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Summer reading program a success

By Quinn Suomala
Correspondent

HOLYOKE – Summer reading at Holyoke Public Library has kept kids and families entertained this summer.

Families have been welcomed into the library for a wide variety of events.

Summer reading started with the library's annual kick-off. The kick-off was complete with ice cream, a balloon artist and face paint.

During this event families were invited to sign-up for the kids, teens and adults summer reading programs.

Those in the programs can track their reading to earn prizes.

The goal of the program is to help the community stay engaged in reading and learning during the summer holidays.

"I've seen so many kids really focus on getting that reading time in a way they would not have without this program," Children's librarian Rene Pellisier said.

During summer read-

See **READING**, page 3

Convocation event ushers in new school year

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

HOLYOKE – The future of Holyoke Public Schools is bright and poised to rebound after more than a decade under state receivership. Now the district is led by the message of "Connection over Content," values newly established by Superintendent Jackie Glasheen, who was a pivotal part of the annual convocation ceremony inside the John 'Jinx' O'Connor gymnasium on the grounds of Holyoke High on Aug. 21.

Hundreds of educators attended, all donning matching

"We are one team, because at the end of the day, every student who walks through our doors belongs to all of us."

– Superintendent Jackie Glasheen



Above, McMahon Elementary School students line up for their standout performance. Left, Holyoke Superintendent Jackie Glasheen offers a preview of the district's values going forward.

Turley Photos By Brendan Rooney

apparel that showcased their school spirit and pride. The unified group included teachers, paraprofessionals, counselors, and countless administrators from across the district, with Mayor Joshua A. Garcia leading the team and delivering opening remarks.

"We all understand Holyoke has been through a lot, but

we persevered and are now able to push forward, and I confess, this kind of transition will require patience, discipline, collaboration, and most importantly, steady leadership. But the future of our district has never been brighter," Garcia said. "So now it's time for us to make the dream we all share a reality, because I believe in this district, and it's time we realize our city's greatest asset is not a building, a road, or a budget; it is our children - and

the people who believe in them. Lastly, as your mayor, I want you to hear this clearly from me: I believe in our teachers. I respect you. I admire you, and I commend you, and now it's time to give the children a better future, one they truly and rightfully deserve, and have earned."

Echoing similar values was School Committee Chair Dr. Yadilette Rivera-Colón, who wore a signature Holyoke Public Schools Jersey, adorned with the

message "Juntos Podemos | Together We Can!" exemplifying the level of connection that the district looks to embody going forward, an idea that Glasheen came up with, something Garcia confirmed during the summer's back-to-school event, which transpired earlier this month.

"As we move forward, I want to remind us that we are one team, and even though we work in different

See **SCHOOL**, page 10

Sheriff Cocchi cookout brings out huge crowd

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

SPRINGFIELD – A record-breaking turnout marked Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi's ninth annual golf tournament and community cookout, with more than 3,000 people gathering under the Elks Lodge pavilion on Aug. 19.

The annual summer gathering traces its roots to a tradition established more than 40 years ago by Retired Hampden County Sheriff Michael J. Ashe Jr., who served 42 years in the role and was known for his clam bakes back in the day. Cocchi has remained steadfast in preserving the longstanding tradition, hosting a morning golf tournament at various locations across Western Massachusetts before culminating in an afternoon and evening of camaraderie and celebration; serving as one of the region's premier political gatherings of the summer.

Elected officials and political hopefuls across the political spectrum attended and offered their views on how they would positively impact Western Massachusetts in the next

couple of years, an element Cocchi highlighted.

"Today is about bringing Western Mass, not just Hampden County, together to show the rest of the commonwealth the electoral power and value we hold here, while also granting the opportunity for the public to speak with the individuals who are going to be on the ballot this year," Cocchi said. "And it's clear we have some contested races this year, which include Democrats, Republicans, and unenrolled folks. So this gathering is always special because it creates a moment of allowing the public to figure out where they will throw their support."

Additionally, months before the fundraiser, Cocchi and the HCSO faced significant financial challenges when approximately \$26.5 million was removed from the department's fiscal year 2026 budget allocation, prompting the department to scale back operations, per the request of the OIG (Office of the Inspector General).

"The sheriffs were very comfortable and strong in the services that we're providing our communities, and we're going to continue to fight," Cocchi said. "We're going to fight for our individual counties and the programs that we believe are instrumental in impacting not only jail programs, but also the programs that are on the outside that are deterring people from hopefully coming here.

So, that means working with youth, engaging with students and schools, and, obviously, working with those who are incarcerated to help them return to the community with a more constructive outlook and a greater opportunity to become productive, law-abiding citizens."

Lastly, Cocchi admitted he is ready to renew conver-

See **COCCHI**, page 10



Turley Photo by Brendan Rooney

The leak caused some cars to sweep through flooded streets, as caution was put in place to avoid accidents from happening.

Water main break causes massive service interruption

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

HOLYOKE — Earlier this week, the Paper City faced a significant crisis after a loose telephone pole struck a 30-inch transmission main — the largest water-bearing line in Holyoke's water system — on Monday, coinciding with the district's first day back to school.

As of press time, Mayor Joshua Garcia said the main was scheduled to be back online Thursday around 7 a.m.

Once the leak was discovered on Monday, officials quickly convened an emergency press conference that featured Garcia discussing the unfolding situation, which also featured Holyoke Water Works officials, the city's emergency management director, city engineer, school superintendent and several City Council members, where they explained that Dig Safe procedures had been followed and coordinated with Holyoke Water Works beforehand.

Despite those pre-

cautions, the installation occurred slightly outside the designated location, ultimately striking and damaging the transmission line, leaving two punctures in its wake, and continued to deteriorate over time.

"Yeah, this is a 30-inch transmission line. It's the only one in the city that we have that's this large... Since I've been here, we've never had to work on it or basically touch it," Holyoke Water Works Acting Business Manager Joe Manzi said. The estimated timeline was that the project would be completed by Tuesday, Wednesday morning at the latest, and to help contain the damage, a mandatory restriction was implemented on Monday that prohibited watering lawns, washing cars, and filling pools, which helped crews to reroute water to keep taps flowing; however, the change in direction stirred up sediment, causing brown or discolored water for some residents, which prompted many to contact the water department, per beforehand.

See **WATER**, page 3



Boomer from the Springfield Thunderbirds stopped by and danced on the center stage.

Turley Photo By Brendan Rooney

Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi with the Holyoke connection, including Mayor Joshua Garcia and Holyoke Police Chief Brian Keenan.

Puerto Rican filmmakers to screen ‘Esta Isla’ in city

HOLYOKE – “Esta Isla” (This Island), the award-winning feature film by Puerto Rican filmmakers Lorraine Jones Molina and Cristian Carretero, will screen in Holyoke on Sept. 25, bringing the acclaimed Puerto Rican film to audiences across Central Massachusetts.

BoriCorridor, in collaboration with Experimento Lúdico and Holyoke Media, presents the screening as part of the BoriCorridor Screening Tour, an initiative that brings Puerto Rican artists and cultural productions to commu-

nities across the United States.

“Esta Isla” premiered at the 2025 Tribeca Film Festival, where it won Best New Director and Best Cinematography and received a Special Jury Mention for Best U.S. Narrative Feature. In 2026, the film received the John Cassavetes Award at the Film Independent Spirit Awards, further establishing “Esta Isla” as one of the most recognized Puerto Rican films in recent years.

Set against the backdrop of Puerto Rico’s coastlines and mountains, the film fol-

lows Bebo, a teenager trying to survive amid economic hardship. After a violent incident alters his life, he flees with Lola, a young woman determined to escape her circumstances. Their journey explores identity, belonging, and redemption in a Puerto Rico that is as beautiful as it is complex.

More than a chase thriller, “Esta Isla” offers a deeply human and contemporary portrait of Puerto Rican life, exploring inequality, resilience, and the island’s historical legacy.

“This film was born in Puerto Rico—from its landscapes, its contradictions, and its people. Being able to share it now with Puerto Rican communities across the United States is a very special opportunity for us,” said Lorraine Jones Molina, who, along with Cristian Carretero, directed and produced the film. The screening in Holyoke will include a post-screening discussion, giving audiences an opportunity to engage directly with the filmmakers and explore the film’s themes and creative process.

“‘Esta Isla’ represents the kind of stories that BoriCorridor seeks to bring to our communities: deeply Puerto Rican, honest, and contemporary narratives that invite us to reflect on who we are and how we relate to our country, our history, and our diaspora,” said Elsa Mosquera, founder of BoriCorridor.

