I never would have guessed that I would be standing here, nor did I imagine I'd become chief," said Robles, who was sworn in as chief in May. "But as time went by, I fell in love with my job. I fell in love with helping and understanding people, and I fell in love with the college community. It was the students, faculty, and staff who taught me to be the police officer and chief I am today,

and I want my officers to experience that as well."

At the ceremony, Campus Police Officer Ruben Roberto, of Springfield, was promoted to sergeant; Police officer Robert Clare, of Holyoke, was promoted to corporal; Antonio Mazza, of Chicopee, was promoted from institutional security officer to campus police officer trainee, as was Jiovanny Montanez-Moret, a Holyoke resident and 2023 graduate of HCC's criminal justice program. Recently hired campus police officer Sarah Paley, of South Hadley, was also recognized.

After taking the police officer's oath, the five officers received new badges and certificates.

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Holyoke Police Chief Jacqueline Robles administers the police officer's oath to five officers who were recognized at HCC's first police pinning event. Submitted photo

CPA Committee needs more surveys

HOLYOKE – The Community Preservation Act (CPA) provides funding that preserves and enhances the city, based on local need as determined by its residents. Funding is available for projects in the following categories: Housing, Historic Preservation, Outdoor Recreation, and Open Space Acquisition.

To make your voice heard, please complete the survey, available in both English and Spanish. Submissions will be accepted

up until Oct. 15.

Recent CPA-funded projects include the restoration of the Lady Liberty statue in Veterans Park, construction of the all-abilities Miracle League Playground, and the on-going development of 88 affordable housing units at Appleton Mills and 41 at Essex Village near the Holyoke Public Library. The iconic stirrups on the Holyoke Merry-Go-Round have been restored to their original design, and the stained-glass windows in City Hall are

being meticulously brought back to life. Gloutak Park in Rock Valley will have a brand-new playground built this summer and public pickleball courts are coming to the YMCA. And that's just a few of the total xx projects funded so far as part of the CPA program.

To learn more about these and other funded projects, visit: holyocepcac.org

Since its adoption, Holyoke's CPA has delivered over \$4.5 million dollars in community improve-

ments at a modest cost to residents. In 2024 the average CPA surcharge for a single-family home was \$48, while the city received a match of over \$100,000 from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The CPAC is composed of representatives from the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, Housing Authority, and Historical Commission, along with appointed community members.

Hibernians holding annual picnic Sunday

HOLYOKE – The Hibernians of Hampden/Hampshire Counties invites the public to attend the Annual Traditional Summer Picnic featuring The Healy's at Hamel's Summit View Pavilion 555 Northampton St Holyoke on Sunday, Aug. 24 from 1 to 5 p.m., rain or shine.

Tickets are \$30 per person for adults and 16-and-over, kids 10-15 are \$15. For reservations by Tuesday, Aug. 19 call Joe O'Connor

at 413-627-7148 or Fran Hennessey at 413-785-5687 aoh-holyoke.com

The Maurice A. Donahue Memorial Scholarship will be presented. There will be Irish-American Music; dancing; A Super BBQ-hot dogs, hamburgers, potato salad, tossed salad, dessert; coffee. Also, included is a cash bar; kid's games; giant raffle. The event will benefit the Maurice A. Donahue Memorial Scholarship.

'COA artists' in upcoming exhibit

HOLYOKE – Wistariahurst Museum is excited to welcome senior artists into the gallery for "Creating COA Artists" this August 2025.

This exhibition features artists involved in Holyoke's senior center and Council on Aging. Participating artists have anywhere from months to decades of experience, and this exhibition celebrates artists at all stages. A variety of mediums are featured in this exhibition from watercolor, to acrylic, to ceramics and textiles. This diverse selection of artwork shows both a range of experience and mediums, coming together to form a truly unique exhibit.

The Holyoke Council on Aging and Senior Center has hosted a variety of art classes, encouraging their visitors to continue or begin creating. Many members of the senior center have used these classes to embrace their passion for the visual arts. Some of the artwork on view in the exhibit at Wistariahurst has been created in these classes.

The opening reception of "Creating COA Artists" will be held Thursday, Aug. 21 from 5 to 7 p.m. Wistariahurst is an artist-friendly space that encourages creativity and supports the growth of this region's artists. Open Gallery Hours will be held

on Mondays (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.) and Tuesdays (4:30 to 6:30 p.m.) through Sept. 23, which will also be free and open to the public. We hope that you stop by and explore "Creating COA Artists."

This program is funded in part by a grant from the Holyoke Local Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Visit the link below to register for the opening reception. Registration is not required, but encouraged: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/opening-reception-creating-coa-artists-tickets-1505175413179?aff=odttdt>



Wistariahurst Museum shown in full bloom.

File photo

Bloom artwork featured at Wistariahurst

HOLYOKE – During the month of September Wistariahurst Museum's great hall will be filled with florals as we welcome in "Blooms", an art exhibit by painter Lora Barrett. This exhibit will feature 99 vibrant paintings of flowers of varying sizes. An avid gardener, Lora Barrett maintains her gardens as a reference and muse for her highly colored paintings, pushing the vibrancy of the flowers to the limit. Wistariahurst Museum will be hosting a solo show of 99 of her floral paintings from September 2-25.

Barrett's artistic journey began with a childhood marked by curiosity and a passion for art. This passion was fueled by supportive parents and teachers. She carried her passion for the arts into her adulthood as she majored in Art at The College of Our Lady of the Elms and began teaching Art in Holyoke upon graduation. While teaching in Holyoke, she continued her studies at the University of Massachusetts

Amherst, where she earned a Doctorate in Education and later taught Art Education at the University. Barrett has received several awards throughout her life for her artwork and for her work in arts education. She has continued her education at Cape Cod School of Art, the Chatham Creative Arts Center, the En Plein Air Art School in France, and Snow Farm, among others.

Barrett's work has been shown in several galleries across the region, and Wistariahurst is excited to have her work in our halls once more. Her paintings are in personal collections in France, Canada, Mexico, Italy, England, and Ireland and in the permanent collection of the United States Federal Reserve in Washington, DC.

The opening reception of "Blooms" will be held Tuesday, Sept. 2 from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Open Gallery Hours will be held on Mondays (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.) and Tuesdays (4:30 to 6:30 p.m.) through

Sept. 25 which will also be free and open to the public. The exhibit will also be on view during Continued on next page Wistariahurst's Sunday Fundays and other public events through Sept. 25. Barrett will be hosting some events corresponding with her exhibit at Wistariahurst. Saturday, Sept. 6 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. will be Painting in the Garden with Lora Barrett. Paint in the Wisty Gardens with Lora, or just come to watch as she demonstrates her craft. Some easels will be provided, but artists should bring their own art supplies. There will also be an artists talk on Tuesday, Sept. 9, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. where Lora will discuss the making of Blooms. We hope that you stop by and explore Lora Barrett's Blooms.

This program is funded in part by a grant from the Holyoke Local Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Paper City Fabrics delighted free 'fiber arts' classes for youth successful

HOLYOKE – When Paper City Fabrics announced its first group of free fiber arts classes this summer, shop owner Joseph Charles wasn't sure how many preteens and teens would sign up. After all, gone are the days when students learned to sew and crochet in home economics class. But every spot filled in the first day registration opened, signaling that fiber arts hobbies may be making a comeback.

Three classes were offered: Two open to the public and one held in partnership with the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Holyoke.

Class offerings include:

• **Beginner Crochet** – Students learn the basics of amigurumi by creating a cute crocheted chick. The class covers essential techniques like working in the round, increasing and decreasing stitches, and assembling a finished plush.

