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City has first scout camp-in

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – Scouting America in Holyoke hosted the first camp-in with all units in Holyoke over Labor Day Weekend.

The camp-in took place at the Mount Tom lodge. Scouts from ages five to sixteen and their families were invited to come to the camp-in so the Scouts could develop the skills they need to camp outdoors.

“All the families get together, the Scouts will be doing the work and the families get to see them in action,” Scout Leader Heather MacInnes said. “So, it’s a big family camp-in.”

MacInnes hoped by having a wide age range at this camp-in families would be more involved and siblings in the Scouts could help one another to learn all the differ-

See SCOUT, page 11



A variety of community organizations handed out information and resources at the annual back-to-school backpack event at Kelly School.

Turley photos by Quinn Suomala

Students receive school supplies

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The annual back-to-school backpack event at Kelly School was held on Saturday, Aug. 24.

Community members were invited to MacNally field behind Kelly School where they could get backpacks, clothes and other supplies needed for kids as they start the new school year.

There are 2,500 backpacks given out to community members throughout the day as well as 50 bicycles.

Throughout the day kids were able to play laser tag, jump on bounce houses, go on water slides, ride ponies and

listen to music. They also had the opportunity to get haircuts and new clothes.

“Kids are getting ready to go back to school and it’s about showing the kids we care about them too, not just the families, but the kids,” Head of the Holyoke Safe Neighborhood Initiative Ed Caisse said. “Letting them have fun, being able to give them snow cones and ice cream and cookies and popcorn, and being able to have activities for them, we want to make sure they have fun and they know that we’re here because we care about them.”

Meanwhile, the kids’ families were able to speak with different community orga-

nizations in order to get any resources they needed.

“What it is for us, it’s about community building,” Caisse said.

Caisse hopes that this event shows the people of Holyoke that the HSNI truly does care about the community and wants to ensure that they are safe and have the resources they need to succeed.

Part of this is why Caisse ensures that there are so many different community organizations in attendance at the event. Holyoke Medical Center, Scouting America, Holyoke Public Library, the Greater Holyoke YMCA and many more were at the event.

“It’s about developing

relationships with people and that’s why our community service area is so important to us because we want community residents to get connected to agency representatives that can give them resources that can get them to better places,” Caisse said.

Caisse makes sure that this event happens right before the start of school every year so that families do not have to worry about getting supplies for their kids.

“We already know we’re dealing with a lot of people at the poverty threshold and we want to be able to get them the resources they need to be able

See SUPPLIES, page 12

Sunny Perch



A house finch is perched on this sunflower landing pad as he takes a break from his busy day.

Turley Publications photo by Kara Walsh-Vey

HPS to host mural painting event

Community members invited to help paint sidewalk

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Public Schools will put on an event this weekend, inviting community members to come and help paint the final mural in the Morgan School Walking Route Murals series. It will be held on Saturday, Sept. 7 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

This effort was led by Guidance Counselor at Morgan Jessica Aharon and Natasha Colon Ortiz from Paper City Kids.

At the event on Saturday, there were a variety of food and snacks for people to enjoy as they worked, as well as some community information tables.

The organizations present included Enlace and Safe Routes to School. There were also volunteers present from a variety of organizations

throughout the community.

“We have volunteers from a couple of different organizations and we have invited people from the school district,” Aharon said.

This was followed by Aharon and Colon Ortiz breaking the attendees into two groups.

One group got to work on painting the school bus mural, which is the final mural in the Walking School Bus Route Murals. The other will get to work on making chalk art.

“There will be students who paint the mural and others who get to create their own drawings and art with chalk,” Colon Ortiz said.

Colon Ortiz and Aharon both enjoyed seeing all the kids working on the mural.

“I loved seeing the youth actually painting and putting

See MURAL, page 9

Seats open for school committee

HOLYOKE – The City of Holyoke invites interested residents of Ward 1 and Ward 4 to apply for interim appointment to the Ward 1 and Ward 4 School Committee seats.