The Holyoke screening is part of a broader nine-city BoriCorridor Screening Tour that will bring “Esta Isla” to communities in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Colorado, and Texas, as well

as New York City.

The tour marks the first time BoriCorridor has incorporated film into its programming, expanding the range of Puerto Rican artistic and cultural productions it brings to the diaspora. Supported by the Mellon Foundation, the BoriCorridor Tour has spent the past three years connecting Puerto Rican artists and cultural productions with communities throughout the United States.

Tickets and additional information are available at boricorridor.com.

Public invited to Hibernians Picnic

HOLYOKE – The Hibernians of Hampden/Hampshire Counties invite the public to attend the Annual Traditional Summer Picnic 2026 on Sunday Aug. 30 at Hamels Pavilion in Holyoke from 1 to 5 p.m., rain or shine. This year for young people ages 1-10 we are offering mac and cheese, chicken fingers and lemonade, face painting, and sculpture balloons.

The giant barbeque will

include: hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, corn on the cob, tossed salad, dessert, coffee, iced tea, cash bar, music, dancing, raffle.

Featuring The Healy’s “The Institute for Better Living.”

The cost is \$30 for adults and kids 16 and over; kids 10-15 are \$15. For reservations/tickets call Ryan Allen at 413-531-3040 or Fran Hennessey at 413-785-5687 by Aug. 25.

NAMI offering family education program

HOLYOKE – NAMI Western Massachusetts is pleased to offer their NAMI Family-to-Family Education Program in person, starting Tuesday, Sept. 15, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. in Greenfield.

What is the NAMI Family-to-Family Education Program?

NAMI Family-to-Family is a free, 8-session educational program for family, significant others, and friends of people with mental health condi-

tions. It is a designated evidenced-based program. This means that research shows that the program significantly improves the coping and problem-solving abilities of the people closest to a person with a mental health condition.

NAMI Family-to-Family is taught by NAMI-trained family members who have been there and includes presentations, discussions, and interactive exercises.

Holyoke’s fire stations to host 9/11 observances

HOLYOKE – Ceremonies in observance of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks will be held on Friday, Sept. 11, at each of Holyoke’s fire stations (pending emergency calls). Mayor Joshua A. Garcia will participate in the observance at the Fire Department Headquarters at 600 High Street.

The plan of events at each station will follow identical schedules:

- 9:55 a.m. - Apparatus rollout from bays to appropriate location in front of each station.
- 10 a.m. - All available fire department personnel and any guests assemble at attention in front of apparatus and maintain silence.
- Ring Bell 5-5-5-5 (4 sets of 5 chimes each).
- Lower station flag to half-mast.
- 1 minute of complete silence and prayer.
- Ring Bell 5-5-5-5.
- Raise Flag.
- Return to Service.

City Hall now has a ‘Health Kiosk’

HOLYOKE – Visitors to City Hall can bone up on their knowledge of cancer prevention by interacting with the newly installed Good Health Kiosk.

Located on the lower level of City Hall near the Assessor’s Office, the kiosk is on loan from the Harvard School of Public Health. It displays tips on how to reduce your cancer risk.

Susan Legere, a Senior Program Manager at the Zhu Family Center for Global Cancer Prevention, said the Good Health Kiosk debuted in early February as part of a weeklong initiative on cancer prevention. It was initially located in the School of Public Health’s dining hall. Legere wanted it to travel around the campus and, eventually, around the state.

The kiosk had a stint in the Springfield City Hall before traveling to the Westfield City Hall and then the Westfield YMCA, where a Holyoke DPW crew accessed it on Friday.



Submitted photo

Holyoke City Hall now displays a “Health Kiosk” for public use.

The kiosk offers simple statements like “Eat less meat” and “Go solar,” as well as longer explanations of why and a QR code for more information.

The Good Health Kiosk’s 16 spinnable cubes bear information that “empowers people to reduce their risk of cancer,” said Legere. The idea is to focus on issues that are in people’s control and to be universally applicable to everyone. When someone rotates a cube,

they can see facts about a particular risk factor that they may not know, like that non-cigarette tobacco products can also cause cancer, or that having a “base tan” or dark skin doesn’t mean you can’t get skin cancer. The QR code will take them to a list of resources that can help people learn more about how various risk factors have a negative impact on health and ways to change unhealthy habits.

Applications now available for FY27 CPA funding

HOLYOKE – The City of Holyoke Community Preservation Act Committee (CPAC) is pleased to announce the opening of its FY27 grant cycle.

Potential applicants are invited to submit an eligibility application form by Sept. 4. The eligibility form is the first step in a multi-step application process: after project eligibility is established, applicants will then be invited to submit a full application for consideration by the committee, followed by public presentations of each project’s scope, benefit, and budget. Finally, CPAC makes its recommendations to the City Council for funding approval.

The Eligibility Form and other application materials are available by contacting CPA Administrator Naomi Klayman at klaymann@holyoke.org, and will also be posted to the City of Holyoke website. Eligibility requirements can be found on the Massachusetts Community Preservation Act’s website.

The Community Preservation Act (CPA) is a state law enacted in 2000 and adopted by the City of Holyoke in 2016. The CPA supports historic preservation, recreation, open space, and community housing projects within Holyoke. The program has

funded a variety of popular projects throughout the city, including community housing at Appleton Mills and Library Commons, the fully accessible Miracle League Playground, the restoration of Lady Liberty at Veterans Park, and ongoing upgrades to Scott Tower and the Holyoke Merry Go Round.

Since its adoption, the CPAC has disbursed over \$5 million to preserve Holyoke’s character and improve quality of life for its residents.

Applicants are encouraged to contact Naomi Klayman with questions and for support throughout the application process.



Indigenous Joyfest at Wistariahurst Museum

HOLYOKE – Wistariahurst Museum will be celebrating our 2026 Indigenous Joyfest, happening Sunday, Sept. 20, from 12 to 3 p.m. Join Andre Strongbearheart Gaines Jr., Founder of No Loose Braids, Sito Zapaktli, José Lugo, Tracey-Mae Chambers, and other indigenous presenters as they share indigenous history and culture through music, art, and informative talks. This event is geared towards learning and exploration, perfect for people of all ages.

No Loose Braids has led speaking engagements at educational centers and universities across Massachusetts, given presentations, and led social songs and dances at public events. As a Nipmuc-led organization, No Loose Braids will highlight this tribe, which is one of New England’s most historic and largest native communities. Founder of No Loose Braids Andre Strongbearheart Gaines Jr.

will be leading this year’s Indigenous Joyfest. Andre has many roles, including being a father, public speaker, traditional dancer, and Indigenous Activist for Indigenous rights.

During this event, visual artist and a citizen of the Métis Nation of Ontario Tracey-Mae Chambers will have her fiber art installation “Hope and Healing Cross Border” on view in Wistariahurst’s Music Room. Chambers will discuss the inspiration behind this piece and how her large-scale fiber installations focus on “collective grief, care, decolonization, and remembrance within public and institutional space.”

Indigenous Joyfest is part of Wistariahurst’s Sensory Friendly event series. Need to take a break from the energy? A low-sensory area will be available to guests. This event will be free and open to the public. Make sure to come by Wistariahurst for this year’s Indigenous Joyfest.

Florence Bank holds ribbon cutting to commemorate new branch

HOLYOKE – Florence Bank held a ribbon cutting ceremony on Aug. 20 to commemorate the opening of its newest branch located at 1490 Northampton Street in Holyoke. In conjunction with the event, the Bank represented \$5,000 donations to six Paper City organizations: the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Holyoke; The Care Center; Girls, Inc. of the Valley; Greater Holyoke

YMCA; Nueva Esperanza; and Providence Ministries.

Florence Bank President and CEO Matt Garrity addressed an audience that included Holyoke Mayor Joshua A. Garcia, state and local officials, nonprofit representatives, Florence Bank employees, and members of the Bank’s board of directors.

“To us, being a community bank means more than just having a branch in the

community,” said Garrity. “It’s about stepping up, pitching in, and meeting the needs of the communities we serve. That’s been our mission since our founding in 1873 and that’s not about to change.”

The Holyoke branch is Florence Bank’s thirteenth overall and fourth in Hampden County.

Designed by HAI Architecture and constructed by the Colvest Group LTD

and Keiter Corporation, the 2,500 square foot office features a spacious lobby, traditional teller stations, five offices, a drive-up teller window, and a drive-up ATM.

