

the HOLYOKE Sun

Serving the city since 1995

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

September 4, 2026 ■ FREE

www.sun.turley.com

Threat to HHS deemed a hoax

HOLYOKE – Last Thursday, less than one week into the new school year, Holyoke High School was placed on lockdown as police investigated a possible threat to the school. In a follow-up to the incident, Superintendent Jackie Glasheen released more information about the incident:

Glasheen said she met Friday morning with district and school staff along with members of the Holyoke Police Department to “review what went well yesterday and where we need to continue to reflect and improve” following the previous day’s lockdown at Holyoke High School North.

“This meeting provided us with a good foundation to build on,” Superintendent Glasheen said. “We will continue to meet as a team, and we will continue to provide updates to families and staff

See HOAX, page 6

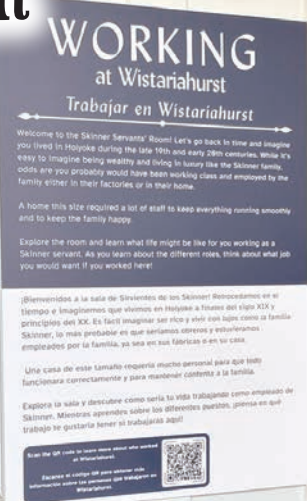
Wistariahurst Museum opens Skinner Servants’ Room

By Christina Gioscia
Correspondent

HOLYOKE – Wistariahurst Museum in Holyoke has opened a new permanent exhibit, the Skinner Servants’ Room. This new exhibit is located on the second floor of the museum.

Director Megan Seiler said the renovation was important for the museum.

“I think, one we wanted a space, a space that was



Turley Photos by Christina Gioscia

Above, Wistariahurst Museum Event Coordinator Rachel Powell, Director Megan Seiler and Office Assistant Emily Munsell in the new Skinner Servants’ Room. Left, items in the Skinner Servants’ Room including a washboard.

interactive, more family friendly, more kid friendly, and that was more about what it would be like, you know, creating historical empathy around what would the staff have experienced working in this house,” Seiler said. “And we just kind of wanted to update some of the information, make it acces-

sible, make it in Spanish as well. Because everything wasn’t English previously. Then Rachel worked really hard on researching a lot of the individuals. She went on genealogy websites and found out a lot of information.”

Events Coordinator Rachel Powell shared about

the research process.

“It was great,” she said. “I got to know these people very well. We also have like interviews from them where they talk like Skinner descendants and that’s like where I found a lot of information. Particularly with

See SKINNER, page 10

Neal wins by small margin over newcomer Whalen

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

U.S. Rep. Richard Neal has secured the Democratic nomination in Massachusetts’ 1st Congressional District,

defeating first-time candidate and local teacher Jeromie Whalen in Tuesday’s primary.

Whalen will now return to the classroom, while Neal turns his attention to November, when he will

seek reelection for what would be his 20th term in Congress.

As of Wednesday morning, various reports stated Neal had garnered 46,125 votes, or 53.7%, compared with Whalen’s

39,714 votes, or 46.3% – a difference of 6,411 votes.

Following the victory, Neal is now expected to face independent candidates Nadia Milleron and Anthony Celata in the general election on Nov.

3. If reelected, he could become chair of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee should Democrats regain control of the House in November, a

See NEAL, page 6



US Congressman Richard Neal stands with his supporters.

Turley Photo by Brendan Rooney

Students back in class

City celebrates first day back to school

By Quinn Suomala
Correspondent

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Public Schools had a wonderful first day back to school on Aug. 24.

Superintendent Jaqueline Glasheen was happy to report that the first day of school went exceptionally well for all schools.

“We had a debrief of the first day with the cabinet and all school principals and every single person on the call reported a great day,” Glasheen said.

One of the biggest highlights of the day was school

See SCHOOL, page 6

PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT



VOTE INDEPENDENT

NADIA MILLERON FOR CONGRESS

NadiaforCongress.com

PAID FOR BY NADIA FOR CONGRESS

Ordinance committee discusses pollinator lawns ordinance

By Quinn Suomala
Correspondent

HOLYOKE – During their meeting on Aug. 13, the ordinance committee discussed updating their ordinances around lawn care.

Several Holyoke residents have shown interest in growing a pollinator lawn, a type of lawn that attracts more pollinators and native species than traditional grass lawns.

However, under current Holyoke ordinance, growing this type of lawn can result in a citation as these lawns can contain long grasses and a variety of plants, and the existing ordinance limits grass length to six inches.

Therefore, Holyoke residents came before the ordinance committee to request they clarify the existing ordinance to allow more understanding of pollinator lawns.

These Holyoke residents argue that pollinator lawns have significant positive impacts on the environment, and are therefore worth protecting within the city.

“I’ve been very interested in pollinator landscaping [...] and what I found is that the bees are back, the dragonflies are back, the butterflies are back, the songbirds are back,” Hillary Rathbun said. “Just my little yard has been able to have an impact.”

While these lawns are beneficial for the environment, they can also raise problems within the city.

Magrath-Smith discussed existing worries around these lawns becoming rodent harborage. The current ordinance limits grass to six inches over worries of them becoming these harborage.

“There seems to be a mixed understanding of if low-mow grasses and pol-

linator spaces are, in fact, actually rodent harborage,” Magrath-Smith said. “What actually defines a rodent harborage?”

Recent research has revealed mixed results on if these lawns are actually a risk of these harborage.

This potential hazard led the committee to wanting to research further the potential risks of these harborage.

Additionally, it can be difficult to tell if a lawn is a pollinator lawn or just neglected, as these lawns differ greatly from traditional short-cut grass lawns.

“Sometimes it’s not clear to neighbors what you’re doing,” Magrath-Smith said.

As a result, the committee discussed adding a clause that required residents to register their lawn as a pollinator lawn to the Department of Public Works.

However, other commit-

tee members raised concerns around this becoming an unnecessary obstacle for residents or more work for other city departments.

“I don’t love the idea of asking people to register because it can create more work for another department that is not us,” Councilor Anne Thalheimer said. “Plus, people have the right to do certain things with their yards, as long as they are within defined ordinances.”

Councilor Linda Vacon suggested that, rather than an official registry, the city merely requests that people put up some sort of sign on their lawn stating that they own a pollinator garden.

“Not necessarily a registration but a system[...] where we have a program where someone puts up something that says, ‘I’m a member of the pollinator garden,’” she said. “It’s a friendly thing but

it identifies it as intentional.”

Furthermore, the committee also discussed adding a concrete definition for yard waste. Currently there is a prohibition on yard waste, but there is no clear definition on what yard waste is.

“We haven’t defined yard waste, I think everybody assumes it includes leaves in the fall, but the more we learn about habitat and how nature actually works, the more it appears that as long as the leaf cover is not overwhelming, leaving the leaves on the lawn is generally good,” Councilor Mimi Panitch said.

Leaves can provide shelter for several animals and insects over the winter, including caterpillars, salamanders and fireflies.

“What we do with fallen leaves in the fall in our community can have huge impacts on wildlife in the spring,” Kelly Rodriguez

from the National Wildlife Federation said. “When leaves are raked into yard waste bags, up to 45% of a yard’s butterflies could be thrown away.”

Panitch proposed that in the new draft of the ordinance they add clauses specifically for how to manage organic yard waste in order to preserve the benefits of leaves for those who want them while also preventing them from being a nuisance for those who don’t.

The committee tabled this ordinance so they could come up with a more concrete draft based upon existing Holyoke ordinances, the meetings’ conversations and ordinance examples from other communities.

They hope to have a new draft over the next few months that will allow the committee to move forward on this issue.

Applications now available for FY27 Community Preservation Act funding

HOLYOKE – The city has announced that it will now be accepting applications for granting from the Community Preservation Act.

HOLYOKE, Mass. — 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 presen-

tations 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.

Dean appointed for new HCC division

HOLYOKE – Irma Medina, an alum and 22-year employee of Holyoke Community College, has been named the inaugural dean of the HCC division of Integrative and Applied Learning.

“For more than two decades, Irma has served HCC with dedication and distinction, championing student success, equity, belonging, and experiential learning,” said Jessica Nicklin, HCC provost and vice president of academic and student affairs.

Medina, the daughter of a seamstress, was a single mom and working full time as a secretary when she enrolled



Irma Medina

in night classes at HCC in 1997, taking a bus to college every day from her home in Springfield’s North End. She is a graduate of Springfield’s High School of Commerce, where her best class was typing, she said, and her ambition at the time merely to get a better paying secretarial job.