• **Beginner Sewing** – Students gain confidence using a sewing machine while creating projects like fabric bookmarks, scrunchies, and tote bags. The course emphasizes safety, skill-building, and self-expression.

"Our goal is to teach young people a life skill that's creative, hands-on, and empowering," said Joseph Charles, owner

of Paper City Fabrics. "We're proud to make these classes accessible to all, and grateful to our supporters for helping us bring them to life."

The free classes are funded in part by a grant from the Holyoke Local Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. Additional funds come from Paper City Fabrics customers who participate in the Sponsor a Class initiative.

For more information about upcoming classes and community programming, visit www.papercityfabrics.com.



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HCC VP named to two regional education boards

HOLYOKE – Amanda Sbriscia of Granby, vice president of institutional advancement at Holyoke Community College, has been appointed to two regional education boards.

In July, she began serving a two-year term on the District 1 Cabinet of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), alongside advancement leaders from colleges, universities, and high schools in the Northeast and Canada, including Yale, Harvard, MIT, Brown, Tufts, the

University of Vermont, and the University of Montreal.

Serving more than 3,700 member institutions, CASE is a global nonprofit dedicated to educational advancement – alumni relations, communications, development, marketing, and fundraising. At HCC, as vice president of the division of institutional advancement, Sbriscia oversees the development, marketing and communications, alumni relations, and grants offices and serves as executive director of the HCC Foundation Inc., the college's nonprofit fundrais-

ing corporation.

"I am honored to serve on the CASE District 1 Cabinet alongside such inspiring leaders, and I am excited to do all I can to elevate the CASE mission," said Sbriscia. "I have been a member of CASE my entire career and have benefited greatly from its exceptional programming and robust network. Now more than ever, our educational institutions need informed, energetic, and strategic-minded advancement professionals. CASE creates a community where

professional growth can flourish."

Also in July, Sbriscia began serving a three-year term on the board of the American Council on Education Women's Network (Massachusetts). The ACE Women's Network is a national system of networks within each state, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia whose goal is to advance and support women in higher education.

"It's an honor to serve on a board committed to developing and encourag-

ing women leaders in higher education," Sbriscia said. "As a graduate of a women's college, I have experienced first-hand the benefit of mentorship that encourages bold and inspired women leaders. It's essential that these spaces exist."

Sbriscia holds a bachelor's degree in communication from Cedar Crest College, a master's degree in higher education from Drexel University, and a doctorate in educational leadership from Gwynedd Mercy University.

A native of

Pennsylvania, she now resides in Granby.

Before being hired at HCC as vice president of Institutional Advancement in 2017, Sbriscia served as senior director of advancement at Bay Path University, following her role there as director of annual giving and alumni relations. Before Bay Path, she worked in fund development for the Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts and as director of annual giving for Anna Maria College in Paxton, Mass.

Arts festival set for this weekend

AGAWAM – The Agawam Community Artists and Artisans will hold its Fifth Annual Pioneer Valley Art Festival on Saturday, Aug. 23 and Sunday, Aug. 24 at the Polish American Club, 139 Southwick Street, Feeding Hills, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

There will be 75 artists and artisans participating in the festival. The featured event, The New England Mosaic, a 120-foot wall of art composed of 170 canvases painted by community members, will be on display.

The canvases will be sold at the festival, with net proceeds benefiting the Gloria McLellan Art Scholarship. This past May, as a result of the Mosaic,

ACAA awarded three \$1,200 scholarships to area students pursuing a degree in the visual arts.

This year there will also be a Children's Mosaic made up of 40 canvases painted by children directed by members of the Agawam Public Library, the West Springfield Public Library and the Red Thread Art Network of West Springfield.

In 2026 our nation will be marking the 250th year of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. At this year's festival, we will begin celebrating this event with our own "Art Walk Through History" exhibit. In commemoration, members of the Pioneer Valley Historical Network will be attending the

festival. Historical societies will present their "History On the Go" program initiative that brings historical institutions together for a coordinated "trail" of history-themed visits that allows the public to explore local history. Rob Keenan of Agawam and The 25th Continental Regiment will parade through the festival. David Cecchi, Robert Madison and Bruce Cortis, authors of local history, will be signing their books.

The Warrior's Art Room, a non-profit organization that was co-founded by Steve Jones, will be in attendance at the festival. Steve, a veteran of the United States Marine Corps, served in Iraq from 2001-2009. The non-profit provides a therapeutic envi-

ronment to help veterans cope with invisible wounds of war through artistic expression. The center, located in the Keystone Building in Easthampton, provides space for the veterans and their families to display and sell their artwork. The veterans will bring art that expresses their healing. The art will be available for purchase.

Agawam Rocks will be hosting free rock painting for everyone. Jen Baginski Pronovost and her committee members volunteer to instruct rock painting classes throughout Agawam. She was given a rock garden at School Street Park in Agawam and in the memory of her brother Frank, continues to add rocks with loving inspirational messages.

City seeks input for signage project

HOLYOKE – The City of Holyoke, its Office of Planning and Economic Development (OPED), and the city's consulting group, Stantec, are asking for the public input on the next phase of Holyoke's "Wayfinding Project."

Working with stakeholders and the Wayfinding Advisory Group, the city has produced initial concepts and design aspects that need community input.

Updating Wayfinding in the city — signage that directs residents and visits to key locations, points of interest and key assets in the city — is long overdue, said OPED Director Aaron Vega. "Ideas for updates to our wayfinding signage seek to balance Holyoke's past with our future as a city," he said.

Posterboards highlighting some of the design aspects will be placed at six locations

during the first two weeks of August: the Holyoke Senior Center, Holyoke Public Library, Holyoke YMCA, Holyoke Boys & Girls Club, City Hall and the Beyond Amour Yard Monday Night events. (See www.explore-holyoke.com for more information on Monday nights at the Amour Yard.)

Residents are asked to use the simple "sticky dot" method to indicate which ideas, designs, and designations they favor. Dots will be located with the posters at each location.

OPED secured funds through the Mass Gaming Mitigation Fund and directed the team at Stantec to develop and design Holyoke's updated wayfinding signage. Final wayfinding designs will be presented this fall and implementation will start by the Spring of 2026. Please direct questions to Aaron Vega at vegaa@holyoke.org

ENERGY, from page 1

and maybe in 10 years it will be an official practice, so imagine that instead of using a chip with memory bits on it, it could represent a computation of protons, neutrons, and electrons," said Goodhue.

Garcia said to "leave them alone, because they are saving the world, and we are going to discover the cure to cancer in this building, and it will be discovered in Holyoke."

Goodhue said, "It's completely different in certain domains. Again, if we can build one of those things, it delivers an enormous advantage," he added. "It turns out in our university ecosystem, there are 3 startups that have spun out from top to bottom, and the state government has an interest in this idea, on how to go even further."

Goodhue admitted that the tools are already in place as the financial support continues to work itself in, and the facility is equipped with a roster of PHD scientists who know how to build these quantum computers. He also proposed how to simplify the process of making it accessible to work with companies and send it to the supply chain, where he cited a local partnership with Springfield Technical Community College (STCC). Before diving into the role of how quantum computers and energy

efficiency go hand in hand, Garcia raised the question of what if this facility were in Springfield, compared to Holyoke, to which Goodhue responded by noting that the Paper City is beneficial on all fronts.

"Holyoke has been a great partner to work with; if anywhere else rates would be completely different, and eventually we would be forced out of affordability, if in a different location, so essentially anywhere else would be several hundred thousand dollars a month," Goodhue confessed.