“We’re excited to open a branch in a community with such a proud and rich history,” said Garrity. “We look forward to serving our current customers and welcoming new friends and neighbors to our newest location.”

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USDA INSP. ROAST BEEF.....	\$5.99 lb			USDA INSP. FROZEN SHRIMP TOAST	\$2.99 ea
USDA INSP. PROVOLONE CHEESE.....	\$4.44 lb			USDA INSP. FROZEN WILD CAUGHT SNOWCRAB CLUSTERS.....	\$9.99 lb
USDA INSP. STOREMADE BONELESS KOREAN BBQ MARINATED PORK BUTT STRIPS.....	\$3.35 lb				
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17th of Every Month - Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinners

HCC to celebrate 10th anniversary of theater festival

HOLYOKE – This October, Holyoke Community College will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Phillips Festival, an evening of short plays written, directed, and staged in 24 hours.

The annual festival, first held in 2016, raises money for the Leslie Phillips Theater Fund for Arts and Education, honoring the legacy of Leslie Phillips, founder of the HCC theater program.

To produce the Phillips Festival, HCC alumni, students, faculty, and staff register to participate as

writers, directors, actors, or members of the stage crew. Writers meet with the actors the night before the show – this year on Friday, Oct. 2 – to receive props, prompts, and character assignments. They have until 6 a.m. the next morning to write their plays. Two hours later, actors and directors gather for a full day of rehearsals.

The original plays will be performed Saturday, Oct. 3, starting at 7:30 p.m. in HCC’s Leslie Phillips Theater. The festivities, however, begin at 6 p.m.

with a green carpet pre-show in the theater lobby.

“That’s our version of a red-carpet event,” said Natalia Castagno, HCC assistant director for alumni relations. “This is an opportunity for theater alumni and others to reconnect, grab some theater concessions, pose for the paparazzi by our photo wall, and soak in the excitement before the show begins.”

Funds raised from the festival enable the HCC Theater Department to hold master classes, make capital improvements, and hire

guest artists. The festival was first organized in 2016 by HCC alumni as a tribute to Phillips, who died in 1988 after inspiring legions of HCC students.

“For our 10th anniversary, we’re trying something new,” said Castagno. “Every participant now gets their own personal fundraising page on GiveCampus that they can share friends and family members, who can learn about the show and donate directly to HCC, in support of them. At its heart, the Phillips Festival

is about keeping the arts alive at HCC. Every dollar raised benefits the Leslie Phillips Fund for Arts and Education.”

To participate in the festival as a writer, actor, director, or stagehand, please register at hcc.edu/phillips-register

Festival tickets can be purchased in advance at hcc.edu/phillips-2026 or at the door on the night of the show.

Tickets are \$15 (general admission), \$10 (students and seniors), and free for HCC students with ID.

Church hosting fall festival

HOLYOKE – St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 485 Appleton Street will hold their fall festival on Saturday, Sept. 26 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

There will be something for everyone: raffles, vendors, plants, bake sale, and a café. Free ample parking is located behind the church and all are welcome.

For more information, please call Trudy Monson at 413-335-1145 or the Church Office at 413-532-5060.

City to host reading of the Declaration of Independence

HOLYOKE – Mayor Joshua A. Garcia, State Representative Patricia Duffy, and City Council President Tessa Murphy-Romboletti will read aloud the opening statements of the Declaration of Independence on Saturday, Aug. 29, at 10 a.m. at Veterans Park.

The public is invited.

The reading, part of Holyoke’s observance of

the nation’s 250th birthday, is being sponsored by Holyoke Veterans Services, the city’s Patriotic Events Committee, and the Mayor’s Office. Representative Duffy will present the city with a facsimile of the Declaration of Independence.

City Councilor Juan Anderson-Burgos will greet the gathering and introduce the readers.

Hope for Holyoke plans ‘Overdose Awareness Day’

HOLYOKE – Hope for Holyoke, one of Gándara Center’s Recovery Centers, Tapestry Health and other local organizations, will host an observance of International Overdose Awareness Day on Monday, Aug. 31.

At 4 p.m., Hope for Holyoke Assistant Director James Maloney will lead participants from Veterans Park to City Hall where Holyoke Mayor Joshua A. Garcia will read a proclamation and the

Overdose Awareness flag will be raised.

Participants will then return to Veterans Park for the remainder of the speaking program, which will include an opening prayer and a moment of silence. Representatives from SADOD — Support After a Death by Overdose — and Tapestry Health will give presentations.

Representatives from Hope for Holyoke and the community it serves will share personal stories of overcoming loss to find recovery and remember their loved ones. After the scheduled speakers, participants will have the opportunity to come up to the mic and share a memory of someone they lost to an overdose or

addiction-related passing. The program will close at 6 p.m. with a candle-lighting ceremony.

International Overdose Awareness Day, observed annually on August 31, was established 25 years ago. This year’s theme is “25 Years On. Still Needed.” The theme is intended to convey the message that overdose affects people from every walk of life and that overdose prevention remains an urgent need.

READING, from page 1

ing the library has also had a wide variety of events for the community.

Every week they have had a craft hour where kids were encouraged to make crafts of different plants and flowers.

The craft-hour themes were inspired by this year’s summer reading theme “Plant a Seed Read.”

Another event inspired by the theme was a science

experiment where kids got to make a potato clock.

“One of my favorite activities was the potato clock, for sure,” Pellisier said.

Using some wires, circuits and slices of potatoes, kids were able to build clocks.

Another fun event for children was Jungle Jim. The event included a balloon show with different balloon animals and fun-sized balloons.

“Jim even climbed into and out of a six foot balloon,” Pellisier said.

The library also threw a karaoke party for people of all ages to join. The library has karaoke several times a year, and it is always one of Pellisier’s favorite events.

“We have some recurring families that come to a lot of our karaokes and getting to watch some of the younger kids just get actually really incredible at this is great,” Pellisier said.

Another one of Pellisier’s favorite events was the explosion day the library did in late July.

Children were invited outside the library to join in on two experiments.

The first experiment was to see how many rubber bands could fit around a watermelon before it exploded.

The second was putting mentos in Coke to see how it would react.

Pellisier explained that the goal of that event was to teach the kids about variables in a fun and exciting way.

“I had kids out there for upwards of 40 minutes help-

ing me to put rubber bands on that watermelon,” Pellisier said. “That was probably my favorite moment of the summer.”

These summer reading events are still ongoing. Pellisier explained that there is a dinosaur event coming up on Aug. 21.

Animal ambassadors from the Vermont Museum of Natural History will come by and talk about prehistoric mammals and invertebrates.

To keep up to date on the different events the library

has planned for the rest of the summer visit the library or go to the website at hol yokelibrary.org.

The library is excited for people to come in and enjoy the rest of the summer reading season.

Already they have begun to plan for next year, which will have the theme of “Reading Expands Our Universe.”

“We have so much fun running it with the community,” Pellisier said. “We can’t wait for next year!”

WATER, from page 1

their order.

“We’ll be flushing hydrants, testing pressures to make sure fire protection is still adequate, and making sure residents have the best drinking water during these times,” Matt Smith of the Holyoke Water Department said.

Throughout the week, Holyoke Water Works received numerous calls from residents, according to city officials.

Monday’s press conference also revealed that, due to the size of the transmission line, standard parts were not sufficient to complete the repair.

As a result, a specialized technician from Texas arrived in the city Tuesday to assist crews and help establish a timeline for the repair.

Crews were at work near the Route 202 intersection all week. Early in the week, Dino’s Pizza parking lot had accumulated a significant amount of water, creating a running current that flowed down the stairs and into the roadway, making the area difficult for drivers to navigate.

On Wednesday, the project was close to done, and most of the excess water was removed. A double layer of aluminum was welded, and everything appeared to be functioning properly.



A pool of water formed after the leak.



The broken water main is worked on Monday morning.



Turley Photos by Brendan Rooney
Crews on site as they remove and drain the water.



Crews work at the site of the break.



The water main transmission line that was close to being fixed late this week.



Another car trying to traverse through the watery conditions.



A large current filled the parking lot of Dino’s Pizza in the city, near Route 202.



Holyoke Mayor Joshua Garcia talks at an emergency press conference held Monday, which included multiple city councilors and countless other officials.

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SOCIAL SECURITY
Matters
By Russell Gloor



We were bitten by Medicare’s IRMAA this year; What should I so?

Dear Rusty:
My wife and I file our taxes jointly. In 2024, I took an IRA Required Minimum Distribution, which was significantly more than I was required to take.