Later, Medina transferred from HCC to Mount Holyoke College on a Frances Perkins scholarship. She graduated in 2004 with a bachelor’s degree in urban politics and a minor in history. She soon returned to HCC as an academic advisor for the TRIO program, and two years later became the inaugural coordinator of what was then a new transfer program called Pathways, which she led as coordinator for the

next 17 years.

In 2023, she was named director of Integrated Learning, overseeing a complement of linked programs that includes Pathways, Honors, Learning Communities, Community Based Learning, and Academic Internships.

This summer, Integrated Learning was elevated to become its own academic division under the new title of Integrated and Applied Learning, with Medina as its first dean.

“Those who know Irma recognize her as a thoughtful leader, a trusted colleague, and a passionate advocate for students,” said Nicklin. “I am confident that her vision, collaborative spirit and unwavering dedication to HCC’s mission will continue to enrich our students’ lives and strengthen our college community.”

Applications open for HERizon female empowerment program

SPRINGFIELD – After a successful year in which participants reported increased confidence, stronger friendships and meaningful personal growth, applications are now open for HERizon, the Hampden District Attorney’s Office’s free leadership and empowerment program for high school girls across Hampden County.

Designed to help young women develop confidence, leadership skills and lasting connections, HERizon provides participants with mentorship, engaging discussions, interactive activities and opportunities to learn from female professionals and community leaders. The program meets bi-weekly at the Hampden District Attorney’s Office in Springfield and is led by

young women who serve in a variety of roles throughout the District Attorney’s Office. Throughout the program, students explore topics including healthy relationships, confidence, mental wellness, women’s health, self-advocacy and navigating challenges both in school and beyond.

“HERizon is about helping young women recognize their own potential and giving them the tools and support to become confident leaders in their schools and communities,” said Hampden District Attorney Anthony D. Gulluni. “When young women feel empowered to use their voices, advocate for themselves and support one another, the impact extends far beyond the classroom. Programs like HERizon are an investment in the future of our community.”

The program continues to make a meaningful impact on participants. At the conclusion of this year’s program, in an anonymous survey, participants rated their overall experience 4.8 out of 5, while 100% said HERizon helped them grow as a person.

Participants described HERizon as a place where they felt supported, encouraged, and comfortable being themselves. Feedback on the survey included:

“Everyone was so supportive and passionate. I loved this group and the friendships that were built.”

“I loved being able to open up. Besides my own room, I feel like this was the room I was most comfortable.”

Many also said the program helped them become

more confident, set healthier boundaries and step outside their comfort zones.

Participants cited discussions on confidence, healthy relationships, positive self-talk, self-love and women’s health among their favorite topics, along with hands-on experiences like a car maintenance workshop and opportunities to connect with peers from across Hampden County.

HERizon is open to high school girls throughout Hampden County and is offered at no cost. Applications for the upcoming program are now being accepted.

Students interested in applying can learn more here. Questions about the program may be directed to Halie Matthew at Halie.Matthew@mass.gov.

Volunteer at Harmony House

CHICOPEE – Harmony House of Western Massachusetts, located in Chicopee, is a home offering compassionate hospice care to individuals in the final stages of their lives. If you are interested in providing care and companionship to our residents, organizing special projects to engage our residents, or supporting our fundraising efforts, we invite you to meet with our staff and current volunteers.

Volunteers are a vital part of the mission of Harmony House, providing a loving home and considerate care and companionship for hospice patients in need. With your support, we can help our neighbors face life’s end with peace

and dignity and allow their loved ones to step out of the caregiver role and focus on cherishing their remaining time together.

On Saturday, September 12 from 10:30 a.m. to Noon, at the Chicopee Public Library, 449 Front Street, meet members of the Board of Directors and current volunteers to learn more and have your questions answered by those who are directly involved in resident care. If interested in learning more or becoming a volunteer, please complete the online volunteer application form at www.harmonyhousewma.org/volunteer-1 or email us at admin@harmonyhousewma.org.



Donovan's
Irish Pub

80 Jarvis Ave., Holyoke
413-543-0791
donovanspub.com

Sun. 12pm - 8pm; Mon.-Thurs. 11:30am-9:30pm; Fri. & Sat. 11:30am - 11pm

**Sat.,
Sept. 5**
**Jack &
His Guitar**
6-9pm

**Tues.,
Sept. 8**
**Musical
Bingo**
6:30-8:30pm

**Sat.,
Sept. 12**
**Dee
Reilly**
6-9pm

17th of Every Month - Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinners

JUNK REMOVAL
ATTIC, CELLAR & GARAGE CLEAN OUTS
POOLS & HOT TUBS REMOVED
Support Small Business, Keep Money Local
BOB ROBILLARDS RUBBISH REMOVAL
Family owned and operated since 1950

537-5090

Now Taking Applications
Maples I & II
OWNER:
Worthington Senior Housing, Inc.
ADDRESS:
48 Old North Road, Worthington, MA 01098
INCOME LIMITS:
One Person, \$46,000 Two Persons, \$52,550
Funded by:
U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through its 202/8 housing program
Eligible households must have at least one member 62 years of age or older or disabled and requiring the features of an adapted unit.
For Information Contact:
Patty Kimura, Prop Mgr, Maples I and II,
maples@ehmchm.org
Phone: (413) 238-5836 Fax: (413) 238-4250
TRS: (800) 842-9710



JOIN US FOR LIVE MUSIC!
Floyd Patterson
Friday, September 18th ~ 6-9 pm
All are welcome!

Wednesday Night
5-6:30 p.m. ~ weather permitting
Smoked BBQ Dinner
6:30pm
Bar Bingo
\$1 per ticket ~ Winner takes all
7 Days A Week
Queen of Hearts Raffle
*\$1 per ticket - unlimited tickets
Drawing Wednesdays at 5 pm*
*We at the American Legion 325
want to wish everyone
a safe and happy summer
and we hope to see you all soon!*

AMERICAN LEGION POST 325
22 Sycamore Street, Holyoke, MA
Find us on Facebook Paper City Post 325

SOCIAL SECURITY
Matters
By Russell Gloor



Will Social Security run out of money soon?

Dear Rusty:

I'm concerned about Social Security running out of funding, since I rely on it for my income and I'm at an age where my having to go back to work is not an option I can consider.

The job market for people my age is slim. I've been reading reports and it doesn't sound reassuring. Your thoughts?

Signed:
Concerned Senior

Dear Concerned Senior:

Thanks for sharing your concerns. This topic is a fairly complicated one, but I'll do my best to explain it.

Social Security income from payroll taxes, interest on reserves, and income tax on SS benefits has been insufficient to pay 100% of SS benefit obligations since about 2020.

Since that time, SS has been drawing money from the Social Security Trust Fund reserves to pay full monthly benefits to everyone.

In 2020, there was nearly \$3 trillion in SS reserves held in the SS Trust Funds, but as of the end of 2025, those reserves have dwindled to about \$2.56 trillion because they are being used to pay full SS benefits to all.

Without program reform, the SS trust funds will be fully depleted in 2032, which would result in an across-the-board cut of about 22% to everyone's monthly SS payment. And that would be devastating to millions of Americans!

However, Congress is acutely aware of this issue; they have been for years but have largely ignored previous warnings. Now, however, those predicted benefit cuts are dangerously close to becoming a reality.

As a result, we are beginning to see serious, even bipartisan, discussions in Congress about reforming Social Security to restore it to solvency to avoid future benefit cuts.

For our part, AMAC and the AMAC Foundation have been working on a proposal to restore SS to full solvency for generations and we have offered our proposal to various Congressional Representatives and to the SSA Commissioner and his executive staff.