With all the pieces displayed, Garcia took a moment to speak about how the industry and technological advancements of the world transitioned from the Industrial Revolution to the present-day rush of quantum computers, AI, and noted it's the same conversation of looking to generate clean and stable energy.

"It's the challenge of allowing new industries to find a way to generate their technology, and that's what puts us at a unique advantage, not being showcased enough," Garcia said. "Because when industries are looking for places to go, they don't know Western Mass, they look to Boston, and then get deterred due to the housing and acquisition costs, but when you look at the Pioneer Valley, it's extremely accessible, and there are a lot of good reasons that make Holyoke strong, but people truly don't know and it's up to us to lift that curtain."

Next week is a closer and deeper dive into the work being done by Clean Crops Technologies - a company made up of a team of engineers, technicians, administrators, and scientists working together to push the boundaries of what's possible for the next generation of seed treatment.

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Guest Column



I'm still confused about Medicare Part A and Part B enrollment

Dear Rusty:

I'm 64 and still working full time, and plan to continue working at least until I'm 70 ~ it's a good job, and I enjoy it.

My job comes with health insurance, so I don't really need additional coverage, but I understand I will be required to sign up for Medicare Part A anyway when I turn 65 next year. What I don't understand is Part B: A colleague of mine, who is a little older than I am, said she signed up for Part B because a penalty will be incurred if we wait until we retire from our jobs and actually need the additional insurance. I'm not sure she's right. Can you explain what I should do?

Signed:
Confused About Medicare

Dear Confused:

We're happy to assist you with understanding this. First, enrolling in Medicare Part A (coverage for inpatient hospitalization service) is mandatory to collect Social Security after age 65. If you do not plan to take your Social Security benefits yet, you can defer enrolling in Part A until you claim Social Security. But Medicare Part A is also free to those eligible for Social Security, so there is little reason not to enroll in Part A at age 65 and, when you claim Social Security, you will be automatically enrolled.

Part B, which is coverage for outpatient healthcare services (doctors, medical tests, etc.), is different. Part B is always optional because there is a premium associated with it (standard premium is \$185/month in 2025), but nearly everyone over age 65 requires healthcare coverage. If, however, you are employed and have "creditable" healthcare coverage from your employer ("creditable" is a group plan with more than 20 participants), then you can defer enrolling in Medicare Part B until your creditable employer coverage ends. And you can do so without incurring a "late enrollment penalty" for enrolling in Part B outside of your Initial Enrollment Period. When your creditable coverage from your employer ends, you will enter an 8-month Medicare "Special Enrollment Period," which permits you to enroll in Part B without penalty.

Thus, as long as your

employer coverage is "creditable," you can defer enrolling in Part B without penalty. FYI, you can also enroll in Part B a couple of months prior to your employer coverage ending, asking that your Part B coverage starts when your employer coverage ends, to avoid any gap in healthcare coverage. Note you will likely need your employer to provide you with proof of creditable coverage when you later enroll in Part B.

A couple of extra thoughts:

If you require prescription drug coverage when your employer coverage ends after age 65, you only have 63 days to acquire that drug coverage without incurring a "Part D" (drug plan) late enrollment penalty. So, if needed, you should not wait to get insurance coverage for prescription drugs after you employer coverage ends.

If you now have a Health Savings Account through your employer, you should discontinue any HSA contributions well before (perhaps as much as six months before) your enrollment in Medicare Part A. That's because Part A is not considered a "high deductible" insurance plan (a "high deductible" plan is a requirement for having a Health Savings Account). If you do not have an HSA, you need not be concerned about this. If you do, we can also provide you with more info on this.

I hope this answers your questions, but we are always here to assist if you need anything further. Contact us at SSAdvisor@amacfoundation.org or at (800-750-2622).

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-advisor or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



Guest Column

Rust is no joke

This time of year I always get a few questions from gardeners who wonder what type of disease is afflicting their treasured hollyhocks.

Sadly, it's affecting mine too. Read on for more information on this malady.

Two years ago I planted Hollyhock seeds indoors. The plants grew wonderfully that first year with nice deep green basal foliage.

Being biennial in nature, year two is when they came into their glory with incredibly beautiful pink flowers on towering six to seven foot spikes. Now it's year three – a gift when biennials are concerned.

The plants started out fine and then I noticed a few raised orange-brown spots on the leaves. By season's end, the plants are pale in color and covered with the rusty orange spots.

Most of the lower foliage has been destroyed and has dropped to the ground.

My hollyhocks are suffering from a fungal problem by the name of rust. It first appears as waxy orange blisters, known as "pustules" on the undersides of the lower most foliage. On the surface of the leaves small, orange-yellow spots form.

Hollyhock rust rarely kills its host, but it can make plants look quite unsightly. In a severe infestation like

allow for good air flow.

In the case of hollyhocks, I'd recommend about 18 inches.

We can't control when and how often it rains, but when we supply the moisture timing and application count. Water around the base of the plants, without it touching the foliage, and do so early in the morning so that leaves have a chance to dry before nightfall.

Apply new bark mulch each spring to cover spores that may be waiting in the soil. And lastly, when planting new seedlings, locate them as far away as possible from previously grown plants even if they didn't have a serious infestation.

Although I've never tried this myself, I have read a few testimonials from gardeners who had luck applying corn meal to their soil in an effort to control soil borne fungal diseases such as rust. Reportedly it stimulates beneficial organisms that feed on pathogens. Two pounds per one hundred square feet is recommended.

Even if it doesn't work, it probably won't hurt!

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

Proper cultural practices also make a difference in combating hollyhock rust and most plant diseases. First, give perennials adequate space from one another to



by Roberta McQuaid

the HOLYOKE Sun

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Letters to the Editor have a maximum of 350 words. We require writers to include their name, address and phone number in order for our office to authenticate authorship prior to publication. Addresses and phone numbers are not published.

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions. Libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks or defamation of character are not allowed.

Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

Please email (preferred) letters to thesun@turley.com. Mailed letters can be sent to The Sun, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.



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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.

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In the ambulance, left to right, is Azizah Yasin, President of the board of the directors, Children's Museum of Holyoke, and Josh Powers, Board member and former FS dancer.



Mike Gay, Mark Marion, Tracie Kennedy, Tom Prendergast, and Dustin Summers.

STEPS, from page 1

committee member, Tracie Kennedy, Founder and Executive Director of Tree of Life Early Learning Center, Mark Marion, Vice President of Marion Excavating, Dina McMahon, from The Kellogg Krew on 94.7 WMAS.

And lastly, Amy Piedra, Assistant Principal for EN White, Tom Prendergast, Assistant District Attorney in the Office of District Attorney Anothly Gulluni, Ciara Speller, Emmy award-winning Weeknight Senior Anchor at 22News, and Dustin Summers, Holyoke Detective.

The contestants will be paired with ballroom professionals, all dancing to support the museum, which will last over ten weeks, starting with dance lessons, rehearsals, and community fundraising culminating in a one-night-only event scheduled for Saturday, November 15th, at the MassMutual Center, where the winner takes all, for the 2nd straight year, after the transition from the Log Cabin to Springfield was a conscious decision made during the 15th anniversary of the event, with Brough citing "expansion, and growth forced the choice to made."

In addition, one of the major supporters since the program's inception was Peoples Bank, as Matt Bannister, Senior VP of Corporate Responsibility, reflected on the partnership between the Museum and the banking community, all put into focus by Brough's leadership.