My Medicare premiums were not affected in 2025 and our Social Security payments were not reduced. Then, our joint filing in 2025 kept us below the IRS’ “Modified Adjusted Gross Income level. Yet in 2026 our Medicare payments increased and our Social Security payments were reduced.

If my MAGI is below the maximum for 2025, will my regular SS payments/Medicare reductions be restored in 2027? Is there any action I need to take to ensure this will happen or will our Medicare payments and reduced SS payments be our new norm?

Signed: Worried Retiree

Dear Worried Retiree:
FYI, your Medicare premiums in 2026 were affected by the large RMD you took in 2024, which caused a Medicare provision known as the “Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount ” to apply for 2026.

When determining the Medicare Part B premium for next year (each fall), Medicare uses the income you reported to the IRS two years prior to calculate your Medicare Part B (and Part D) premium for upcoming year.

If you exceed the base “IRMAA” income threshold two years ago, then your Medicare premiums for the next year will include a supplemental amount on top of the “standard” Medicare premium for that year.

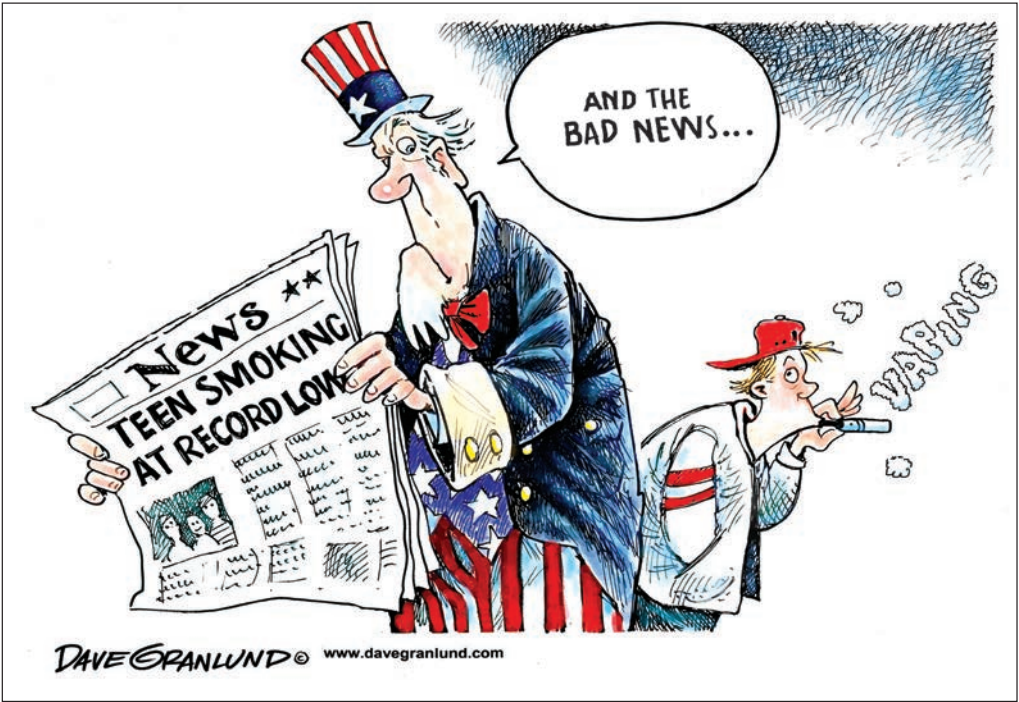
The amount of the supplement depends on how much you exceed the base IRMAA threshold by (FYI, the base IRMAA threshold for 2026 for a married couple filing jointly was \$218,000). If your 2024 income exceeded that initial IRMAA threshold, you paid a higher Medicare premium, which also reduced your SS monthly payment because Medicare is deducted from your SS benefit. IRMAA uses a sliding scale to determine how much more than the standard Medicare premium you will pay.

However, that will all automatically correct itself going forward. In other words, when determining your premiums for 2027, Medicare will look at your 2025 income. If

your 2025 MAGI is less than the base IRMAA threshold, you and your wife will both automatically revert to paying the standard 2027 Medicare Part B and Part D premiums.

You don’t need to take any action for that to happen; it will all be automatic.

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.



Preservation questions are popular this time of year

Dawn, who gardens in Tolland, asked a few questions of the Garden Lady this past week.

You see, this is the first year in three years that Dawn has a had a productive garden. Her former garden was too far from the house to be tended. It was tricky to irrigate and animals often found their way through or under the fence.

Dawn’s hard work ended up being a hearty meal for woodchucks and more. Now, with raised beds close to her house, she is grateful for a bountiful harvest.

First, she wanted to be reminded how to roast tomatoes.

in the
Garden

by
Roberta McQuaid



I enjoy roasting my cherry tomatoes; it’s a great way to use them up when they produce like gangbusters.

Depending on the size, I either cut them in half or quarters and put them no more than two rows deep in a roasting pan. I sprinkle a teaspoon or two of extra virgin olive oil over the tomatoes and then I add half an onion and two-three cloves of garlic.

After mixing all the ingredients together, I bake

at 400 degrees for about an hour, stirring midway. You know when it is done when the skins pucker and there is very little liquid left. Now you can either eat it this way, say over pasta or rice, or you can zip it up with a few basil leaves and you have made your own sauce.

No need to de-seed or remove the skins. Just think, all that added fiber and goodness, with less work to boot!

You can tailor your roasting to suite your own taste buds as well. Some folks add chopped peppers or eggplant.

Certainly you can use any type of tomato, too and add additional herbs or spices.

See GARDEN, page 6

in my
BACKYARD

By
Ellenor Downer



Photos by Elizabeth Frederick
This adult male Eastern bluebird is seen at the entrance of a bluebird house checking on his brood.

I received an email from a Hampden resident, who sent two photos of Eastern bluebirds – one adult male and a fledgling.

She states, “I live in Hampden, for the past several years we have been blessed to have a pair of bluebird’s nest in our yard. They have had three broods of babies each year including this year.”

The fledgling in the above photo is a male. The photo was taken shortly after fledging. Wing feathers,

wing coverts and tail feathers are essential in determining the sex of young bluebirds.

By day ten to eleven days after hatching, feather colors are noticeable. The blue tail in males and gray in females become apparent. In the male, the short tail at fledging is bright blue. Times may vary but by day 13 the tail color is apparent.

Both sexes have a gray spotted back and chest. They also have a white eye ring.

By the time a bluebird is 19 to 24 days old, the male has blue wing coverts and the female gray ones.

At five weeks old the young male has blue wing feathers and a bright blue tail. The female’s primary wing feathers are blue, but concealed. The base of her tail is blue and the rest bluish gray. Spots are still present on back and breast.

Young bluebirds continue to depend on their parents for food until six weeks old. Siblings tend to forage nearby until they join flocks of young birds. Some first brood birds even help raise their parents next brood if



he fledgling male Eastern bluebird blends in with the ground cover. Blue feathers are visible.

their parents have a double brood season.

Between July and October young birds begin to replace their juvenile plumage. Blue and brick red feathers begin to appear. By mid to late October all juveniles finish molting into their first adult plumage.

Leucistic crow

I met a New Braintree resident at the Oakham Post Office this week. He said he saw a crow with one white wing. Leucistic birds are birds that have abnormal plumage coloration due to a genetic mutation that causes a partial loss of pigmentation.

They may have washed out feathers or blotches of white feathers. While rare, they are found in many bird species around the world.

Whippoorwills

A Brimfield resident emailed, “I thought you’d be interested to learn that I still

have several whippoorwills calling at dusk in the lower Haynes Hill/Paige Hill area of Brimfield.”

She stated, “I’ve only lived here four years, but they are here every year!. They start calling about 8:30 p.m.”

She stated, “My grandparents owned a house that bordered Reedy Meadow in Lynnfield. We heard Whippoorwills there. So cool to have them calling from my front and back yards at the same time.”

While on vacation as a child on Lake Winnisquam, my dad, brother and I would hear them calling while fishing for horn pout at night. I used to hear them in Oakham, but I not heard one in years.

Owls hooting

I do hear barred owls hooting back and forth at night. Sometimes they are quite loud and can be heard even with the windows closed.

Juvenile red-tailed hawk I received an email from a reader who saw a juvenile red-tailed hawk in her front yard. She stated, “It was quite beautiful. It had a small rodent for its dinner. It was really close to my front door, I’ve never seen a hawk so close to me.”