The two elected School Committee representatives for those wards have resigned from the board. Gustavo Romero of Ward 1, noted in his resignation letter to Holyoke Mayor Joshua A. Garcia, “I am no longer able to devote the time and energy required to fulfill my duties to the best of my abilities.” Gloria Caballero-Roca of Ward 4 noted in her resignation letter that she had started a new job as Programs Director at Homework House, a nonprofit that “supports our students and helps them thrive academically and emotionally through our after-school programs.” In her letter of resignation, Caballero-Roca explains that her new job

See SEATS, page 9

Doors Open Holyoke event set for Oct. 19

HOLYOKE – The Office of Planning and Economic Development (OPED), in collaboration with the Greater Holyoke Chamber, is excited to announce the City's 4th Annual Doors Open Holyoke (DOH) 2024 will take place on Saturday, Oct. 19 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Doors Open events across the country invite the public to see behind the doors of many places not usually open to the public. Doors Open connects residents and visitors to local places of historical, cultural, and architectural significance to bridge communities and inspire new and broader perspectives. Holyoke is pleased to be celebrating our fourth Annual Doors Open celebration!



For three years DOH has featured iconic Holyoke locations like Open Square, the Richards Train Station and the Victory Theater, as well as places of worship and manufacturing companies. On Oct. 19 we have new locations

and activities including shuttle service Mural Tours.

This year's DOH will be part of, A Day In The Yoke, a full day of events celebrating Holyoke, including the Great Brick Race, and the exciting Paper City Food Festival.

Doors Open relies on individuals and organizations that have a passion for Holyoke. If you are interested in being a Doors Open location please fill out the google form application: <https://www.exploreholyokey.com/explore/doors-open-holyoke/featured/>.

Build a winner at Fortnite tourney

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Public Library will host Fortnite online tournaments during the fall and early winter. Want to test your skills in Backstabber against others. Register at the library for this free local tournament from the comfort of home. You will communicate on Discord and live stream on Twitch. The first night will be Thursday, Sept. 19 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Even though players could team up, there will be only one winner. There will also be tournaments held on Oct. 17, Nov. 14, and Dec. 19.

United Congregational Church to host Young @ Heart Chorus

HOLYOKE – They say that age is nothing but a number, and an upcoming concert at the United Congregational Church of Holyoke seeks to prove just that. UCCH will be hosting a performance by the Young @ Heart Chorus on Sunday, Sept. 29 from 3-5 p.m.

The Young @ Heart Chorus is a group of performers ages 70 years old and up who put their unique stamp on songs from legendary artists such as Bob Dylan, Aretha Franklin, the Rolling Stones, Beatles, and Pearl Jam. This performance proves you can grow old without growing boring.

Tickets for the concert are \$7-\$15 and can be purchased by calling the church office at 413-532-1483 or by visiting <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/youngheart-in-concert-tickets-967919472197?aff=ebdssbdest-search>. You can learn more about the Young @ Heart Chorus by visiting www.youngatheartchorus.com.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to support activities in Holyoke that will appeal to the entire family. Free parking and shuttle service will be available. Doors open at 1:30 p.m. Come early to get the best seating. All are welcome. See you there.

Hibernians announce activities

HOLYOKE – Hibernians of Hampden/Hampshire Counties have announced the following events:

Halfway to St. Patrick's Day

The public is invited to an evening of celebration and fun featuring Dee Reilly at the Glendale Ridge Vineyard, 155 Glendale Rd Southamptn, Mass.; Admission is free of charge and the event will be held Tuesday Sept. 17 from 5 to 7 p.m. There will be food and wine for purchase at a cash bar. The event will be held rain or shine. Everyone is encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item to help Kate's Kitchen.

The Annual Par-3 Golf Tournament

sponsored by the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians will be held on Saturday, Sept. 21. The public is invited to participate in the tournament, which will be held at Holyoke Country Club, 2 Country Club Rd., Holyoke. Golf registration begins at 9 a.m. with tee-off



Dee Reilly

scheduled for 10 a.m. Lunch will be held at 12 noon. The cost for golf and lunch is \$60. The cost for lunch only is \$25. Please call Nora McMahon at (413) 218-2092 for more information. At the tournament, a collection needed items will be taken for residents of the Holyoke Veterans Home. Please go to aoh-holyoke.com for a list of needed items.

The Annual Food and Clothing Drive

for Providence Ministries will go on from Sept. 1 through Dec. 1. The Hibernians and the Polish National Credit Union are sponsoring the drive. The drop off location is at the Polish National Credit Union, 270 Westfield Rd., Holyoke. Please consider bringing non-perishable food items and gently used clothing; sleeping bags and blankets needed. Or make a donation and ask to sign up to enter a raffle for \$100 and/or a raffle basket.