"Fancy Steps is such a great concept, and 16 years ago, 'Dancing with the Stars' took off, and all I have to admit is all the credit goes to Pam(Brough), you don't often say no to Pam," Bannister said. "It's also a no-brainer because it's the children's museum, and we all have a personal connection to this institution, and we support a lot of fundraising events, so we're really happy to offer support in any way that we can."

Also providing similar comments while bestowing praise to the Brough's creativity to get 'Fancy Steps' off the ground was dance coach Gunnar Sverrisson, owner of Ballroom Fever from Enfield, Connecticut, who has been tied to the program since the first back in 2009 as well.

"Pam(Brough) came to the studio, and had an idea, and from there we just sat down, started talking, and the rest was history," Sverrisson admitted. "And through col-



Paige Leahy, the volunteer for the event, Eileen Leahy in the back, Board member, right, Sarah Zurheide Gehring, Board member, and Kim Gaughan.



Melissa Leahy, Fancy Steps event chair for 2026, Tom Prendergast, and his wife, Katelyn Prendergast.

16th ANNUAL
Fancy Steps
A CHILDREN'S MUSEUM AT HOLYOKE FUNDRAISER
Saturday, November 15, 2025
AT THE MASSMUTUAL CENTER, SPRINGFIELD, MA
WELCOME TO OUR
Celebrity Dancers

Mark Marion	Miguel Rivera Colón
Tracie Kennedy	Dina McMahon
Dustin Summers	Mike Gay
Amy Piedra	Ciara Speller
David Blood	Tom Prendergast
Kate Caligaris	Katy Brunelle Graveline
Tommy Ashe	Dr. Angela Ciocca
Mary DiCarlo	

The dancers for the event are shown.

laboration of ideas, we came up with the format that we still hold today, the only things that changed were the location, but I admit even the professionals got better at marketing and showcasing our celebrity dancers, and it's extremely successful, as our track record seems to sell out every year."

Sverrisson also revealed an overall timeline of the 'Fancy Steps' season that awaits the lucky 15 listed above.

"So we will have ten lessons to draw out the most entertaining and charming part of them, and to showcase that in front of 600 people," he said. "It's in our best interest to showcase the natural talent of the human, because most of them aren't professional dancers at all."

Bannister also revealed his initial hope and dreams for where the future of 'Fancy Steps' could potentially be headed down the line, while hoping that no matter how big the event continues to grow in stature, he hopes the sense of community spirit remains woven into the special appeal and identity of the event.

"Maybe this could be done in Hartford at the People's Bank Arena, who knows, the possibilities are endless," Bannister noted.

The Fancy Steps presentation and dance competition will take place on Saturday, November 15th, at the MassMutual Center. For more information, reach out to <https://www.childrensmuseumholyoke.org/fancy-steps> or call 413-536-7048.

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In observance of LABOR DAY, there will be an **EARLY AD DEADLINE**
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Athletic Hall of Fame class to honor two Holyoke 'Legends'

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Public Schools Athletic Hall of Fame today announced that it will be inducting two of Holyoke's athletic "Legends" at its Enshrinement banquet on Oct. 25, at the Wycoff Country Club. All-American swimmer John DesFosses and three-year baseball all-star Roger Marquis both set very high benchmarks for future hopefuls to strive for, while their accomplishments have never truly been matched.

John DesFosses was making waves before he joined the Holyoke High School boys swim team as a sophomore in 1962, and he left many swimmers in his wake, setting school and league records and earning All-American recognition before he graduated.

DesFosses made an immediate impact in 1962, leading Holyoke to the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Swimming Assn Championship, winning the PVL in the 40-yard



and 100-yard titles. HHS would finish 2nd at the WMass meet (three points behind Minnechaug) with DesFosses providing points with a second-place finish in the 50 free-style. He was also one of 11 Purple Mermen to compete at the New England Championships. DesFosses' personal highlights that year included setting the pool record in the 100 free and being a part of the pool record 400 free relay.

The following year, Holyoke won the WMass Championship in 1964 with DesFosses setting meet and school records in the

50 and the 100 free at the championship meet. The Knights were 4th at the State meet with DesFosses winning the 50 free title and placing 2nd in the 100 free. At the New England Championships, DesFosses accounted for all of the team's points, with a 3rd place finish in the 100 free and a 4th in the 50 free. On the year, DesFosses established 6 records – Pioneer Valley League 50 free, HHS record in the 50 free, 100 free, 40 free, 200 free, & 160 IM.

After being elected co-captain with Dennis Sprega for his senior year, DesFosses helped Holyoke win its fourth straight Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Swimming Assn championship with a 9-0 record. Holyoke would again win the WMass Championship. And with DesFosses leading the way, the Knights won the Mass State Championship.

See LEGENDS, page 7

Valley Blue Sox season ends with big win, no playoffs

HOLYOKE – Although Valley will not return to the playoffs after appearing a season ago, the Blue Sox culminated their 2025 campaign on a high note.

On a humid July 30 evening in which they hosted the Upper Valley Nighthawks, the Blue Sox played one of their most important games yet with major playoff implications – although their fate was ultimately out of their hands.

Movement in the out of town standings mathematically eliminated Valley from postseason contention late Wednesday night, but that did not stop the Sox from ending the season with one last offensive explosion.

"It definitely was the elephant in the room," said Blue Sox manager Endy Morales on the playoff implications of tonight's game. "But at the end of the day it's still the same game. You go into it with the same expectation to go out and compete, and today our goal was to put up a lot of runs, and that is exactly what we did."

Valley outpaced the Nighthawks early, scoring

11 runs over the first three innings. Nicholas Spaventa opened the scoring in the bottom of the first with a two run double, and was brought home later in the inning on a Wyatt Hunt single.

A pair of singles from Isaac Wachsmann and Michael Elko scored two of the three Valley runs the following inning, with the third resulting from an Upper Valley error.

The outpouring of scoring didn't



there for Valley, as five runs came across in the third inning. Spaventa, Elko, Chris Carson and Kai Cunningham all brought in runs. The fifth run scored on another Nighthawk error.

These scores provided more than enough insurance

for Valley, but the Blue Sox kept the bats going. They scored an additional 12 runs in the sixth, seventh and eighth innings en route to a 23-1 win.

The Blue Sox amassed 18 hits over the course of Wednesday's matchup. Kozar, an Amherstburg, Ontario native, enjoyed five hits and five RBI in six plate appearances. Carson added three hits and five RBI. Elko, Wachsmann, Spaventa and Hunt all had two hit performances, bringing in nine total runs. Andrew Ciaglo, a typical pitching option for the Blue Sox, picked up a hit and RBI in just his second at bat of the season.

The Nighthawks bats stayed relatively quiet over the course of the evening. A total of four hits were highlighted by an Anthony Brotz double in the top of the fifth that scored Upper Valley's lone run.

Andrew Basel started for the Blue Sox, and threw three no hit innings before allowing a run in the fourth. Jake Andrews, Beau Elson

See SOX, page 7

Short-handed Villa FC captures PVSSL Men's Championship

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW – After being forced to play the final 20 minutes of regulation with only ten players, the chances of winning the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League men's championship title for the second consecutive year didn't look very promising for third-seeded Villa FC.

The defending champions, who were trailing 1-0, managed to tie the match against top-seeded Cap & Hitch of New England with less than a minute remaining in the second half.

The score remained tied during the two 10-minute overtime periods.



Villa FC captured the PVSSL Men's Championship earlier this month.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Hitch at Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow earlier this month.