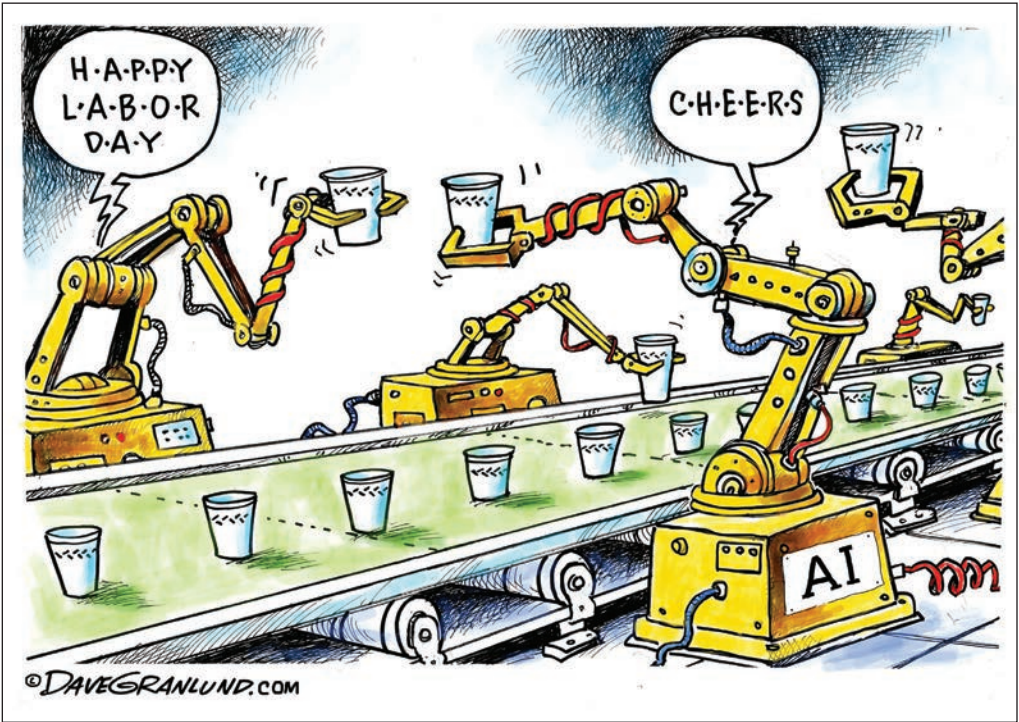
The proposal has been well received, and we are very optimistic that Congress will finally take real action to restore SS to solvency to avoid any benefit cuts. Frankly, doing otherwise would amount to political suicide!

PLEASE RECYCLE
THIS NEWSPAPER

AMAC is closely monitoring this situation and are very proactive in Washington, D.C. to ensure that benefits are not cut in 2032 and they will continue their vigorous efforts and their vigilance to avoid Social Security insolvency.

They are confident that Congress will act in time to avoid any reduction in SS benefits, and they can stay informed of their efforts by watching the AMAC Social Security information website at www.socialsecurityreport.org.

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.



Rooting cuttings is a great way to overwinter your favorite plants

Late summer is a great time to take cuttings of summer plants such as geranium, fuchsia, and coleus.

Often times planters containing these beauties are too big to overwinter. Likewise, these plants may be growing in your yard and maybe you are fearful of trying to dig them up and move them inside before frost hits.

It's also fun to root herb plants like rosemary or mint, so that you can enjoy them as seasoning in your favorite dishes over the winter months.

Getting a piece of stem to form roots is relatively easy. Here are a few tips that

will guarantee your success. First, make sure that the plant you are taking the cuttings from, called the "stock plant," is insect and disease-free and well hydrated. Plan to take cuttings in the morning before the heat of the day has a chance to cause any wilting.

A clean, sharp pair of scissors or hand pruners is the best tool for the job. Cuttings can be taken at any

time during the growing season.

Spring is also a great time to take cuttings of plants that you've overwintered provided they are growing well.

Begin by examining your stock plant. Those stems with the closest placed nodes are the best choice for cutting material.

Nodes are the point on the stem from which the leaves grow. There is a strong accumulation of hormones in this area; for that reason stem cuttings are taken just after a node.

Terminal cuttings, (those from the growth tip) three-

See GARDEN, page 5

in the
Garden

by
Roberta McQuaid



E-wheels complicate back-to-school safety



your health



By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN
Guest Column

Kids used to have three ways of getting to school: on foot, on a bus or on a bike. School officials in many localities are dreading the new trend toward e-bikes, e-scooters and hoverboards.

Electrically powered two-wheel vehicles seem to be taking over our streets, bike lanes and, sometimes, sidewalks, driven by teens and tweens who don't necessarily know the rules of the road. Scary. Now couple that with lots of cars and traffic around schools. Even scarier.

As someone who has spent a lot of time around emergency rooms, I urge parents to think twice before buying an e-bike, e-scooter or other motorized vehicle for their child. In some localities, like Douglas County in Colorado, parents can be held liable if their child is caught riding where they shouldn't or, worse, causing an accident.

Admittedly, state laws can be a bit confusing. In Massachusetts, e-bikes can fall into the same category as mopeds, which creates uncertainty about licensing, registration and where they can be ridden. E-bike riders and passengers age 16 or younger must wear a helmet. Localities are allowed to enact more restrictive rules.

ER visits related to e-bikes and e-scooters have increased by 671% for children and adolescents, according to Karen Gilbert Farrar, lead researcher at Truveta, a health data and analytics firm. "Just to put that in context," she told USA Today, "that's if one patient was being seen in 2023, that's now nearly eight patients in 2026."

Most injuries are to the head and neck, and about 7% involve traumatic brain injury, her research found. Fatalities typically involve a collision with a car or

truck or crashing into a fixed object or curb.

This is a three-pronged problem that needs a three-pronged approach, from parents, children and localities, as back-to-school season begins.

Parents

Understand how the state classifies e-bikes and e-scooters so you know what you are buying. Most states regulate e-bikes in three classes: motorized assist with pedals, up to 20 mph; motorized assist with pedals and a throttle, also up to 20 mph; and motorized assist with pedals and a speedometer, up to 28 mph.

Consider not only your child's age, but also their maturity level, because e-bike riders need good judgment and mature decision-making, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics. Kids ages 9 to 12 should not be operating any motorized vehicle, the Consumer Products Safety Commission says.

Instruct them on the use of bike lanes and sidewalks, safety in parking lots, speed limits and how to handle themselves at intersections. I would observe them on the road for a time.

And make them wear a helmet. No helmet, no bike or scooter.

Kids

Don't give your friends rides or let them drive your e-bike or scooter.

Don't wear headphones or earbuds or talk on the phone. Obey traffic signals and don't show off – no wheelies. If you're not supposed to be on the sidewalk, don't be on a sidewalk.

And wear that helmet your parents are making you wear.

Localities and schools

I hope more cities and school districts will consider restricting e-bikes and e-scooters and not wait until a child is severely injured. They can be brought to school but not ridden on school property.

If the vehicles are allowed, the riders should be carefully monitored to make sure they wear helmets and are not riding recklessly.

When all is said and done, though, I think the main responsibility for e-bike and e-scooter safety lies with the responsible adult in a child's life. It comes with the job.

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.

the
HOLYOKE Sun

We Want to Hear From You

EDITOR/SPORTS
Greg Scibelli
thesun@turley.com
sports@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES
Wendy Delcamp
wdelcamp@turley.com

The Holyoke Sun is published every Friday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.

WEB
sun.turley.com

PHONE
(413) 283-8393

ADDRESS
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069

Turley Publications, Inc.
www.turley.com

Turley Publications, Inc. cannot assume liability for the loss of photographs or other materials submitted for publication. Materials will not be returned except upon specific request when submitted.

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.

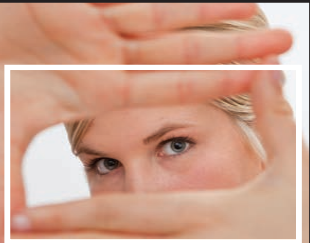
Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon. Please email (preferred) letters to thesun@turley.com. Mailed letters can be sent to *The Sun*, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

\$12.50
Each



Digital
Photos

TURLEY PUBLICATIONS, INC.
Purchase a photo that recently ran in one of our publications. Go to newspapers.turley.com/photo-request



think
OUTSIDE
of the
BIG
BOX

SUPPORT
COMMUNITY
BUSINESSES

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*.

Cooper’s taking donations for TJO Animals

AGAWAM – For a limited time, Cooper’s Gifts, Apparel, Home of Agawam, Mass., is accepting shelter supply donations for Foundation for TJO Animals, which is located at 237 Memorial Drive, Springfield, MA 01104.

The Foundation for TJO Animals raises funds to provide resources and support for critical veterinary care and enrichment for the animals at the Thomas J O’Connor Animal Control and Adoption Center. The center serves Springfield, Chicopee, and Holyoke. They are a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations will be collected at Cooper’s

now through September 30. “We invite everyone to help out the animals at TJO and be entered to win a \$100 Cooper’s Gift Card,” said Kate Gourde, owner of Cooper’s Gifts, Apparel, Home.

Items to keep the shelter clean and well stocked; paper towels, bleach, pet food, treats, toys and litter, are their current needs. “We hope that while people are out purchasing items for themselves, that they will consider picking up a few extras for the Foundation for TJO Animals. And, you’ll be entered into our raffle!” said Gourde.