People may report a bird sighting by emailing edowne@turley.com or calling or texting 774-262-5882.

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*.

the
HOLYOKE Sun

Starting the city since 1882

We Want to Hear From You

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Letters to the Editor Policy

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

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

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

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

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 (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph.

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

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

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Guest Column



By Julie Midura
Guest Columnist

We recently brought our 1-year-old grandson, Dustin, to a local woodland area. After carrying him for miles, we lifted him out of the child carrier so that he could stretch his legs. Not yet walking independently, he grasped each of my index fingers, then carefully moved along the trail on unsteady feet.

A white birch tree just off trail caught his eye, and he steered me towards it. Once we reached it, he let go of my fingers and leaned his hands against the tree. His tiny fingers fell upon a loose piece of dry bark.

His eyes widened and a look of surprise came upon his face when the bark slipped from the tree into his hand.

Dustin looked at it, examining it with curiosity. Then, with all the seriousness a 1-year-old can muster, he reached up and pressed the fragment back against the gnarled tree.

He held his hand over the bark for a moment, like someone gluing one object to another. Once he seemed certain he had mended the trunk, he pulled his hand away.

Unsurprisingly, the piece of bark fluttered to the ground.

Dustin bent down, picked up the wayward piece of tree, and once again pressed it back against the

Nature through the eyes of a child

trunk. This time, he patted it carefully. But when he withdrew his hand, down went the scrap of wood once again.

Undeterred, Dustin repeated the process over and over and over again, certain that if he just kept trying, he could reattach the broken scrap of tree skin back onto the birch tree. But in spite of his tenderness and quiet determination, gravity won every time.

I stood beside him and watched. Half amused and half contemplative.

There was a lesson here, I was certain. Not for Dustin, but for me.

Dustin displayed no frustration. He was not aggravated or impatient. He just kept trying. With an open heart and a beautiful spirit. And a determination that somehow, he could fix the world around him.

I don't know how long Dustin would have spent trying to reattach the bark to that birch tree. I finally scooped him up and settled him on the dirt path.

He immediately reached for a nearby stick. He picked it up. Turned it. Stretched out his arm to show it to me – looking up at me with wonder in his wide eyes. Smiling as though he had discovered the greatest treasure on earth.

He poked a dry leaf. Drew lines in the dirt. Stirred the pine needles.

Absent of batteries, on-off switches, flashing lights and instructions – he held the stick as though it was a prized possession.

I felt an urgency to continue moving. There were trails waiting to be explored. Miles waiting to be walked. A time frame to be adhered to.

Instead, I lowered myself cross-legged and settled on the pine needle path next to Dustin. And there we remained, lingering in a place where time has forgotten what it means to rush.



Dustin explored nature with his grandparents.

Years from now, my grandson won't remember this day. He won't remember the rough texture of the twig he held. The beautiful white birch tree he attempted to mend.

He won't recall the day sunlight streamed through the trees above him, as the grandparents who love him sat beside him while he discovered the natural world around him.

Regardless, perhaps he would leave the forest carrying something with him that would remain. Perhaps the forest was filling something inside of him that would not come from actual recollection, but was being planted nonetheless, before he could even form a sentence.

The twig came home with Dustin – a treasure he refused to let go of when I placed him back in the child carrier. The wayward scrap of bark, however, remained on the forest floor, where it would eventually return to the earth.

But long after the bark has dried, the unspoken lessons will remain.



Dustin, age 1, held a piece of birch bark in his hand.



Submitted Photos

The author's grandson picked up sticks off the forest floor.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. A vast desert in Africa

7. Reciprocal of a sine

10. Type of phone

12. Biblical figure

13. One who renounces a religious belief

14. Warren and Monroe are two

15. Wild ox

16. Dismounted a horse

17. Cave dweller

18. Where infants sleep

19. Popular type of shoe

21. Clumsy large person

22. Evil-like

27. Integrated circuit

28. Austin-based athlete

33. Postscript

34. Follows 18

36. People of Gambia

37. Popular actor

38. Platform for a lectern

39. Taxi

40. American songwriter Sammy

41. Iranian city

44. Heavy clubs

45. One who is expelled

48. In bed

49. Lifelessness

50. Former CIA

51. Most slick

CLUES DOWN

1. Slovenly person

2. In addition

3.hovels

4. Pie ____ mode

5. Subway rodent

6. They ____

7. Indigenous S. American people

8. Fine sand

9. Central nervous system

10. Nightclub entertainment

11. The perfect example of something

12. Supreme Islamic leader

14. Pain

17. Binary-coded decimal

18. Projecting corner of an angle

20. "Succession" actor Brian

23. Dinner table decor

24. Ancient settlement in modern Turkey

25. You can call Paul Simon this

26. Opposite of a pro

29. Atomic #28

30. Type of drug (abbr.)

31. Arrives at

32. Nullifies

35. Bird's beak

36. Partner to "oohed"

38. Ray-finned fishes

40. Taxis

41. Sat on and controlled

42. Sea eagles

43. Remain as-is

44. Chinese revolutionary

45. Tooth caregiver

46. Snakelike fish

47. Compensate

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 6

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frduyle@blessedsacramentholyoke.org
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Holy Cross Ave., Holyoke
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Sunday: 10 a.m.
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Holyoke, MA 01040
Every Sunday at 9 a.m.



your health

By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN

Guest Column



“Why didn’t our mothers tell us?” seems to be the predominant feeling about menopause on the part of Gen X women, those approximately between the ages 40 and 60. For my mother’s generation and those that came before her, it was simply “The Change.” Just get on with it.

And doctors don’t seem to pay it much mind either, even though it affects half of their patients and comes with

34 known symptoms ranging from hot flashes and irregular periods to night sweats and mood changes.

“Doctors seem to think we are either pre-pregnant, pregnant or invisible,” one woman commented.

In the last few years, though, the conversation has been shifting. Women are more assertive about getting treated for menopause symptoms, new treatments are emerging, and it seems some doctors are increasingly rec-

Spotlight on menopause is having a moment

ognizing the need for better menopause care.

And celebrities aren’t shy about it, either. Actor Naomi Watts said on Instagram that she felt like she had been hit by a truck. “How could I figure this out when no one was talking? ... It’s oddly like an unwritten code of silence: Women should suck it up and cope, because that’s how generations past have done it.”

In perimenopause, which can start in a woman’s late 30s, and menopause, estrogen levels begin dropping, which is what brings on a host of physical and emotional symptoms. Each month after puberty, your body prepares for pregnancy. In menopause, the ovaries stop that process, sometimes gradually and sometimes abruptly, as when a woman undergoes a hysterectomy that also removes the ovaries.

There seem to be two

main themes surrounding the discussion of menopause today: Better treatment and management of symptoms and the sense of empowerment a woman can gain when her child-bearing years are past.

Menopause is a natural process, not an illness or condition. Hormone replacement therapy (HRT) has long been in use as a front-line treatment for easing menopausal hot flashes. It also eases other menopause symptoms and slows bone loss. It’s best used by people who are younger than 60 and within 10 years of the onset of menopause.

Not everyone can use estrogen because of cancer risks, although low-dosage creams or rings that can be inserted into the vagina are generally helpful for vaginal dryness, urinary issues and painful intercourse.

It’s encouraging to see new therapies emerging and

new uses being found for existing medications. Low-dose antidepressants (SSRIs) and the anti-seizure medication gabapentin have been shown to reduce hot flashes, one of the most common complaints. Medications to slow bone loss and additional calcium are helpful. Soy may also reduce frequency and severity of symptoms.

Researchers are working to develop treatments that effectively manage menopausal symptoms while minimizing risks associated with HRT. A new non-hormonal treatment from AbCellera just completed a successful phase two clinical trial in which participants reported 83% fewer hot flashes and better sleep. It works by targeting a receptor that helps regulate body temperature.

I think the most promising development in menopause treatment is the “matriarchal revolution,” the realization that post-meno-

pausal years can be a time of increased empowerment and leadership, as women find new opportunities to embrace their wisdom and life experiences.

Gen X won’t let their daughters and granddaughters suffer, either. As one woman wrote on social media, “We’re going to be out there teaching Gen Z and Gen Alpha about what to expect and how to treat symptoms.”

You go, girl.

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, a Monson resident, is a registered nurse and board-certified patient advocate. She is the author of several books on advocacy and founder of Nurse Advocate Entrepreneur, which equips medical professionals with the knowledge and skills to start their own advocacy businesses. Contact her at Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com.