"This is our second championship in a year, and it feels excellent," said Villa player/coach Mike Lima following the match, which lasted more than two hours. "We're one of the better teams in this league, so everybody always wants to be beat us. We were trailing late in second half, but we were able to battle back."

Lima, who shared the coaching duties with Ruben Sousa, is one of the Villa FC players who graduated from Ludlow High School.

The other former Ludlow High School soccer players listed on the Villa FC roster are Kyle Tomas, who received a red card during the 60th minute, Brandon McCarthy and Enzo Botta.

A year ago, Villa FC, who plays their home matches at Minnechaug Regional, defeated Lusitano White in the men's finals. They also took home the championship trophy in 2017 with a 3-2 win over Pros Malaca.

Anthony Basile was selected as this year's MVP award winner. He was also the M.V.P. of the 2017 championship match.

"This is a very special team with a lot of very special players," said Basile, who's from East Longmeadow. "I'm very happy that I'm still able to be a part of it."

Villa FC, who finished the regular season with a 9-1-2 record, advanced into this year's finals after defeating sixth-seeded STCC Alum in a penalty shootout in the quarterfinals, and Lusitano Red, 6-2, in the semifinals.

Cap & Hitch (11-1) joined the prestigious summer league a year ago. They dispatched eighth-seeded Empower Health, 5-0, in the

See PVSSL, page 7



Anthony Basile, an Agawam High School graduate, poses with the trophy and league co-president Dianna Kolodziej.



Kamer Nuhiu, of Agawam, possesses the ball for Cap & Hitch.



Mike Willis, of Ludlow, heads the ball for Villa.

During the ninth round of the penalty shootout, Villa goalie Lucas Morales-Fernandez made an outstanding diving save giving his team an exciting 1-1 (9-8 PK's) win over Cap &

Kidney Associates at HMC offers comprehensive care

Expert kidney care close to home

Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) is common, affecting more than one in seven adults—that's about 35.5 million people—in the United States. Unfortunately, it's estimated that nine out of 10 people who have CKD don't know it. Even more alarming, about one out of three adults with severe CKD don't realize they have the disease.

Kidney Associates at Holyoke Medical Center (HMC), led by board-certified nephrologists Balaji Padmanaban Athreya, MD, FASN, and Shaji Daniel, MD, FASN, has four locations, all of which provide comprehensive care, including the diagnosis, treatment and management of CKD as well as other kidney-related conditions.

Early-stage CKD may be asymptomatic, which is why so many people don't

realize they have the disease. "Since most patients are not aware whether they have kidney disease, they are usually referred to us by other doctors, such as their primary provider," says Dr. Athreya who, like Dr. Daniel, has been treating kidney patients for more than 25 years. "However, a referral isn't necessary to see us."

What is Chronic Kidney Disease?

CKD, also known as kidney failure, is a term for several conditions that affect the kidneys, causing permanent, and often progressive, damage to the kidneys. Your kidneys filter out wastes, toxins and excess fluids from your blood. When they begin losing their function, they cannot filter waste, which causes it to build up in the blood. Often, according to Dr. Athreya, proper treatment and management can help slow the progression of the disease. Without

treatment, CKD will often worsen and people with end stage kidney disease will require either dialysis or a kidney transplant to survive. "Kidney Associates provides dialysis—including hemodialysis, home dialysis and peritoneal dialysis—and kidney transplant care."

Common tests to diagnose CKD

As with most diseases, early detection and treatment of CKD can help you manage it and potentially prevent other health complications. "Because CKD usually does not cause any physical symptoms in the early stages, it is important to screen for it with blood and urine tests," says Dr. Athreya. These are some common tests used to check kidney function and help diagnose kidney disease:

Urine tests

An early sign of kidney disease is the leakage of protein into the urine (protein-

uria). There are two urine tests that check protein levels in your urine.

- **Dipstick Urine Test.** This test can detect the level of albumin (a protein synthesized by the liver) in your urine. If your albumin levels are abnormal, your provider may order further testing.

- **Urine Albumin-to-Creatinine Ratio (uACR).** This test measures the ratio of albumin and creatinine (a waste product of creatine, which supplies energies to your muscles) in the urine. Albumin is found in the blood and should not be present in the urine; creatinine, on the other hand, should be in your urine. Healthy kidneys prevent albumin from entering your urine and filter creatinine from your blood so that it leaves your body when you urinate.

Blood tests

- **Serum Creatinine.** This test measures the level of creatinine in your blood.

- **Glomerular Filtration Rate (GFR).** This test measures how well your kidneys remove waste, toxins and excess fluid from your blood. Your GFR number is calculated using your serum creatinine level, age and sex. This test is used not only to help diagnose CKD, but to determine the stage of the disease.

- **Blood Urea Nitrogen (BUN).** This test measures the amount of urea nitrogen—a waste product created in the liver as it breaks down proteins in your food—in your blood. Healthy kidneys filter urea nitrogen out of the blood and it leaves the body through your urine.

Other conditions treated

In addition to CKD, some common conditions and health complications treated by Kidney Associates are acute kidney failure, kidney stones, electrolyte problems such as abnormal sodium or potas-

sium levels, protein or blood in the urine, urinary tract infections (UTIs) and high blood pressure (hypertension)—which can lead to kidney failure.

According to Dr. Athreya, the importance of keeping your blood pressure under control cannot be overstated.

"Uncontrolled high blood pressure is the second leading cause of kidney failure in the United States," he says. "Severe high blood pressure can harm kidney function over a relatively short period of time. Even mild forms of high blood pressure can damage kidneys over several years. Following a healthy diet and taking medicine for high blood pressure may keep CKD from getting worse and may prevent other health problems, such as heart disease."

To make an appointment with Kidney Associates at HMC, please call 413.534.2787.

LEGENDS, from page 6

as DesFosses won the 50 free title and placed 2nd in the 100 free. At the New England Championships, DesFosses accounted for half of Holyoke's team points, leading them to a 3rd place team finish, as he won the New England title in the 50 free and was 2nd in the 100 free.

DesFosses graduated as one of Holyoke's most accomplished swimmers, but his biggest mark came in a meet against Deerfield when he posted a :22.8 in the 50 free. The swim earned him All-American recognition after he tied the All-American record, a time that remained a Holyoke record for 59 years, when it was just eclipsed last year by a mere three-tenths of a second at the 2024 State Championship.

Coach Edward Moriarty did not expect much from sophomore Roger Marquis, in the spring of 1953, but all that changed on May 1, when Marquis made his first start as a pitcher and threw a six-hitter in the 6-1 win over Greenfield. Marquis would then go on to be the team's top hurler. Holyoke went 22-2, won co-champs of the Valley League, won

the WMass Title and then beat Milford in the State finals, with Marquis playing a huge part in all of that. After throwing six complete game wins during the season, Marquis tossed a 6-hitter, with 10 strikeouts to top Pittsfield 3-2 in the WMass finals. The following week, Marquis went the distance to beat Milford 7-4 in the State Championship, striking out 6 but also knocking in two runs for Holyoke. Marquis was named to the All WMass 1st team by the Springfield Republican, after posting an 8-0 record on the year with 8 complete games. In 74 innings, he allowed only 42 hits and 47 walks, striking out 86.

There was no post season for Marquis in 1955, as HHS finished 10-7, tied for 2nd in the Valley League despite Marquis going 6-2, but after being elected team captain as a senior, Marquis would put up some very impressive numbers. Holyoke went 13-5 and missed the cut, but Marquis played in every game as a pitcher, first baseman or outfielder, and led the Valley League with .512 average for the 10 Valley League games. Overall, he batted .442 overall, had 21 singles, 7 doubles, 4 triples, and 3 home runs, with 25 RBI over

18 games. He finished his high school career in 1955 with a 21-5 record, with 263 strikeouts including a 19-strikeout outing against Chicopee and allowing just 136 hits.