Volunteers needed for cleanup

HOLYOKE – The St. Patrick's Committee of Holyoke is excited to once again participate in the #KeepitClean2K24 initiative hosted by OneHolyoke CDC. Committee members will be helping to clean streets along the 2025 Holyoke St. Patrick's Road Race and Parade routes. The public is invited to join.

Supplies will be provided and all volunteers are invited to a post clean-up reception at City Sports Bar and Lounge located at 352 High Street, Holyoke, MA.

The event will be held Saturday, Sept. 7 from 1 to 3 p.m. Volunteers will receive an email with the clean-up location and more details.

"As we approach the mark for the halfway point to St. Patrick's Day, it's a perfect time to come together as a community and give back", said John Beaulieu, 2025 Parade President. "Our cleanup event is more than just a day of service—it's a way to honor the spirit of St. Patrick's Day and the city of Holyoke by taking care of the streets that our marchers and runners use every year. Let's work together to ensure our streets are as vibrant and welcoming as St. Patrick's Day Weekend in Holyoke itself. I look forward to seeing everyone there as we roll up our sleeves and make a difference."

SCREEN TIME



A praying mantis is perched on a window screen.

Turley Publications photo by Kara Walsh-Vey

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The Golden Age Senior Club of Holyoke

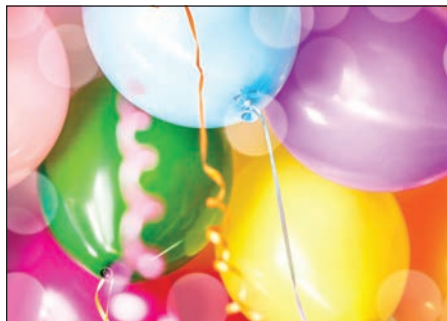
founded January 1951
is recruiting for new members.

Membership fee is \$20 for the year and entitles you to entertainment, guest speakers and various games and fun activities.

We are hosted by the HCOA, 291 Pine St. in Holyoke every Wednesday from 1 to 3 PM.

This invitation is open to anyone 55 years of age or older, regardless of what city you live in.

COME AND CHECK US OUT!



HHS class of '69 holding reunion

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke High School Class of 1969 will be holding its 55th reunion on Saturday, Oct. 5, at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 250 Westfield Road.

The reunion party will begin at 5:30 p.m. with cocktails and hors

d'oeuvres, followed by dinner at 7 p.m. Dinner, raffle, and cash bar, along with entertainment by Moose and the Hightops, will be provided. Tickets are \$45.

The Reunion Committee has worked to locate as many classmates as

possible.

To be sure everyone is invited or have questions, please contact Janice Shewchuk (413-530-9524), Marc Joyce (413-575-0597), or HOLYOKEHIGHCLASSOF1969@gmail.com.

Tourism Advisory Committee seeking applications

HOLYOKE – The Tourism Advisory Committee is pleased to announce they will be accepting proposals for projects in line with the city's Historic Tourism Plan. In 2023, the city put together the Holyoke Historic and Cultural Tourism Plan. This plan builds off the 2019 Holyoke Tourism Plan. Through the Mass Gaming Commission's Community Mitigation Fund, the TAC will now fund three to five projects (depending on funding requests) up to \$9,500 each for organizations whose projects and initiatives align with enhancing the city's historic tourism assets.

The Holyoke Tourism Plan engaged with stakeholders to determine action items that could be taken within the city

to enhance Holyoke's potential for tourism. Some of these projects have already been taken on and have seen success such as the designation of the Puerto Rican Cultural District on Main Street, formation of the Tourism Advisory Committee, and developing Wayfinding studies to improve navigation and signage. Since the plan's release, Holyoke's Tourism efforts have focused on building a solid foundation. The growth of the ExploreHolyoke.com project has created a one stop platform where visitors can find all things tourism in Holyoke including a business directory, community calendar, and maps of public art.

Now having the framework laid, the TAC is ready to turn their focus to his-

toric tourism. Historic Tourism is growing nationwide and cities like Holyoke are primed to be leaders in that sector. Holyoke has a long history and many stories to tell. From the St. Patrick's Day parade to the Fiesta de Patronales, Holyoke prides itself in celebrations of a rich cultural history. This recognition of Historic Celebrations are in line with the Mass Office of Travel & Tourism and Explore Western Mass as they prepare for the State wide celebration of the Commonwealth's 250th celebration. The opportunities are endless from historical tours, museums, public art and the new wave of virtual historic tourism.