GARDEN, from page 4

Speaking of peppers, Dawn also wanted to know how to roast peppers. It’s a little different from tomatoes.

Peppers roast best when they are fully ripe – i.e., when they have changed color. I have mentioned it before, but my favorite roasting pepper is “Carmen,” a long bell pepper with thick walls.

Simply wash the fruits and position them whole in a single layer under the broiler, turning frequently until they bubble up and char slightly. This can also be accomplished on a gas grill or as my husband will attest, over

the flame of your kitchen gas stove.

Once charred, place them in a paper bag or covered container. The steam will soften the skin to the point it can be rubbed off, revealing yummy, thick flesh.

Pull off the stem and remove the seeds and voila! Roasted red peppers are yours to freeze.

I just blot mine dry and put them in single servings in plastic freezer bags. The



fruit is easily thawed by placing the bag into a shallow basin of water; likewise, you can pop the pepper popsicle on to a plate and let it thaw in the fridge.

Roasted peppers are fantastic on homemade pizza or blended into hummus.

I shared with Dawn that I was making pickles. She went on to say that hers never turn out well,

so I texted her a copy of a recipe given to me by a dear coworker over 20 years ago. I am still making them.

I’m not sure who originally gave Ron the recipe, but here it is for anyone wanting to use up an abundance of cucumbers. I’ve made it with full size cukes as well as picklers.

I would recommend that you fill your canning jars, be it quart or half gallon, with the cucumbers first. They can be packed tightly.

Then, add plain water to the jar all the way to the rim. Dump the water out into a large measuring cup to see just how much liquid you need.

Then you can adjust the other ingredients to the ratio in the recipe. I learned this trick the hard way after wasting ingredients because I didn’t need quite a double recipe.

Ron’s Pickle Recipe

Ingredients:

14-16 cucumbers

8 teaspoons pickling spice

6 dill tops

6 cloves garlic

2 teaspoons sugar

4 tablespoons Kosher salt

1 cup vinegar

5 cups water

Instructions:

Combine all ingredients into canning jars. Shake

and leave on counter for 36 hours. Refrigerate for two days before eating. Will keep in the fridge for a few months although the flavor will intensify with storage.

Enjoy the harvest as much as Dawn is!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 34 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.

Public Notices

City of Holyoke
Notice of Public Hearing

The Ordinance Committee of the Holyoke City Council and the Planning Board will hold separate public hearings to hear a zone change application from IG (general industry) to DR (downtown residential) of Ryan Ripa at 12 Crescent Street (030-02-001) to expand residential and community-serving use by providing a zone consistent with the surrounding mix of industrial, residential, and commercial development. Planning Board public hearing will be held on Tuesday, September 8th, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. remotely via zoom.us with Meeting ID 827 4898 0463 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 using same meeting ID. Ordinance Committee public hearing will be held on **Thursday, September 17th, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.** at Holyoke City Hall 536 Dwight St and can be accessed remotely via zoom.us Meeting ID 825 0684 5908 Meeting Passcode 098318 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 to the Planning Board, please contact Brianna Tejada at tejadab@holyoke.org. For the Ordinance Committee, please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org or by phone 413-322-5525.

Planning Board Chair, Lauren Niles

Ordinance Chair, Meg Magrath-Smith
08/21, 08/28/2026

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 John Barbagallo for a dog training and pet sitting business at 43 King Street (123-00-061) per 4.8.2. Hearing will take place on **Monday, September 14, 2026 at 6:30 pm** at Holyoke City Hall 536 Dwight St and can be accessed remotely via www.zoom.us Meeting ID 850 6437 3400 Meeting Passcode 355325 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, Richard Purcell
08/28, 09/04/2026

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 Reynaldo Guzman for a barber shop at 113 Sargeant Street (010-02-012) per 4.8.2. Hearing will take place on **Monday, September 14, 2026 at**

6:30 pm at Holyoke City Hall 536 Dwight St and can be accessed remotely via www.zoom.us Meeting ID 850 6437 3400 Meeting Passcode 355325 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, Richard Purcell
08/28, 09/04/2026

City of Holyoke
Notice of Public Hearing

The Ordinance Committee of the Holyoke City Council and the Planning Board will hold separate public hearings to hear a zone change application from BL (limited business) to BH (highway business) of John Borowski at 120 Pine & 0 Pine Street (006-09-018) to provide zoning that is more advantageous for selling the property. Planning Board public hearing will be held on **Tuesday, September 8th, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.** remotely via zoom.us with Meeting ID 827 4898 0463 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 using same meeting ID. Ordinance Committee public hearing will be held on Tuesday, September 29th, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at Holyoke City Hall 536 Dwight St and can be accessed remotely via zoom.us Meeting ID 834 4684 8765 Meeting Passcode 126459 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 to the Planning Board, please contact Brianna Tejada at tejadab@holyoke.org. For the Ordinance Committee, please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org or by phone 413-322-5525.

Planning Board Chair, Lauren Niles
Ordinance Chair, Meg Magrath-Smith
08/21, 08/28/2026

City of Holyoke
Public Hearing Notice

The Holyoke Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.** via Zoom.com; ID: 827 3536 5267; CALL IN 1 646 558 8656 to hear, pursuant to the Holyoke Zoning Ordinance, a Special Permit for a Parking Reduction (Sec 6.1.7) submitted by IHI Wave, LLC (2026-15) located at 956 Dwight Street (075-04-016).

For a complete copy of the application and site plan, contact the Planning Department at (413) 322-5575.

APPLICANT: IHI Wave LLC
PLANNING BOARD:
Lauren Niles, Chairperson
08/21, 08/28/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD26P1814GD
In the matter of: LAURIE STRANG
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 **MIRA VISTA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH OF HOLYOKE, MA** in the above captioned matter alleging that **LAURIE STRANG** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

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

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of **09/22/2026**. 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 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. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court.

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Boys take silver in 2026 Bay State Games

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

FITCHBURG – A year ago, Chicopee’s Griffen Wrisley and Minnechaug’s Tyler Supczak were starters for the West soccer team which captured the Gold medal at the annual Bay State Summer Games.

The duo were the only returning starters on this year’s West squad.

The West team took home the Silver medal at the Bay State Summer Games following a 2-1 loss to Central in this year’s Gold medal match, which took place at the Game On Sports and Performance Center in Fitchburg on July 11.

“I was lucky enough

to be a member of the Gold medal team last year,” Wrisley said. “We have a bunch of new players on this year’s team and were hoping to win the Gold Medal again. It’s a lot of fun being a leader of this team.”

The other members of the West team, who live in the Turley Publications coverage area, are John Carra (Agawam), Zacharia Yarovoy (Chicopee), Antonio Maurico (Chicopee), Aidan Monaghan (Agawam), Kayson Gauthier (South Hadley), Spencer Parsons (South Hadley), and Braeden Fitzgerald (Agawam).

The West team finished pool play with a perfect 4-0 record.

They posted a pair

of one sided matches against Northeast 6-2, and Southeast, 8-0. They also pulled out two matches by 2-1 results against Central and Metro.

“Central was the best team we played in pool play,” Wrisley said. “I scored a goal and had an assist in that game.”

The West team was coached by Josh Wietcha, who’s the

See BOYS, page 8

Aidan Monaghan, of Agawam, tries to play the ball off his chest.



Above, Lucas Cruz hustles past mid-field. Right, Spencer Parsons, of South Hadley, eyes an open teammate.



Linus Dandurand attempts to make a stop.



Tyler Supczak, of Wilbraham, makes the easy trap.



Andrew Dziadroz makes a play on the ball.



Kayson Gauthier, of South Hadley, looks to make a free kick.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Kaileena Smith, of Granby, advances up the field.



Margaret Healey, of Granby, looks to get around an opponent.



Above, Taylor Bartosz, of Wilbraham, looks to clear the ball on defense. Left, Kelsey Morrisette, of Chicopee, starts her way up the field.



Above, Kalli White, of Granby, is pressured as she heads through the middle of the field. Left, Aaliyah Hall, of South Hadley, chases after a loose ball.

See GIRLS, page 8

Girls represented by two squads at Bay State Games

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

FITCHBURG – While the other sections of the state only had one girls’ soccer team competing in this year’s Bay State Summer Games, Western Mass. was represented by two teams for the first time.

The West Red team was coached by Matt Mosher, while Eric Woods guided the West Yellow team.

The two squads faced each other in the final pool game on July 11 at the Game On Sports and Performance Center in Fitchburg.