On Sept. 2, Marquis signed a professional baseball contract with the Baltimore Orioles, and played in one game in the Major League, on Sept. 25, 1955, the last day of the season. He entered the game in right field in the eighth inning and grounded out in his only at-bat in the 9th. He did play in the Class D minor leagues the next year but was released on June 12, 1957, and never played pro again.

The Holyoke Public School Athletic Hall of fame was created in 2017 to acknowledge the past achievements of Holyoke's elite athletes, coaches, teams, contributors and legends, and recognized past Holyoke athletic role models for future generations to admire and emulate. An annual Hall of Fame Induction Banquet is held each year to honor these inductees, with all proceeds used to support Holyoke Athletics. Banquet tickets at \$40 and can be purchased online through "Eventbrite.com" beginning Aug. 30.

Emerling takes Thompson 150 win

THOMPSON, CT – A flood of fans entered Thompson Speedway on Wednesday night for the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour's annual midweek Thompson 150. Along with a much anticipated visit from Geoff Bodine and the original Big Red Machine #1 from his stellar 1978 campaign, the NASCAR touring teams battled in the Tour's 750th event back where it all began in 1985.

Ron Silk got the capacity crowd on their feet during Hoosier Racing Tire qualifying as he earned the pole position by just breaking the nineteen-second mark with an 18.999-second run. Silk launched on the start of the

750th NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour event with a rearview mirror full of Thompson arch-rival Justin Bonsignore. The first caution flag flew on lap 14 as Eric Berndt moved up across the front bumper of Luke Baldwin at the start/finish line sending Berndt into the wall and Baldwin pitside for damage control.

Silk maintained control at the front of the field until the hard turn one wreck for Baldwin around lap 70 as the leaders jumped pitside for fresh Hoosier rubber. Jon McKennedy led the pack under the return to green and pulled away from Stephen Kopcik, Jake Johnson and point leader Austin Beers as

Silk and Bonsignore began the long march from deep in the field. A turn-two-tap between Kopcik and McKennedy rapidly took both out of the top five with Johnson stealing the show.

As laps wound down, Patrick Emerling made his case known as he grew ever closer to Johnson's rear bumper. Emerling pulled up on lap 124 to lead lap 125 and fortunately never had to deal with another caution period. Unspoiled, Patrick Emerling took down the Thompson 150 win in the Big Red Machine look-a-like #1 complete with Geoff Bodine in the 750th NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour victory lane celebration.

SOX, from page 6

and Andrew Wertz closed the game out, shutting down the Nighthawks.

For Upper Valley, Jack Ruditzky started and struggled. He gave up nine earned runs and 11 hits across 2.1 innings of work. The Nighthawks bullpen suffered a similar fate, allowing 12 more earned runs to close the game out.

Valley's postseason hopes end tonight, but the memories from the season will carry on. Making the transition from player to coach, Morales looks back fondly on his inaugural season managing the Blue Sox.

"You start day one, and then you see the guys that stay here all summer and are really taking in the full experience. Doing an overnight trip in Newport and Cooperstown, just kind of

seeing that come together, and then how quick the guys who joined us a little bit later get acclimated to the team," said Morales.

"That's always one of my favorite things, you know, there's that saying boys will be boys. There's never any hesitation to them accepting each other. I just think seeing the togetherness of these guys this summer was pretty cool," he continued.

PVSSL, from page 6

quarterfinals and the White's 6-2 in the semifinals.

"This was just an unbelievable match by both teams. It's tough that someone had to lose," said Cap & Hitch head coach Bennett Walsh. "I've never been involved in a match where they were 18 shots in the penalty shootout. I'm very proud of my guys."

Both teams had chances to take the lead during the first half, which was 40 minutes long.

Cap & Hitch had the first opportunity during the 26th minute.

Ethan Czaporowski, who played soccer at Belchertown High School, weaved around a couple of defenders inside the box before firing a shot that deflected off the crossbar.

Another former Belchertown player listed on the Cap & Hitch roster is Shay O'Neill, who's father, Devin, is the longtime men's soccer coach at Western New England University.

A minute later, Gabriel Ganzer, who plays for Villa, had a breakaway opportunity, but his shot attempt bounced

off the left post.

Ganzer, who's a former member of the Western Mass. Pioneers, recorded a hat-trick in last year's finals. He was also selected as the 2024 MVP winner.

This year's championship match was still scoreless at the half.

Cap & Hitch was given a penalty shot by referee Fabio Cardoso following a foul in the box twenty minutes into the second half.

Kamer Nuhiu, who graduated from Agawam High School, stepped up to the line and fired a shot into the net past Morales-Fernandez.

During that sequence, Cardoso gave Tomas a red card leaving Villa with only ten players on the field.

Cardoso continued to issue yellow cards like they were parking tickets, which kept the match from getting out of control.

Basile tied the score at 1-1 after putting a shot into the net past goalie Alberto Truoiolo with only a couple seconds remaining in regulation.

"I just saw an opportunity," he said. "I just swung my foot and watched the ball roll to the back of the net. It just felt great."

At the end of the second overtime period, Bryant Keeney had a chance to be the hero for Villa, but his line-drive shot hooked wide.

The nine Villa players that made PK's during

the shootout were Andre Morrison, Joao Miranda, Shane Sewell, Andrew Ortiz, Quin Serafino, Mason Perham, Mike Willis, McCarthy, and Ganzer.

The eight PK's made

by the Cap & Hitch players were Simba Pelletier, Bennett Walsh Jr., John Senn-McNally, Dominic Cirelli, Connor Weslocki, Czaporowski, O'Neill, and Nuhiu.

Morales-Fernandez finally ended the match by making a save on a shot attempt by Nathan Sanchez.

It was another memorable summer for the members of Villa FC.



Brandon McCarthy, heads up the field.



Shay O'Neill, of Belchertown, heads up the field with the ball.

Public Notices

City of Holyoke Notice of Public Hearing

The DGR Committee of the Holyoke City Council will hold a public hearing to hear a special permit application for home occupation of Kristin Fontaine for a cottage kitchen to bake bread at 1 Meadow Street (081-00-012) per sec 4.8.2. Hearing will take place on **Tuesday, September 9, 2025 at 6:30 pm** at Holyoke City Hall 536 Dwight St and can be accessed remotely via www.zoom.us Meeting ID 827 1122 5429 Meeting Passcode 035924 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 with same Meeting ID and Passcode. For a copy of the application or to provide comments, please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org or by phone 413-322-5525.
DGR Chair, Kocayne Givner
08/22, 08/29/2025

City of Holyoke Notice of Public Hearing

The DGR Committee of the Holyoke City Council will hold a public hearing to hear a special permit application of Christian Carde-Guzman to construct a front yard driveway at 203 West Franklin Street (077-03-009) per sec 6.1.8.1. Hearing will take place on **Tuesday, September 9, 2025 at 6:30 pm** at Holyoke City Hall 536 Dwight St and can be accessed remotely via www.zoom.us Meeting ID 827 1122 5429 Meeting Passcode 035924 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 with same Meeting ID and Passcode. For a copy of the application or to provide comments, please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org or by phone 413-322-5525.
DGR Chair, Kocayne Givner
08/22, 08/29/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD25C0260CA In the matter of: Adam Newsome CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Minor has been filed by Adam Newsome of Holyoke, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Adam John Sullivan IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/12/2025.**