“We will swap a raffle entry for every item donated

to the Foundation for TJO Animals. One lucky winner of a \$100 Cooper’s gift card will be notified on October 1st. Entry tickets can also be purchased at the store for \$1 each, or 6 tickets for \$5. All ticket sales will also be donated to the Foundation for TJO Animals. Especially for people outside the Greater Springfield area, it’s easier for them to bring donations here.” Gourde said. Items may be brought to the shop anytime up until Sept. 30. Cooper’s is located at 161 Main St., Agawam.

“This drive coincides with Foundation for TJO Animals as our September Round-Up charity; so, it’s

the perfect time to spread the word about their mission and really help them out,” Gourde said. Each month Gourde chooses a local charity to receive the profits of the store’s Round-Up Program through which customers are invited to round up their purchase total to the nearest dollar amount. Gourde will then match 50% of the total collected. The program has donated more than \$69,000 to local organizations since its inception in 2014. More information on the Round Up program and how to nominate a charity may be found on Cooper’s website www.coopersgifts.com/round-up/.

Registration, volunteer for Run Stanley 5K

WESTFIELD – Stanley Park is excited to announce that registration is now open for the 14th Annual Run Stanley 5K, taking place on Sunday, Oc. 4. Participants and volunteers can sign up online at <https://runsignup.com/Race/MA/Westfield/RunStanley>.

Run Stanley is a beloved community tradition that brings together runners, walkers, families, students, and their four-legged companions for a morning of fitness, fun, and support for Stanley Park. The event welcomes participants of all ages and abilities through a variety of race divisions, including the 5K Trail Run/Walk, K9 Division, 1-Mile Stroll & Roll, and the ¾-Mile Munchkin Run for elementary school students.

Elementary schools are also encouraged to participate in the School Spirit Challenge. The elementary

school with the most registered participants will take home the coveted Run Stanley School Spirit Trophy.

In addition to participants, Stanley Park is seeking volunteers to help make the event a success. Volunteers are needed for a variety of roles, including registration, course marshaling, water stations, finish line support, and event setup and cleanup. Community members, service groups, students, and local organizations are encouraged to get involved.

As a private nonprofit organization, Stanley Park relies on the support of events like Run Stanley. The park remains free and open to the public year-round.

To register for the race or sign up to volunteer, visit: <https://runsignup.com/Race/MA/Westfield/RunStanley>

St. Joseph’s Church community announce pot roast dinner

WESTFIELD – St. Joseph’s National Catholic Church at 73 Main Street in Westfield is hosting a community pot roast dinner on Sept. 13 at 12 noon.

Dinner will feature tender Pot Roast, home-made mashed potatoes with beef gravy, glazed carrots, and Chocolate cake. Included are Coffee, Ice Tea and

Bottled Water.

Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$10 for children under 12. For tickets, contact Cliff at (413) 977-2007. The deadline for purchasing

tickets is Sept. 10. A limited number of Meals-To-Go will be available at 12:30 p.m. When buying your tickets, please indicate if take-out. Everyone is welcome.

GARDEN, from page 4

four inches long are desirable. It is tempting to take longer pieces, figuring that the end result will be a larger plant.

These are likely to wilt before they root or take a very long time to root because the stems are woodier the further down you go.

Play it safe with stout cuttings.

There are all kinds of potting mediums in which to place the cutting while it is grows roots. Ideally it should be able to hold enough moisture to keep the cutting turgid yet not hold so much that it rots the stem.

Sand, perlite, and soil-less potting mixes have all been used with success. Water is not recommended as “watery roots” will have a harder time adapting to potting soil later on. I have had good luck rooting cuttings in peat-based potting mixes that are formulated for seed starting. Moisten the material well and fill your clean container of choice up to the

top and tamp it down.

Cut only a few cuttings at a time so that wilting doesn’t occur while you prepare the stems for insertion into the growing medium. Strip off the bottom one-third of leaves from the cutting.

If you wish to shorten the amount of time it takes for rooting to occur a commercial rooting hormone can be used. These come in powder or liquid forms. Follow the directions on the container.

I have found that “less is more” when using these products. When you are ready to “stick” the cutting make an indentation into the growing medium with a pencil or dibble first- do not push in with the stem!

After the cutting is inserted firm around it well so that it stays in place. Put the container, cuttings and all in a clear plastic bag and place in a shady location.

The humidity within the bag ought to prevent the stems from wilting.

Water well, only about

once weekly. After a month or so roots will begin to form on the scented geraniums; rosemary may take six weeks or more.

Transplanting into individual pots can be done once the roots equal or surpass the size of the cutting. I like to start out with a small pot and transplant up a size or two at a time as the plant grows.

The Ware Grange will be hosting workshop on this timely topic on Friday, Sept. 11 at 7 p.m. at the hall on Route 9 in Ware. Bring a potted plant to share cutting material or use a selection of plants that I will bring to try your luck at this skill.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 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.

53rd annual art festival coming to Mattoon St.

SPRINGFIELD – The 53rd annual Mattoon Street Arts Festival is right around the corner. The festival is the oldest running arts and crafts festival in the Pioneer Valley. It features 100 exhibitors on Sept. 12 and 13 in downtown Springfield, running from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. The free arts and crafts show will also include performances by strolling musicians.

The arts and crafts include paintings, photography, glasswork, ceramics, specialty foods, jewelry, and more, made by crafters from

the Greater Springfield area and beyond. Festival attendees will be serenaded by local entertainers while they shop, hearing the music of Joel Meginsky playing mandolin and clarinet, Andy Allen on the saxophone, Kayla Rae singing with the guitar, and William (Bill) Hart with the flute on Saturday and Violin Bone with the violin, Over Easy Jazz Band playing jazz, George David on the accordion, and AJ Jansen singing on Sunday.

While shopping, attendees can also enjoy food for purchase from local ven-

dors, including Citrus & Soiree, Crepes Nanou, Moe’s Dogs, Monsoon Roastery, Tayo Eatery, and Belmont Vegetarian, with Batch Ice Cream and The Lassi Lab on Saturday only and Thai Chili Food Truck and Ty’s Pies on Sunday only.

Mattoon Street is located off Chestnut Street, near the Springfield Museums. Festival goers can find free parking at the TD Bank lot off of Dwight Street and Harrison Avenue or with on-street parking, which is free on the weekends.

For more information, visit mattoonfestival.org.

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15				16				
17					18									
19					20				21					
				22				23						
		24	25					26			27	28		
29	30						31				32		33	
34					35	36				37				
38				39						40				
	41		42					43	44					
			45					46						
	47	48					49				50	51	52	
53						54				55	56			
57									58					
59					60				61					

CLUES ACROSS
1. Manila hemp plant
6. Turkish river
10. Something to read
14. In a way, initiated
15. Popular Apple TV series
17. King Charles is part of it
19. Earlier
20. Foot (Latin)
21. Zodiac sign
22. A browning of the skin
23. Remain as is
24. Turfs
26. It's used to slaughter animals
29. Volcanic crater
31. The mother of Jesus
32. One's life story
34. One-time Liverpool coach Slot
35. Counterparts
37. Jacob __, American journalist
38. Digital audiotape

39. River in South Africa
40. Kimono sashes
41. Rooting somewhere
43. American spy Aldrich
45. A way to call for
46. Taxi
47. Pancakes made of buckwheat flour
49. Swiss river
50. Popular type of video game (abbr.)
53. Have surgery
57. Formal withdrawal from a union
58. Performs spoken improv
59. Greek war god
60. 2,000 lbs.
61. Helps to evade capture

CLUES DOWN
1. Swedish rock group
2. "Friday Night Lights" director Peter
3. Currency exchange fee

4. Feline
5. Folk singer DiFranco
6. Ghostly pale from distress
7. Rapid eye movements
8. Monetary unit of Macao
9. Lawmakers
10. Colorless mineral
11. At some prior time
12. American protest singer
13. Opener
16. Seldom
18. Relaxing places
22. Touchdown
23. From end to end
24. Kids love him
25. Metal-bearing solid
27. Skin care product manufacturer
28. Thirteen
29. Angry
30. Member of a Semitic people
31. One-thousandth of an inch

33. Former CIA
35. Most lemony
36. Engage in
37. Mass of fish eggs
39. Food supplies
42. Backbones
43. American real estate investment firm
44. Megabyte
46. "Three Coins in the Fountain" songwriter
47. Dutch colonist
48. Full-grown pike fish
49. Emergency prep expert Edwards
50. Flute
51. Dismissive sound
52. Slang term for marijuana
53. Young women's association
54. Cosmopolitan city
55. Narrow isthmus in Thailand
56. Pointed end of a pen

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

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

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

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Your Community Church

St. Peter's Lutheran Church
Rev. Debora Stein
34 Jarvis Ave., Holyoke
Office: (413) 536-3369
Office: stpetersholyokey@gmail.com
Pastor: revdebma@gmail.com
Website: www.stpetersholyokey.org
Social media: facebook.com/stpetersholyokey
OFFICE HOURS:
Monday and Thursday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Friday, 12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
WORSHIP:
Sundays at 9:30 a.m. (also on Facebook Live) & Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.
Other: Prayers with Pastor - Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. - on Facebook Live.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
The Rev. Canon Joel Martinez
485 Appleton St., Holyoke
413-532-5060
Office@StPaulsholyoke.org
StPaulsHolyoke.org
Instagram: stpaulsepiscopalchurch_holyoke
OFFICE HOURS:
Tuesday – Friday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Days and Hours of Services:
Sunday: 8 a.m.
Sunday: 10 a.m.
Sunday: 5 p.m. (Spanish)

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

‘Lighting the Way’ will support children in foster care

MaryAnne’s Kids, a fund benefiting youth in the Center for Human Development’s (CHD) Foster Care program, will host a special evening on Thursday, October 1 to support local foster children and transition-age youth, as well as the families and communities who care for them.