After building a 3-0 lead, the Red team withstood a late comeback by the Yellow team for a 3-2 victory.

“We had more than 40 girls’ try out for the two soccer teams, which shows how popular the sport is in Western Mass.,” said Mosher. “Eric and I have a very good relationship. We try our best to make the teams equal. It’s has been a lot of fun coaching this team.”

It was the sixth consecutive year that Mosher coached a Western Mass. girls’ soccer team at the Bay State Summers Games. His previous teams won two Silver Medals and three Bronze Medals.

Mosher was assisted by Laura Wray-Ramos, who’s the longtime girls’ varsity soccer coach at Agawam High School.

The members of the Red team, who live in the region, are Filomena Stellato (Agawam), Hannah Haesaert (South Hadley),

Teddy Bear Pools takes playoff title in Tri-County

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

THORNDIKE – For the first time since 2012, the TriCounty League championship title belongs to a baseball team other than PeoplesBank. The third-seeded Teddy Bear Pools & Spas ended the secondseeded PeoplesBank twelve year dynasty after sweeping the best of three semifinal series. Teddy Bear then captured the championship trophy for the first time since the 1980’s with an 8-4 victory over the top-seeded St. Joseph’s Saints in last Sunday’s night decisive game three held at St. Joe’s Park in Thorndike.

“Before the start of the regular season, I thought we had the most talented team in this league,” said Teddy Bear player/manager Ryan Magni. “We have a couple of outstanding college baseball players on our roster, which made the biggest difference. It does feel great to win the championship title, but I do have a lot of respect for St. Joe’s.”

Ryan Magni played for St. Joe’s for eight years before switching sides a couple of years ago. His younger brother, Brandon, was the St. Joe’s starting first baseman in game three.

Ryan Magni started the game in centerfield before replacing righthander Brendan Fournier on the mound in the bottom of the seventh inning.

St. Joe’s scored two runs against the righthander in their final at-bats. The game came to an end when Brandon Magni hit a ground ball to the second baseman against his older brother.

“I’ve faced my brother many times over the years,” Ryan Magni said. “I didn’t have my best stuff tonight, but I didn’t make it very easy for him.”

St. Joe’s, who lost to Peoplesbank in last year’s championship series, was looking to win the TCL title for the first time since 2006.

“They just capitalized on our mistakes in tonight’s game,” said St. Joe’s manager Paul Marcinek. “It would’ve been nice if we could’ve scored a few more runs. We did win the regular season championship with a 16-4 record, and we have nothing to be disappointed about.”

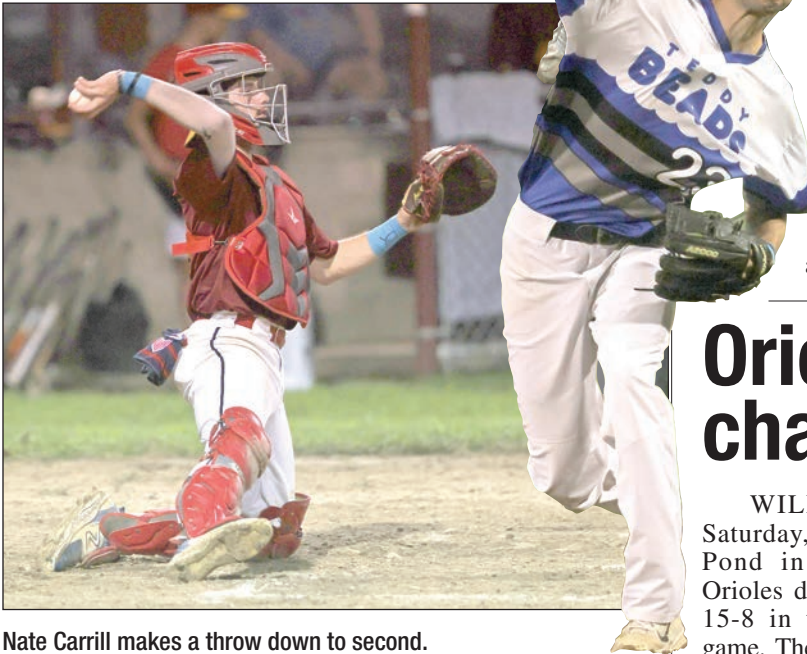
Marcinek was assisted by Brian Hayes this season.

With one-out in the top of the first inning, Teddy Bear had runners on first and third when right fielder Willie Landman hit a ground ball up the middle. St. Joe’s shortstop Jacob Hayes made an outstanding diving stop before tagging second base and throwing a strike to Magni completing the inning ending double play.

Jacob Hayes, who’s a member of the UMass Dartmouth baseball team



Alex Gochinski takes a swing.



Nate Carrill makes a throw down to second.

along with his brother Jackson, belted a double to right center leading off the bottom half of the opening frame. Brandon Magni followed with a groundball single into left field putting runners at the corners. St. Joe’s took a 1-0 lead when centerfielder Pat Fitzgibbons hit a blooper just out of the second baseman’s reach which scored Hayes. Magni also crossed the plate following a throwing error by the catcher.

Fournier, who graduated from Chicopee High School in 2017, retired 17 of the final 18 St. Joe’s batters that he faced. St. Joe’s only base runner during that stretch was Fitzgibbons, who hit a triple to right field with one-out in the sixth inning.

“I struggled in the first inning, but I started throwing more off speed pitches that kept them off balance. My teammates also made the plays behind me,” said Fournier, who was the winning pitcher. “I’ve been playing in this league for almost ten years, and it feels great to finally win a championship.”

Teddy Bear cut the deficit in half against righty Jack Feltovic in the third inning.

With one-out, catcher Mike Toth, who graduated from Granby High School, was hit-by-a-pitch. Second baseman Ramon Jimenez

singled to right field putting runners at first and third. Then Landman hit a sacrifice fly to right.

Jimenez graduated from Chicopee High School before playing Division 1 college baseball at Boston College and Central Connecticut. He was intentionally walked in his other three plate appearances.

The visiting team took the lead for the first time two innings later.

Ryan Magni and Jimenez reached base via walks, which was sandwiched between a Mike Toth flyball single, which loaded the bases with one out. Left fielder Josh Frometa (2-for-3) blasted a triple to center giving his team a 4-2 lead.

“The bases were loaded and I was looking for a pitch to drive,” said Frometa, who played baseball at Chicopee High and A.I.C. “It was a huge hit at that point of the game, and it feels great to win the championship title.”

After scoring an unearned run in the sixth, Teddy Bear scored three more runs in the top of the seventh against lefthander relief pitcher Jackson Hayes. The key hit during that frame was a bases loaded double by first baseman Will Kennedy, who played for



Above, Teddy Bear Pools becomes the first new playoff champions in more than a decade. Top left, Joey DeMichele makes a play for St. Joe’s. Left, Brendan Fournier fires a pitch home.

St. Joe’s several years ago.

Teddy Bear entered the bottom of the seventh inning holding an 8-2 advantage.

St. Joe’s DH Adam Zebian drew a walk against Ryan Magni

leading off the final frame. Zebian was replaced at first base by pinch runner Adam Przybycien. Left fielder Ryan O’Leary followed with a triple to center scoring Przybycien. O’Leary scored on an infield hit by catcher Nate Carillon, who graduated from South Hadley High School.

Ryan Magni settled down

and got out of the jam by retiring the next three batters, including his younger brother.

Teddy Bear Pools & Spas will be looking to defend their championship title in the summer of 2027, but challengers like St. Joe’s and People’sBank will be looking to knock them off the top of the mountain.

Orioles repeat as Valley Wheel champions

WILBRAHAM – On Saturday, Aug. 15 at Spec Pond in Wilbraham, the Orioles defeated the Angels 15-8 in the championship game. The Orioles were propelled by nine runs in the first two innings. While the Angels would manage some offense later in the game, it was not enough to come all the way back in the matchup. The Angels were this year’s pennant winners, taking first place with an 11-4 record. The Orioles won the championship for the second year in the row. They defeated the Twins in last year’s championship game.



The Angels’ Tom Cygan swings and connect.



Andy Roland fires a pitch for the Angels.



Sam Maxwell makes a backhand play.



Pete Paroli makes a swing.



The Orioles are the 2026 Valley Wheel Over-28 Baseball League champions.

GIRLS ■ from page 7

Kyra Lippmann (Holyoke), Gabriella Ramos (Agawam), Riley Platt (South Hadley), Audrey Afonso (Ludlow), Olivia Izzo (Agawam), Bridget Benoit (Belchertown), and Bri-Anne Kraus (Granby).