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

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

Date: August 15, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
08/22/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD23P2205GD In the interests of Albert Rosario Feliciano of Springfield, MA Minor NOTICE AND ORDER: Petition for Resignation or Petition for Removal of Guardianship of a Minor NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

1. **Hearing Date/Time:** A hearing on a Petition to Resign as Guardian of a Minor or Petition for Removal of Guardian of a Minor filed by **Wanda Rodriguez Feliciano** on **August 19, 2025** will be held **09/10/2025 10:00 AM Motion** Located **Hampden Probate and Family Court, 50 State Street, Springfield, MA 01102-0559**

2. **Response to Petition:** You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to:
File the original with the Court; and
Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

3. **Counsel for the Minor:** The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

4. **Presence of the Minor** at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.
Date: August 19, 2025

Rosemary A. Saccomani Register of Probate 08/22/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD25P1702GD In the matter of: James Flynn Of: Holyoke, MA RESPONDENT Alleged Incapacitated Person CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Beaven Kelly Rest Home** of Holyoke, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **James Flynn** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Kimberly Benjamin-Prokop** of Westfield, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before **10:00 a.m.** on the return date of **09/16/2025**. 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 of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has

the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

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

Date: August 18, 2025
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
08/22/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD25C0261CA In the matter of: Jackson Jeffrey Newsome CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Minor has been filed by **Jackson Jeffrey Newsome** of Holyoke, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Jackson Jameson Sullivan
IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/12/2025.**

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: August 15, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
08/22/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD25P1627EA Estate of: Lauren Chicorka Date of Death: 12/27/2024 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 **Glen R Chicorka** of Brimfield, 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: **Glen R Chicorka** of Brimfield, 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 **09/05/2025**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: August 08, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
08/22/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD25C0214CA In the matter of: Jerel Richard Lear, Jr. CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Jerel Richard Lear, Jr.** of Holyoke, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Jerel Frank Alves
IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/05/2025.**

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

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

Court.
Date: August 08, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
08/22/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD25P1629EA Estate of: Lisa Chicorka Date of Death: 12/18/2022 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 **Glen R Chicorka** of Brimfield, 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: **Glen R Chicorka** of Brimfield, 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 **09/05/2025**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: August 07, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
08/22/2025

City of Holyoke
The Holyoke License Board will be holding a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, September 3, 2025, at 5:15 pm.** You can join via Zoom.com; ID **83974921923**; CALL IN: *67 646 558 8656 or in person at **City Hall 536 Dwight Street in the Old Tax Collector Office**, regarding the application for a **New Seasonal Wine & Malt Beverages Off Premises License** for **Shah Stores LLC DBA R & R Variety, 207 1/2 Sargeant Street** pursuant to M.G.L. Ch.138.
Applicant: **Shah Stores LLC**
License Board:
Jose Correa, Chairman
08/22, 08/29/2025

City of Holyoke
The Holyoke License Board will be holding a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, September 3, 2025, at 5:15 pm.** You can join via Zoom.com; ID **83974921923**; CALL IN: *67 646 558 8656 or in person at **City Hall, 536 Dwight St. in the Old Tax Collector Office**, regarding the application for a **New Annual On-premises Wine, Malt & Distilled Spirits License** for **SJS Enterprises, LLC DBA Waterfront Event Venue 920 Main St.** pursuant to M.G.L. Ch.138.
Applicant:
SJS Enterprises LLC
License Board:
Jose Correa, Chairman
08/22, 08/29/2025

SWINGING BRIDGE AUCTIONS

REAL ESTATE AUCTION AT
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AUCTION DAY:

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- **Preview & Registration:** Friday, September 12 – 4:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.
- **Auction Day Registration:** 10:00 A.M. to 11:45 A.M.

Walking distance to: Smith College, Northampton High School, Cooley Dickinson Hospital, and Downtown Northampton

FOR MORE INFO. CALL 413-207-1301 OR WEB SITE
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TERMS:
PROPERTY IS BEING SOLD AS IS WHERE IS WITH NO CONTINGENCIES SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE SELLER. FOR MORE INFO ON TERMS PLEASE CALL OR GO TO WEBSITE WWW.SWINGINGBRIDGEAUCTIONS.COM. PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS ARE WELCOME TO HAVE INSPECTION AT THERE OWN EXPENSE AT LEAST 48 HOURS PRIOR TO AUCTION.

A FIVE THOUSAND DOLLAR CERTIFIED CHECK IS REQUIRED IN ORDER TO REGISTER TO BID (please call for details of how to write the check out.) ALL BIDDERS ARE STRONGLY URGED TO GET FINANCING IN ORDER PRIOR TO AUCTION. Owner to provide Clear Title at time of closing. Winning bid is contingent upon SELLERS approval.



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 of 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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HELP WANTED

Town of Blandford
Town of Blandford is hiring a **PART-TIME ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

to the Assessors. Duties include administrative support for daily operations of the Assessors' office. Pay: \$18-\$20/hr, based on experience. Communication, customer service, organizational, and tech skills required. Send cover letter and resume to: dhopson@townofblandford.com.

Town of Blandford is seeking a fulltime **ASSISTANT TREASURER/COLLECTOR**. Pay range \$29.50-\$37.50/hour. Please visit our website for full job description. Submit resume to Administrator@townofblandford.com

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SQUIER & CO. is looking to hire an oil truck driver. \$40,000-\$60,000 full time. Squier will provide CDL school for the right candidate! Email: squieroil@verizon.net. Call 413-267-3184 or visit us at 5 Squier Ave., Monson, MA. Monday-Friday.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WILBRAHAM HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Wilbraham Housing Authority seeks highly qualified applicants for the position of Executive Director. Responsibilities include the administration of 69 Chapter 667 Elderly housing units and 9 Chapter 705 Family housing units. The Executive Director reports to a five-member Board of Commissioners. Work schedule shall be a minimum of 22 hours per week during normal business hours, flexible as needed. The estimated salary range \$46,177.00 To \$54,326.00 is based on the Executive Office of Housing & Livable Communities' Executive Director Salary Schedule.

The ideal candidate must have 2 years' experience in a housing, community development, public administration or a closely related field. Knowledge of the principles and practices of housing management, finances and maintenance systems in public or private housing. Excellent written and verbal communication skills required. Willingness to work with people of various socio-economic backgrounds. Must be bondable. Certification as a Public Housing Manager from an approved organization desired, and may be substituted as a property manager or similar classification by a nationally recognized housing or real estate organization such as an EOHLAC-approved Massachusetts Public Housing Administrator Certification Program or HUD. Two-year full time post-secondary education in a related field may substitute for up to one year of experience. Applications will be accepted until 12pm, August 29, 2025. Please submit cover letter, resume and contact information for 3 references to: **Mr. Peter Manolakis, Chairman Executive Director Search Committee, Wilbraham Housing Authority, 88 Stony Hill Road, Wilbraham, MA 01095. Contact: Peter Manolakis (413) 519-8195**

Wilbraham Housing Authority is an Equal Opportunity Employer

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FOR RENT



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

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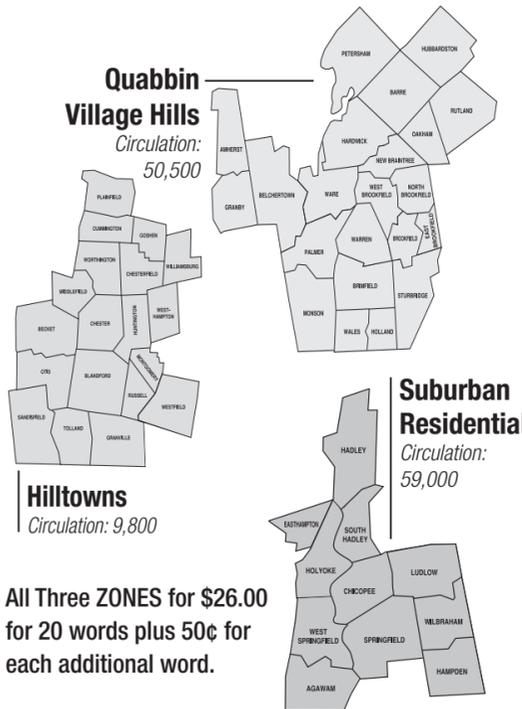
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There were bounce house and other activities at the Holyoke Safe Neighborhood Initiative.