At the event, which will take place 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Crestview Country Club in Agawam, guests will enjoy delicious food, live music, raffles, and a brief award ceremony to celebrate the impact of MaryAnne’s Kids and the dedication of those who make this important work possible.

MaryAnne’s Kids is a special fund that helps provide children and teens in foster care and transition-age youth programs the means to pursue special interests in music, dance, arts, sports, summer camps, and other extracurricular activities—opportunities

that are often unavailable to many without additional support. The fund was named in honor of the late MaryAnne Sadak-Eklof, who devoted her life to being a foster parent.

MaryAnne’s Kids helps provide foster children and youth with:

- Birthday celebrations and gifts
- Holiday gifts
- Car seats, cribs, playpens, and other essential furniture
- School supplies and education workshops
- Teen leadership groups and enrichment activities
- Museum visits, plays, concerts, and other cultural experiences
- School field trips
- After-school programs and summer camps
- Sports registration fees, uniforms, and equipment
- State ID fees
- Driver’s education courses



- GED preparation classes and exam fees
- Prom, graduation, and job interview attire
- College textbooks and education supplies
- Education stipends
- Specialized medical equipment
- Medications not covered by insurance
- Emergency clothing and hygiene products
- And much more.

Greater Holyoke Chamber invites businesses to annual Chamber Cup

HOLYOKE – The Greater Holyoke Chamber is inviting businesses, professionals, local leaders, and community partners from across Western Massachusetts to participate in the 58th Annual Chamber Cup on Friday, Sept. 25, at Westover Golf Course. Registration is now open for the annual event, which brings together the regional business community for a day of golf, networking, visibility, and relationship-building.

The Chamber Cup offers companies and organizations a valuable way to connect outside the traditional meeting setting. Participants can build business relationships, strengthen team connections, and engage with professionals

from across the region in a relaxed and welcoming environment. The event is open to Chamber members and non-members alike, making it a regional opportunity for businesses looking to expand their reach and community presence.

Businesses can participate in several ways, including registering a foursome, becoming an event sponsor, sponsoring a hole or meal, donating raffle prizes, or volunteering during the event. Each option offers a different path to visibility and engagement, whether a company wants to host clients, recognize employees, promote its brand, or support a signature community event.

The day will include golf at Westover Golf Course, breakfast, lunch,

raffles, and opportunities to connect with business owners, executives, public officials, nonprofit leaders, and professionals from throughout Western Massachusetts. For sponsors and raffle donors, the event provides added exposure before and during the tournament, helping businesses stay visible among a broad and engaged audience.

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

HOAX, from page 1

as our protocols evolve.”

Holyoke Police initiated a lockdown of Holyoke High School moments after the department received the first of a series of 911 phone calls at 12:39 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 27. Holyoke first responders and State Police conducted a thorough investigation of the school’s buildings and grounds, which took several hours. When law enforcement determined it was safe to do so, students were released in stages through the rear of the school.

SCHOOL, from page 1

positivity and culture. Each school had a welcome tunnel for students to ensure they started their day off well.

“Every kid that came through the tunnel was smiling and happy, it was really great,” Glasheen said.

As the school day continued, the good attitude did not drop off. All of HPS reported high classroom engagement throughout the day.

The district has “playbooks,” which are plans to track specific data around engagement to build a more successful environment for students.

Glasheen saw the engagement plans from these playbooks being implemented throughout the day.

“They’re looking at arrival, engagement and building relationships,” Glasheen said. “We’re doing a great job of calling students by their first name, for example.”

She was also pleased to see that planning to ensure smooth operations throughout the school day was successful.

“Each principal reported that their really intentional work around building specific systems for transitions, bathrooms, arrival, dismissal and lunch paid off,” Glasheen said. “Behavior management was almost nil on the first day of school.”

Additionally, Glasheen was pleased by the atten-

Based on their collective investigations to date, law enforcement now considers these phone calls to be “swatting” incidents, or hoax phone calls intended to create fear and disruption. Police are continuing their investigations into the person or persons responsible for posting these threats.

“Out of an abundance of caution, Holyoke Police maintained an increased presence at our schools today,” Superintendent Glasheen said. Students and staff at HHS North went through metal detectors, and their bags and belongings were searched, before they

were permitted to enter the building. No weapons were found during the search.

“As part of our on-going commitment to safety, we have periodically used metal detectors and conducted bag searches as students arrive at school for the day—and we will continue this practice going forward,” Mrs. Glasheen said. “Some of these searches will be announced in advance, and some will not. For unannounced searches, we will continue to send a message home to families with an update after we have closed the search for the day.”



dance staff. Almost every school reported 100% attendance of staff and paras.

“It was the first time in five years that that has happened,” Glasheen said. “So it is great to hear and see that staff want to come to work.”

Schools also reported minimal issues with buses. There were a few students placed on the wrong buses, but the problem was minimal and sorted out quickly.

“Overall a resounding, great first day,” Glasheen said. “It was about quarter of ten and I was back at the office and I realized that nobody had called me. Nobody said a bus is missing or a kid is missing, and usually on the first day we get those right away.”

While the first day overall went well, Glasheen did take notes on parts that she wants to improve for the future.

First, according to Massachusetts state law, schools have to have a fire

drill within the first three days of school.

The fire department came to McMann within the first hour of the first day. In the future, Glasheen hopes to communicate with the department to ensure they come for drills on the second and third days of school instead.

“Let’s let the first day of school just be the first day of school,” Glasheen said.

Additionally, Glasheen noticed that some kids felt overwhelmed by the welcome tunnel.

Moving forward, she hopes to set up a sensory friendly door that students who feel overwhelmed by the welcome tunnel can select to walk through instead.

Each school will communicate the location of this door to families before the first day so they know where to take their student to ensure they feel as comfortable as possible as the school year begins.

NEAL, from page 1

position that would give him significant influence over tax policy, tariffs, and the future of Social Security.

He acknowledged the possibility while addressing supporters late Tuesday night, after achieving victory.

“Let’s take it to November and reclaim the House of Representatives,” Neal said. Before pivoting, “I want to first thank the voters of the 1st congressional district for the faith they have demonstrated in me all of these years, because I’ve spent my lifetime working on these issues. And I want to say this firmly: there is not a family in Western or Central Massachusetts that has not benefited from my work or has not been impacted by my work in Congress,” he added. “Billions of dollars

have come back to Western and Central Massachusetts; they have benefited local government, small businesses, non-profits, and we have been your champion, and will continue to do so.”

The victory came just one week after Neal and Whalen faced off in their only debate of the campaign, a 30-minute exchange in which the long-time incumbent defended his record while Whalen pressed for a new direction for the district.

Whalen, a Belchertown native and progressive who now lives in South Hadley, said watching Trump win two presidential elections while he was teaching at Northampton High School helped motivate his decision to run for Congress.

He was Neal’s first official primary challenger since 2020, when he faced former Holyoke Mayor Alex Morse and won.

Once the Sept. 1 results came in and Whalen conceded the race, he reflected on the primary and his campaign in a statement posted to social media.

“Congratulations to Congressman Neal, who I spoke with to concede the race,” Whalen wrote. “I was told that I needed to write three speeches for tonight: one in the event that I won, one in the event that I lost, and one in the event that the outcome was not decided by the time I gave this speech. I only wrote one, because there was only one to write.”

Whalen reflected on the past year and acknowledged the historical and societal impact of the legacy he had established.