“All of the players on my soccer team have been playing with and against each other for years,” Mosher said. “They know each other very well.”

After finishing pool play at 2-1-1, the Red team surged to a 3-0 win over Northeast in the Gold medal game. It marked the first time that a West girls soccer team won the Gold medal at the Bay State Games since 2016.

“It’s very exciting being a member of this soccer team,” Haesaert said. “There are a lot talented soccer players in the west.”

The Red team began pool play with a 2-1 loss to Northeast. The following

day, they tied Central, 1-1, before celebrating a 3-0 shut-out win against Southeast/Coastal.

During the past couple of years, Woods, who coaches the girls’ soccer team at the MacDuffie School in Granby, coached the Central/West team at the Bay State Games. His team won the Gold medal in 2024.

“The Central team had a mixture of players from Central and Western Mass. during the past couple of years,” Woods said. “It’s nice to coach a team with only players from the West. Soccer is a very popular sport in Western Mass.”

The Yellow team lost to Central, 5-0, in the Bronze medal game.

The members of the Yellow team, who attend a high school in the region, are Taylor Bartosz (Minnechaug Reg.), Kelsey Morrisette (Chicopee Comp), Grace Sherman (South Hadley), Sofia Marsh (Granby),

Cecelia Litz (Agawam), Kalli White (Granby), Margaret Healey (Granby), Grace Curto (Agawam), Mackenzie Lynch (Agawam), Sydney Germain (Chicopee), Cayla Ribeiro (Chicopee), Eleanor Szlosek (Granby), and Jordyn Szado (Monson).

The Yellow team (0-3-1) began pool play with a pair of 4-1 losses to both Central and Northeast. They managed to tie Southeast/Coastal, 1-1 the following afternoon.

In the West vs. West match-up, Healey scored a penalty kick goal and added a corner kick goal.

“It was really a lot fun playing in the Bay State games for the first time,” said Healey, who’s a rising sophomore. “I enjoyed competing against the other players from the West.”

It was an enjoyable three days in Northern Worcester County for the two girls’ soccer teams from Western Massachusetts.

BOYS ■ from page 7

boys’ varsity soccer coach at Hampshire Regional. He graduated from Chicopee Comp in 2021 and helped the West team win the Gold medal at the 2019 Bay State Games.

Wietecha enjoyed coaching Wrisley at this year’s Bay State Games.

“Griffen is one of the best soccer players that I’ve coached,” Wietecha said. “He’s an outstanding forward and takes control of every game.”

This fall, Wrisley will be one of the few returning players on the Chicopee Pacers

varsity team.

“We graduated twelve players from last year’s varsity team,” Wrisley said. “We only have a couple of varsity players returning.”

Wrisley never thought about transferring to a different high school.

“Chicopee High School is a very special place for me and my family,” Wrisley added. “We won the Western Mass. title for the first time in 43 years last year. It was very special.”

Wrisley is the All-Time leading goal scorer for the Pacers boys’ soccer team. He needs only three more goals to reach the 100 goal mile-

stone. He currently has 116 career points.

Hugo Destapado, who coached the West team at the Bay State Summer games last year, is returning as the Pacers varsity boys’ soccer coach.

“I wouldn’t be a successful soccer player without the help of my coaches,” Wrisley said. “I’m looking to playing soccer for one final season at Chicopee High School.

The Pacers are scheduled to host Northampton in the season opener on Labor Day. They’re also scheduled to play another match against Frontier Regional at historic Sztot Park two nights later.

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School Committee Chair Dr. Yadilette Rivera-Colón at the podium.



Holyoke Superintendent Jackie Glasheen with Mayor Joshua Garcia, along with the School Committee, celebrating the current round of HPS retirees from 2026.



McMahon Elementary School poses for the perfect photo, showing their excitement for the school year to start.

SCHOOL, from page 1

buildings, may come from different backgrounds, and bring different experiences, we are all here to do everything in our power to make our students successful, because remember these are our schools, our students, our responsibility, and most importantly this is our district,” Rivera-Colón said.

Glasheen spoke as well and declared, “We are the district.

It is not a management versus unions, and it’s not departments versus departments; We are one team, because at the end of the day, every student who walks through our doors belongs to all of us,” Glasheen said.

“So I want you to remember that when a student succeeds, we all succeed; when a student struggles, we all have the responsibility to show. And when a family needs support, they should experience one unified Holyoke Public School District, not a connection with schools that are disconnected, and departments and individuals that are disconnected; Instead, they simply need adults who will work together on their behalf, and that is why teamwork matters.”

Glasheen then outlined three key priorities that will guide her leadership throughout the upcoming school year.

“We are going to execute high-quality lessons with strong inclusive practice to ensure that every single kid in front of you has access to the learning,” Glasheen said. “We must understand that we have a

lot of healing to do, and we have a lot of trust to rebuild, and we have to begin that partnership by serving our students together. Because the mission has to be bigger than our personal preferences, and bigger than our own schools, because when we are aligned around a common mission, we can achieve extraordinary things, and I believe that we have already begun to see the evidence of that across our district.”

Glasheen then unveiled the second was trust.

“Trust is not built overnight. It’s not built through consistency. It’s built when people know, even when we disagree, we are committed to working together,” Glasheen said. “So now we move forward with the belief that our colleagues are trying to do what they believe is best for the kids, and I can assure you that when we assume positive intent, then we can create space for growth instead of conflict.”

Lastly, Glasheen concluded with the value of establishing communication.

“Healthy teams communicate openly, directly, and respectfully,” she said, prompting a wave of enthusiasm throughout the gymnasium as attendees responded with resounding energy. Glasheen then unveiled one final surprise: students from McMahon Elementary, who took the stage to perform two musical numbers from their recent spring showcase.

The convocation also featured the public recognition of longtime Holyoke school employees entering retirement, along with keynote speaker Brandon P. Fleming, a renowned speaker, award-winning author, and nationally acclaimed educator and entrepreneur, who delivered an inspiring and motivational address to educators and staff in attendance.

Additionally, earlier this week, students across the district returned to the classroom, officially marking the start of the new school year.

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sation after elections come and go.

“Well, I’m looking forward to a year of continued dialogue with the legislature and the administration to see if we can rectify this unsuccessful funding mechanism that has been given to the sheriffs over the past 25, 30 years, because the bottom line is the sheriffs of the commonwealth do good work, and we will continue to do so,” Cocchi said.

Massachusetts State Auditor Diana DiZoglio used the event to highlight her efforts to promote greater transparency in state government, while calling on the administration to support a state audit approved by 72% of Commonwealth voters in the 2024 election.

“Unfortunately, our state legislators just voted to overturn that law, stripping away our right to have this matter adjudicated in court and giving the Speaker of the House full control over the audit,” DiZoglio said. “So all we can do is continue to push forward, and let the citizens of the commonwealth know that we’re still advocating and fighting for the official and public release of the 72% voter-mandated audit.”

She then added, “Because the truth is the people have spoken, so my message is simple: Call your legislators. Call the governor. Ask the governor to veto this bill, because otherwise the legislature is getting ready to overturn the law you voted for. That reeks of authoritarianism, and it doesn’t resemble the democratic nature of our state.”

Holyoke Mayor Joshua A. Garcia and Chicopee



Hampden County DA Anthony Gulluni, State Rep. Angelo Puppolo Jr., Sheriff Nick Cocchi, and State Rep. Carlos Gonzalez.



Sheriff Nick Cocchi with one of his supporters and a longtime friend.

Mayor John Vieau both touched upon the value that Cocchi’s fundraiser offers.

“Today is a reflection of the deep-rooted leadership that Sheriff [Cocchi] embodies, and continues to deliver on,” Garcia said. “He is extremely supportive and has been a main propo-

nent of helping develop new relationships, while implementing a sense of innovation while keeping the public safe, and delivering an opportunity to all.

Vieau said, “This celebration is always a special day because it exemplifies the connections and level of



Sheriff Nick Cocchi, State Auditor Diana DiZoglio, and HCSO Director of Communications Robert Rizzuto.

trust that the Sheriff’s Office has created, which in turn has been extremely beneficial to all of Western Mass.” He also added, “It was great to see everyone here today, and I

went towards the Sheriff’s election committee.

Voters now face upcoming deadlines ahead of the state primary on Tuesday, Sept 1.

All funds from the event

Turley Photos By Brendan Rooney