Numerous vendors advertised their services to residents at the back-to-school event.

SCHOOL, from page 1

excited to see what the next couple of years will bring.”

“So we started the HSNi in 2011, and once we came out, we saw there were so many needs, and you could see the tough neighborhoods, but when we started to run the event, and we realized these kids don’t have a shot unless we invest in their lives,” Caisse said. “We knew we had to do more, so early on in 2012, we put together a back-to-school event, and we only gave away 350 backpacks, and we had 650 people, so next year we had to do it bigger, and from there we just kept growing.”

Caisse also touched upon the role the Hampden County Sheriff’s department plays in helping elevate the communities touched by poverty, by offering monthly events and meetings as a way of networking to turn issues around by developing relationships with various organizations to pool ideas on how to distribute not only resources but a wealth of opportunities, by noting an interactive experience, that would ease the transition during the event.

“So if you get one of the programs today, and if you scan the barcode, you will see a family resource guide consisting of about 144 pages, and then we have close to 40 sponsors where you have to visit every table and get your passport

stamped, which drives the conversation to line up with the right agency they could be seeking,” said Caisse. “Housing, Mental health, After-school, substance abuse, and in the end, this is just a way to get the public connected to all the resources available.”

“We help them with their needs like those with addiction, or moms getting ready to get kicked out of their apartments, so we get them connected to resources like Wayfinders or Holyoke housing agencies,” Caisse said.

He also confessed that the event early on was a way to reach the community, before noting the numerous monthly sports options currently present, from the vast sense of development that continued to grow.

“When we first started with table tennis, we had about 15 kids,” Caisse said. “Now we have flag football, boxing, volleyball, and basketball. I have two 12-week basketball programs that see more than 350 kids in the league.”

Caisse also took a moment to confess what this event means to him, while acknowledging it takes a ‘village’ to get this off the ground and let it run.

“Our back-to-school event is just one of those things that can legitimize us in the community, and you do the family fun nights, but our goal is to build the community up,” Caisse said. “But we can’t do that with-



Pony rides were available for visitors of the event.

out building up the people, and we’re not coming alone, and I’m just thankful for all the agencies that partnered with the Sheriff’s office who helped us put this together.”

Those who attended were treated to a variety of activities such as bounce houses, water slides, laser tag, free haircuts, and a golden-ticket bike giveaway, along with an assortment of more than 40 various sponsors who helped make the event a success.

In addition, one moment and area of the event was Brian Wentworth, a local artist and owner of his company Wentpaint, working on a newly designed original mural that took him close to

3 days to create, which highlighted the sense of unity, as kids prepare to return to school.

“It all starts with a vision from the client,” Wentworth said. “So in this case, given back to school, we wanted to inspire all of the kids, given doing the painting live, so there’s a lot that goes into this, but it all comes down to finding the right balance of composition of color and character and fusing it all together to make it impactful and beautiful.”

Wentworth also revealed

his initial thoughts about the event, declaring, ‘it’s absolutely incredible’.

“Giving out these backpacks and school supplies allows these kids a step in the right direction,” he said. “I have two boys, and so anything family-oriented touches my heart and soul.”

Another main attraction that caught the eye of families was the inclusion of pony rides set up by Aspen Hill Farms, where owner Lenny Blews commented on the joy and overall happiness present in the atmosphere, keeping

his thoughts short and simple.

“It’s a lot of work, a lot of kids, and a lot of fun,” Blews said.

As noted before, free haircuts were given out, which was sponsored by OneHolyoke and was run by the combined efforts of Faded Barber Lounge and Style and Grace, both from Chicopee. In attendance was Ricardo Diaz, owner of Faded, who offered initial thoughts about the event while foreshadowing his event, which is this upcoming Sunday on August 24, at Rivers Park from 11 am to 3 pm.

“I just want to thank everybody who came and showed their support, and being able to do an event of this magnitude with kids getting free haircuts and backpacks, just speaks to the wealth of resources that are present is just amazing,” Diaz said. “Next Sunday is our 4th annual back-to-school event, and this year we’re doing free backpacks, Boomer from the Springfield Thunderbirds, Sonic from Interskate 91, and we’re doing braids, manicures, facials, and like always every year we shoot to get bigger and bigger, and the most important thing is sending these kids with a little bit of extra confidence, just excited to be able to do that.”

Turley photos by Brendan Rooney

Registration open for Run Stanley 5K

WESTFIELD – Come run, stroll and roll. Stanley Park will be hosting the 13th Annual Run Stanley which has grown into a fun yearly tradition for the whole family, whether they like to run, walk, roll, or bark. Join us for this all-inclusive event on Sunday, Oct. 5 at 10 a.m. at Stanley Park. This event includes the 5K trail run/walk, a 5K K9 trail run/walk, the Munchkin Run hosted by Dunkin’ Donuts, and

The Stroll & Roll. The Stroll & Roll is a wheel friendly 1-mile non-competitive walk-through Stanley Park’s accessible pathways.

There is also the Stanley Cup School Spirit trophy for the school with the most participation in Run Stanley. Form a team and get friends and family involved. When you register, be sure to enter your school name.

Run Stanley 2025 continues our fundraising efforts

to benefit the care of the Frank Stanley Beveridge Wildlife Sanctuary. Please join the community of runners, walkers, hikers, dog owners, and nature lovers of all ages who care about Stanley Park for a fun event that will help to improve the safety and accessibility of its wildlife trails.

Registration is now open. You can register by going to <https://runsignup.com/Race/MA/Westfield/RunStanley>

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DATE: THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 2025

12:00 PM – 3:00 PM

LOCATION: Holyoke Public Library, 250 Chestnut St., Holyoke, MA

For more information, please contact Jennifer Severs

PHONE: 203-888-8118

EMAIL: jsevers@haynesct.com



POLICE, from page 1

“Looking ahead, my priority as sergeant is to fully immerse myself in our campus community and to ensure that everyone feels safe, respected and heard,” Roberto said in a speech. “I’ll be actively seeking out opportunities to listen and learn. My goal is to foster genuine connections. Campus safety is a shared responsibility.”

Marlowe Washington, vice president of the division of People, Culture, and Equity, who oversees the campus police department, said the promotion ceremony was just one of several new initiatives underway since Robles was named chief.

“This is truly a historic moment for us,” he said. “I am really proud of the work she’s doing, the commitment, and the new kind of spirit she’s bringing in.”

Other new initiatives in the works as the department transforms to a community policing model, he said, are bike patrols and a comfort dog program.



Holyoke Police Chief Jacqueline Robles pins a new badge on Campus Police Officer Trainee Anthony Mazza. Submitted photo