“That’s why I am so eternally grateful for the team before me here tonight, people who have come from so many walks of life, now walking down this path of righteousness together. And

now when I’m back in class, I will look back at this night, and at this inflection point in American history, and know that we etched our names into it with courage, conviction, and compassion,” Whalen added. “Because we’ve won regardless. No one can ever take this from us. The relationships we’ve made, the community we’ve built, the good we’ve brought into the world, these are ours to keep and ours to give. So keep giving it.”

Duringh the debate, Neal said he has been steadfast in his commitment to those in his district, reiterating his commitment to the district by citing the return of \$1.5 billion in federal funding through the American Rescue Plan Act, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and the Inflation Reduction Act, all of which were enacted under his leadership as chair of the Ways and Means

Committee.

“Billions of dollars have come back to the people of western and central Massachusetts,” Neal said. “There has not been a life in central and western Massachusetts that has not had a positive impact because of the efforts that I’ve made. I’ve been here.”

The congressman also said he supports “Medicare for everybody,” while clarifying that participation should be available to those who choose it.

“I’ve had a long history of supporting, expanding healthcare for all members of the American family, including being a champion of Medicaid,” he said.

Before adding that to get Medicare across the finish line, the U.S. will have to offer a series of choices, including allowing teachers, labor unions, and others to keep it while simultaneously expanding Medicaid across

the country.

After the debate, Neal outlined what a next term could entail, citing local and national topics.

“First I want to get the Sheriff’s office back to Union Station in Springfield, and I thought that was very important, and I would be very helpful in doing so,” Neal said. “Remember that the Republicans put some constraints in terms of earmarking things, and I would return those if we win the majority in the House, because again I thought it really worked, and I thought they did a good job there.”

Neal said he will continue working to lower costs for families, identifying an end to the war in Iran as a key step toward reducing prices.

“Ending the war in Iran is the most important thing we can do to bring down prices,” he said.



FIVE ISLANDS

Georgetown, Maine

2 Bedrooms, 2 Bathroom
Washer/Dryer, Fully Equipped

- Walk to Five Islands Wharf and Ledgewood Preserve Beach
- Close to Reid State Park

\$1200/week

207-607-9333





Teri Frykenberg, RN
Founder and Conference Chair

- PATIENT ADVOCACY
- COURSES
- CONSULTING

Support for patients and families.
Training for professional patient advocates.
Expert guidance and consulting.

LEARN MORE
www.nurseadvocateentrepreneur.com



NEPAC

New England Patient Advocacy Conference

Crisis to Compassion: Where Advocacy Matters Most

NEPAC 2026

October 12-13, 2026

Worcester, MA

Independent Advocates,
Healthcare Professionals & General Public

REGISTER TODAY
www.patientadvocacyconference.com

SPORTS



Eladio Pacheco makes a throw.

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

SEND US YOUR SUBMISSIONS

Football team readies for 2026 season

HOLYOKE – It was a tough season for the Holyoke High School football team in 2025. The Knights are looking for an improved campaign this fall. This week, the Knights were hard at work practicing on the lower fields at Holyoke High. They had one scrimmage against Commerce earlier this week and will host West Springfield on Saturday morning for some more practice. Their opening game will be on Saturday, Sept. 12 at 11 a.m. against Chicopee Comprehensive.



A pair of players work on blocking.

A defender looks for a tackle.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Linemen practice their blocking stances.



More linemen get their work in.



The Holyoke High School football team practices on Monday afternoon.

Girls volleyball gets ready for opener

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke High School girls volleyball team continued to practice earlier this week. The Knights will have their season opener on Tuesday, Sept. 8 at 6 p.m. at Chicopee High School. Holyoke's home opener is on Thursday, Sept. 10 against SICS at 5:30 p.m.



A pair of players go after the same ball.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Nemesis Torres Sanchez lunges for a ball.



Tatiana Gonzalez gets a bump.

UA AWARDS SCHOLARSHIP



Submitted photo

Western Massachusetts Baseball Umpires Association Board Member Chris Anderson awards a \$500 scholarship earlier this summer to Sean Krol. The umpires' association funds the scholarship through dues paid by its members. Anderson hopes in the future to fund more scholarships either through fundraising or donations, saying its important to give back to the sport they love, and promote education for high school seniors who play. Applications for next year's scholarship will open up early in 2027.

WSU girls volleyball ranked second in preseason poll

WESTFIELD – 2025 MASCAC Volleyball regular season and tournament champion Bridgewater State are the preseason favorites to win the 2026 crown as voted on by the coaches around the league. The Bears received seven first place vote to land in the top spot. Back-to-back tournament MVP Lily Welch returns after she helped the Bears to their first MASCAC Regular Season title since 2008. Last

season, she led the team in kills with 234, hitting percentage (.313) and digs (262). Welch was also second with 46 total blocks and fourth with 31 services aces. Westfield State is up next in second. The Owls were 7-1 in league play and bring back All-Conference honoree Lauren Carnes who earned first team honors as an out-

See WSU, page 9

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS ■ SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

Call/Text Sam
413-531-5381

Cellars, attics, garages cleaned, yard debris. Barns & sheds demolished. Swimming pools removed. Cheaper than dumpster fees and we do all the work. Lowest rates. Fully insured. **(413)283-6512, cell (413)222-8868.**

Find archives of this
local newspaper at
www.newspapers.turley.com

**“RANDY and RICKY
Fall Cleanup,
Call Paul Amherst”**

GREG LAFOUNTAIN PLUMBING & HEATING Lic #19196 Repairs & Replacement of fixtures, water heater installations, steam/HW boiler replacement. Kitchen & Bath remodeling. 30 years experience. Fully insured. \$10 Gift Card With Work Performed. Call Greg **(413)592-1505**

**BOB ROBILLARD'S RUBBISH RE-
MOVAL** Attics, Cellars, Garages cleaned,
Pools/Hot Tubs Removed. Family owned/
operated since 1950 **(413)537-5090**

**AAA-TROM'S TREE SERVICE PRO-
FESSIONAL SERVICE. Residential
removal of trees, Free estimates, Fully insured W/Workman's Comp. Remove
them before the wind takes them down.
Cordwood, stump grinding. Call 413-283-
6374/cell 413-237-9881.**

Handyman Services

Walker
Home Improvement

Finish Carpentry •
Framing • Drywall •
Painting • & more!

(413) 687-5552

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

**All Three ZONES for \$26.00
for 20 words plus 50¢ for
each additional word.**

**Suburb
Resider**

Circulation
59,000

Make checks payable to **Turley Publications**

DL & G TREE SERVICE- Everything from tree pruning, tree removal, stump grinding, storm damage and brush chipping. Honest and Dependable. Fully insured. Now offering a Senior Citizen and Veteran discount. Call today for free estimate **(413)478-4212**

Tree Removal-Tree Trimming
Storm Damage-Structure Pruning
Forestry Mowing
Certified & Fully Insured.
Free Estimates
Over 30 Years Experience
*Offering Senior Citizen
& Military Discounts*
Call **413-279-1050**

DL & G STUMP GRINDING Grinding stumps of all sizes, insured & certified. Senior discounts. Call Dave **413-478-4212**

We do what others don't.
We grind stumps of any size, provide
cleanup and add loam and seed.
Certified & Fully Insured.
Free Estimates
Over 30 Years Experience
*Offering Senior Citizen
& Military Discounts*
Call 413-279-1050

SERVERS WANTED
Inquire at Girly's Grill,
1315 Park St., Palmer, MA 0106
or call **413-284-0005**.

The Town of Ware is seeking applicants for the position of custodian. Duties include cleaning restrooms, sweeping, vacuuming, and mopping floors, cleaning windows, taking out trash and restocking supplies. Part-time, non-benefitted, \$17.50 per hour, 12 hours per week.

Job applications can be found on the Town of Ware website <https://www.townof-ware.com> under Human Resources, at the Ware Town Hall, or e-mail your application or resume to resumes@townof-ware.com. AA/EOE

**Duplex for sale at
812/814 East Street Ludlow.**

Built in 1974, each unit has 2 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, private basements, gas heat and central air on 0.23 acres of land. Great rental potential, good location with nearby schools and close access to the highway. The house needs cosmetic updates. Property is being sold strictly in AS-IS condition. Priced accordingly \$425,000.
Call **617-877-3455** if interested.

ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

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.



Post your
job openings
in our classifieds.
WE GET RESULTS!

Bay State Games announces three inductees to Hall of Fame

W A L T H A M – Representative Patricia Haddad (legislative leadership), Representative John Barrett (legislative leadership), and Ryan McCarthy (baseball coach) have been selected for induction into the 2026 Bay State Games’ Hall of Fame. The inductees will receive their award at a pre-game ceremony at Fenway Park on Sunday, June 14 prior to the Red Sox game against Texas.

The Bay State Games Hall of Fame was created to recognize past participants who have gone on to prestigious and successful athletic careers, as well as former

and current coaches, officials, sports organizers, and volunteers who have made significant contributions to the organization throughout its 38-year history. Past inductees among the over 60 previous honorees include the NBA’s Dana Barros (‘06), Pat Connaughton (‘25) and the late Reggie Lewis (‘02); WNBA’s Rebecca Lobo (‘03); Major League Baseball’s Rich Hill (‘13); Olympians Nancy Kerrigan (‘07), Ada Korkhin (‘25) and Samantha Livingstone (‘18) and US Paralympic Gold Medalist Joe Lemar (‘15).

“The Bay State Games is proud of the many ath-

letes who have participated in the program and gone on to achieve success at the collegiate, professional, and Olympic levels. We are equally proud of the coaches, sport organizers, community leaders, and supporters whose dedication, expertise, and generosity have helped make the Bay State Games possible.” Said Kevin Cummings, the Bay State Games Executive Director. “We are honored to recognize this year’s Hall of Fame class and celebrate the significant contributions each inductee has made to the Bay State Games. Their commitment, leadership, and lasting impact have

strengthened the organization and enriched the experience of countless athletes throughout the Commonwealth.”

Rep. Patricia Haddad - Legislative Leadership

Massachusetts State Representative Patricia Haddad championed state support for the Bay State Games for over two decades. She has supported the recreation, health, and education-based programs of the organization that benefit thousands of Massachusetts participants each year. A former teacher for 14 years, Rep. Haddad represented the 5th Bristol District for 25 years and served as Speaker Pro

Tempore of the Massachusetts House of Representatives for ten years.

Rep. John Barrett - Legislative Leadership

Massachusetts State Representative John Barrett from Berkshire County has been a strong supporter of the Bay State Games since the mid-1980s. Rep. Barrett was instrumental in bringing the Winter Games to Berkshire County, where they have been held for over 35 years. He has served as State Representative for Berkshire County since 2017 and was formerly Mayor of North Adams for 26 years. Rep. Barrett is also a leading advocate of the statewide

Summer Games.

Ryan McCarthy - Baseball Coach

Ryan McCarthy from Portsmouth has served as volunteer baseball coach at the Bay State Games for over two decades. He has led the Northeast team to numerous championship medals. Ryan has devoted more than 25 years to coaching high school student-athletes in both baseball and football at Triton Regional High School, Newburyport High School, and Dighton-Rehoboth High School. He has had a positive impact on countless Massachusetts high school student-athletes.

New event added to Thompson Speedway calendar

THOMPSON, CT – In an exciting addition to the Thompson Speedway calendar, the Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series has been added to the 64th Sunoco World Series of Speedway Racing to headline the Saturday portion of the three-day extravaganza!

2026 will mark the first time in series history that the Monaco Modifieds have visited Thompson Speedway three times, this coming at a crucial point in the championship chase! While the championship will certainly be on the forefront of the driver’s minds, the addition completes three-straight days of Tour-type Modified Racing at the Sunoco World Series.

It all starts Friday, Oct. 9 with the Modified Racing Series headlining the opening night with a 50-lap finale to crown their 2026 champion. The Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series now headlines the Saturday, Oct. 10 showcase while the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour will crown their 2026 champion following the World Series 150 on Sunday, Oct. 11.

“We are glad we got to add the Monaco Modifieds to this year’s Sunoco World Series,” said American-Canadian Tour managing partner Cris Michaud. “They always put on a great show at Thompson and the fans are sure to get their Modified fix before the

snow starts to fall!”

Thompson Speedway roars back to life on Wednesday, September 16 for the Eden Raftery Attorneys Fall Showdown Late Model Special! The Late Models take center stage in their extra-distance showdown alongside the Thompson Sunoco Modifieds, SK Light Modifieds, Street Stocks and Crown Vics with a 6:00pm Post Time.

The North East Short Track Network (NESTN) will stream Wednesday Night Racing at Thompson Speedway all season long, visit www.nestn.tv for more info including Pay-Per-View pricing and ways to subscribe.

WSU, from page 7

side hitter, racking up 185 kills while playing in just 17 matches after missing nine games during the middle of the season. Carnes per set numbers reflect her impact on a match-by-match basis with her 2.89 kills per set ranking third in the MASCAC. The Owls lost three of their top four hitters to graduation, but return a steady back line with Erica Majka (Agawam, Mass.) (266 digs) and Zurielys Rivera (264 digs) tops among the Owls’ defensive specialists a year ago.

Westfield will tip off the 2026 season with a non-conference match at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy on Sept. 1 at 6:00 p.m.

Sitting in third place is Framingham State with the final first place vote. Looking for her third straight MASCAC Offensive Player of the Year award is Natalie Reynolds. In 2025, she led the conference with 438 kills,

3.71 per set and 1,085 total attacks. She was second in hitting percentage at .279, fourth in solo blocks with 16 and fifth with 51 total blocks while adding 85 digs and 34 service aces. The Rams upset the Owls, 3-2 to eliminate Westfield from the conference tournament in 2025.

MCLA comes in fourth in this year’s poll. The Trailblazers were 5-3 with the help of reigning MASCAC Rookie of the Year Kaelynn Greeley who closed out her first year with the Trailblazers fourth in the conference with 221 kills, seventh in kills per set with 2.63 and 10th in hitting percentage with .217. She also tallied 36 service aces, 167 digs and nine total blocks over 25 matches.

Up next in fifth is Worcester State. Last season, the Lancers were also 4-4 in league play. During the 2025 season, Katherine Crateau finished second in the MASCAC with 477 digs and 654 receptions with third-most digs per

set at 4.54. She also recorded 95 assists and 36 service aces to earn MASCAC Defensive Player of the Year accolades.

Salem State is in the sixth spot. Returning for the Vikings is Celia Carbone who dished out a career-high 512 assists, averaged 6.10 assists per set, and set a new career-high in digs (222) last season.

Rounding out the 2026 poll is Fitchburg State in seventh and Mass. Maritime in eighth. For the Falcons, Madison Keohane returns after averaging 3.38 assists per set, 284 total assists, 171 digs and 25 service aces last season. For the Buccaneers, Holly Sanders is back after grabbing All-Conference honors in her first season. She led the MASCAC with 577 digs and 6.63 digs per set while tallying 25 kills, 89 assists, 48 service aces.

The volleyball season gets underway the first week of September with the MASCAC teams in non-conference action.

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 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

A	B	A	C	A		A	R	A	S		B	O	O	K
B	E	G	A	N		S	E	V	E	R	A	N	C	E
B	R	I	T	I	S	H	M	O	N	A	R	C	H	Y
A	G	O			P	E	S		A	R	I	E	S	
				T	A	N		S	T	E	T			
		S	O	D	S			P	O	L	E	A	X	
M	A	A	R				M	A	R	Y		B	I	O
A	R	N	E		T	W	I	N	S		R	I	I	S
D	A	T		V	A	A	L				O	B	I	S
		B	A	S	I	N	G			A	M	E	S	
			P	A	G	E		C	A	B				
		B	L	I	N	I		A	A	R		F	P	S
G	O	U	N	D	E	R	T	H	E	K	N	I	F	E
S	E	C	E	S	S	I	O	N		R	I	F	F	S
A	R	E	S		T	O	N			A	B	E	T	S

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 (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.

Job Connection

HELPING YOU FIND HELP

If you have job postings to fill, get them the exposure they need.

Join us in highlighting what positions you have available in our Job Connection!

Each week this available jobs section will run in your community newspapers.

5.25" x 4"
\$150 for three papers
\$40 for each additional paper

5.25" x 8"
\$300 for three papers
\$80 for each additional paper

10.75" x 8"
\$600 for three papers
\$160 for each additional paper

10.75" x 15.75"
\$1,200 for three papers
\$320 for each additional paper

Choice of any three papers
Buy two weeks, get the third week FREE

12 Weekly Newspapers Serving The Local Communities
Agawam Advertiser News • Barre Gazette • Chicopee Register • Country Journal
The Journal Register • Quaboag Current • The Register • Sentinel
The Holyoke Sun • Town Reminder • Ware River News • The Wilbraham-Hampden Times
www.turley.com

Contact Wendy wdelcamp@turley.com or **413.283.8393**

HELP WANTED

TOWN OF WARE IS SEEKING:

- Director of Planning and Community Development
- Principal Assessor
- Activities Coordinator
- Truck Driver/Laborer

Please see www.townofware.com for further information and other employment opportunities.

HELP WANTED

TOWN OF HARDWICK HIGHWAY WORKING FOREMAN

Seeking qualified applicants for FT Highway Working Foreman. Provides direct on-site supervision of employees working on all phases of highway department construction, maintenance, repair operations and performs all other related work as required. Requires heavy equipment and large trucks in operation to the position. Responsible for maintaining a safe working environment and efficiency of all areas under his/her control as delegated by the Highway Superintendent.

Send resume or application to: **Highway Department**, P.O. Box 275, Hardwick, MA 01451-0275 or by email at highway@townofhardwick.com. For full job description see www.hardwick-ma.gov.

HELP WANTED

TOWN OF HARDWICK

The town of Hardwick is seeking qualified candidates to perform high-level secretarial, clerical, and administrative work assisting the Town Administrator and Select Board.

This is a part-time 10 hours per week position. For full job description, go to www.hardwick-ma.gov.

Qualified applicants should send cover letter and resume to admin@townofhardwick.com or send to PO Box 575 Gilchristville, MA 01451.

HELP WANTED

TOWN OF HARDWICK

Seeking qualified applicants for the position of Full-Time Health Director. The Health Director will be responsible for the health of the town's residents and will oversee the health department's activities. The position requires a minimum of a Bachelor's degree in Public Health or a related field, and a minimum of five years of experience in a similar position. The position is a full-time position and will be based in Hardwick, MA. For more information, please contact the Town Administrator at admin@townofhardwick.com.

HELP WANTED

DRIVE FOR THE QUABOAG CONNECTOR

Quaboag Connector is seeking qualified drivers to deliver mail and supplies to the Quaboag Connector's customers. The position requires a minimum of a high school diploma and a minimum of two years of experience in a similar position. The position is a full-time position and will be based in Quaboag, MA. For more information, please contact the Quaboag Connector at info@quaboagconnector.com.

HELP WANTED

- Produce news and/or feature stories of local interest for various towns and cities.
- Must be dependable, professional and able to meet strict deadlines.
- Salary based on a flat rate by story and photo.

FREELANCE WRITERS & JOURNALISTS

Send writing samples with resume to:

PAULA OUIMETTE
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069
or email directly to:
pouimette@turley.com

Turley Publications, Inc.
www.turley.com

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

► In The News

SKINNER, from page 1

Charlie, he gave a lot of good details about like what the last decade looked like working here.”

Seiler then shared how some of the items ended up in this new exhibit, “My neighbor was kind enough to donate some of the smaller items and that little wash-board thing over there. A lot of other stuff was already in the collection. The clothing that you see was already in our collection. It wasn’t like this. It sort of felt like there were objects in the room, and we really wanted to make it feel like, you know, interactive.”

Office Assistant Emily Munsell shared why opening this newly renovated space for the community is important.

“We want people to be able to interact and enjoy this space outside of just the history enthusiasts,” Munsell said. “Like we have these little monthly tours where we have folks come in, but you can only get so much out of an hour-long tour. Just making it so that more people can enjoy this room and enjoy the museum has been really important to us, and we’ve taken steps to do that in other rooms, downstairs and upstairs.”

Tours are ticketed, there are discounts for students and seniors and children and members can attend the tour for free. Admission into the tours are 15 dollars and membership is as low as 40 dollars. There are also museum passes available at libraries.

Seiler shared, “So, we have library passes. If your local library does not have one. Let them know that you want one and they can reach out to us. So, there’s a lot of free low-cost ways to enjoy the house tour.”

Seiler says it is important for the museum to highlight the people who



Gardening tools also are part of the Skinner Servants' Room.

ran the household.

“I think there is dignity in any form of labor,” Seiler said. “And it deserves to be celebrated because people need all of these positions and wealthy people wouldn’t have what they have without the hardworking people who made it happen.”

Powell added, “We know a lot about the skinner family because we know a lot about the servants and also like was the Skinner family cleaning their own floors, washing their own clothes? People who really like made this a house were actually like the people they employed. They’re the people who like made sure dinner was ready, and they’re ready to host people. The servants are the ones who were kind of the backbone of the house in my opinion.”

This new exhibit features clothing for both children and adults to try on, and interactive items including an old-fashioned carpet sweeper and gardening tools.



There are plenty of new items for children to try out.



Clothing hanging in the Skinner Servants' Room.

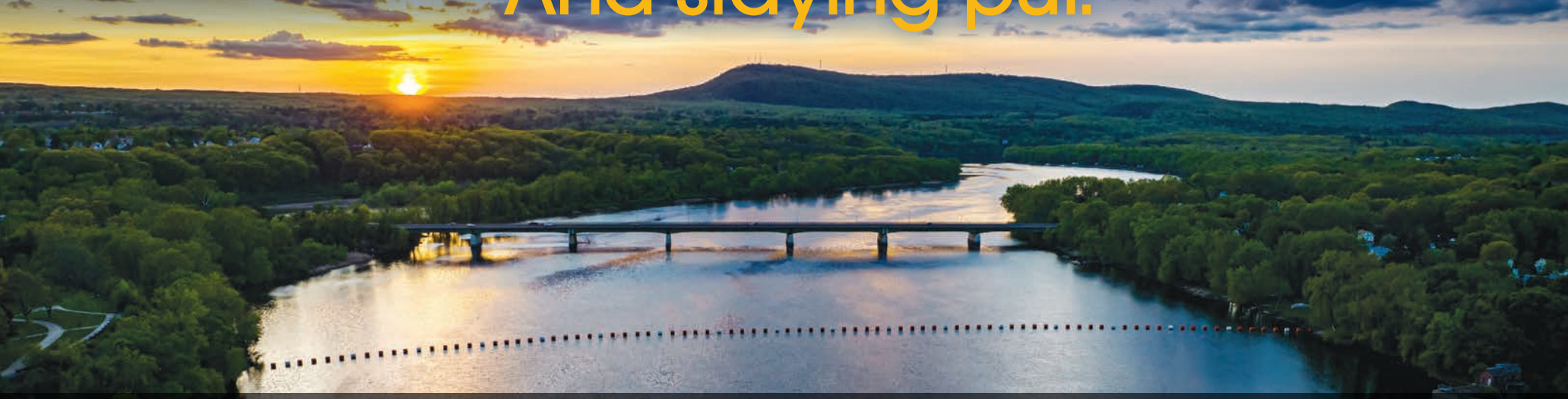
Turley Photos by Christina Gioscia



There is a nurses outfit in the new room.

We're branching out.

And staying put.



NEW HOLYOKE BRANCH NOW OPEN! 1490 Northampton Street

SPECIAL OFFERS

NEW ACCOUNT BONUS*

\$400*

Open a Free, Cashback, or Rewards checking account and get \$400!*

10-MONTH CD**

3.75%

APY**

A lot has changed these days. But one thing that hasn't is our commitment to remain a Valley-based community bank.

If you're looking for a bank that's staying true to its roots, check us out. And see what makes us different.

Today. Tomorrow. **Always.**

*To earn the \$400.00 account bonus deposit, you must open a new personal checking account online or at any of our branches using Promo Code HOLYOKE and set up and receive Qualifying Checking Account Direct Deposits totaling \$1,500.00 or more within 90 calendar days of account opening. This offer is only available to new personal checking customers and is limited to one per customer. Florence Bank employees and all existing Florence Bank checking customers, including those with any relationship to any other Florence Bank checking account, or those who closed a checking account within the last 180 calendar days, are not eligible. Qualifying Direct Deposits are regular, periodic automated clearing house (ACH) credits, which may include payroll, salary, pension, or government payments (such as Social Security). Deposits from the Real-Time Payments (RTP) network, payments through peer-to-peer networks such as PayPal, Zelle, Venmo or others, do not qualify as direct deposits. Rewards Checking Annual Percentage Yield (APY) will equal 0.25% when your daily balance range is equal to or greater than \$0.01 but less than \$25,000.01. When your balance is equal to or greater than \$25,000.01, your APY will range from 0.25% to 0.21%, assuming a principal balance of \$35,000.00. This offer may be withdrawn at any time. The \$400.00 bonus is considered income and may be reported on IRS form 1099-INT as required by applicable law. Available as of July 6, 2026. Promotional Bonus Payment: If you meet the eligibility and qualifications above, we will post the \$400 bonus to your account within 14 business days of the completion of the 90-calendar day qualifying period.

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

Member FDIC | Member DIF

florencebank.com

Always,

Florence Bank

10 • SEPTEMBER 4, 2026 • The Holyoke Sun