The TAC is seeking creative propos-

als that are in line with the mission of the Holyoke Historic and Cultural tourism plan. These proposals may be for funding the growth of existing programs or new programs. Proposal packages must be received by Sept. 30 in order to be reviewed at the Oct. 15 Tourism Advisory Committee meeting.

Proposal packages should include: concept, budget, partners and a clear path to completion and community interaction. Projects must be completed 1 year after awarding of the grant.

For more information, please contact the Office of Planning and Economic Development keittj@holyokey.org or vegaa@holyokey.org.

HPL Origami adventure

HOLYOKE – On Wednesday, Sept. 18 at 5 p.m. The Holyoke Library is hosting Origami Adventures for Adults with storyteller Motoko. The event is limited to 15 participants. Please call 413-420-8101 to reserve a spot.

Motoko is an acclaimed storyteller of Asian folktales, Rakugo and Zen tales, ghost stories, mime vignettes, and oral memoirs from her childhood in Osaka and her life as an immigrant in the U.S. She has appeared on PBS' Mr. Rodger's Neighborhood, toured in Miyazaki, and has been featured in festivals and theaters across the country. In addition to storytelling Motoko is a teaching artist renowned for her contributions to classrooms.

Author talk offered at library

HOLYOKE – Author John S. MicGiel on Monday, Sept. 9, from 5 to 7 p.m., will be giving a talk on Project Eagle: The top-secret operation that sent Polish spies behind German lines, in the Holyoke Public Library Community Room.

After the Germans had surprised Allied troops at the beginning of the Battle of the Bulge in 1944, the OSS revamped its intelligence operations in Europe and began enlisting the cooperation of volunteers from occupied countries for wartime intelligence-gathering operations. As part of Project Eagle, Polish soldiers were recruited and trained to go behind the lines of the Third Reich. Project Eagle tells this fascinating story of World War II intelligence and espionage that until now has been hidden away in the archives of the OSS. MicGiel

will tell more about this history and his research on a special visit to Holyoke.

MicGiel was born and raised in Holyoke. His academic career led him to serve as director of the Institute on East Central Europe, associate director of the Harriman Institute, executive director of the Institute for the Study of Europe, and adjunct professor of international and public affairs-all at Columbia University. He is past president of the Kosciuszko Foundation, which promotes cultural exchange between the United States and Poland. In 2011 MicGiel received the Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland, an award honoring service to the Polish-American community. Now retired from Columbia University, MicGiel teaches at the University of Warsaw and makes his home in Connecticut.

Communion Breakfast set for Sept. 29

HOLYOKE – Saint Jerome Parish is hosting its annual Communion Breakfast on Sunday, Sept. 29 at 9 a.m. at the Pope John Paul II Social Center on the Mater Dolorosa Campus. The guest speaker is Sr. Joan Magnani, Ministry Coordinator at Jericho, The Bureau for Exceptional Children and Adults. Tickets are \$20 per person and may be purchased at all weekend Masses at St. Jerome's from Sept. 7 through Sept. 15 or by contacting the Parish Office at 413-532-6381.

Heritage State Park part of girl scout event

HOLYOKE – The annual Girl Scouts Love State Parks Weekend will be hosted in state parks nationwide on Sept. 14 and 15. Locally, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) will provide exclusive opportunities for Girl Scouts and their families in eight state parks in central and western Massachusetts with nine different programs over the two days. Programs are specifically tailored to assist Girl Scouts with earning nature based badges.

Among the state parks included are Holyoke Heritage State Park, Holyoke, and Quabbin Reservoir, Belchertown

"Getting girls outdoors is a unique part of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience and an important part of our mission," said Theresa Lynn, Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts CEO. "With a partner like DCR and so many incredible spaces in our own backyard it's a great time to get outside."

"We're excited to partner with the Girl Scouts again for this fun annual ini-

tiative that provides Girl Scouts with free programming opportunities in our parks to help them earn their nature-based badges," said Mass. DCR Commissioner Brian Arrigo. "Our beautiful spaces are great spots for Girl Scouts to learn about and connect with our environment."

Girl Scout members, friends, and family are encouraged to also participate in self-guided tours, hikes, watersports, stargazing, and many more fun outdoor activities in parks during Girl Scouts Love State Parks Weekend.

Library hosting new chess club

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Public Library announced it will be hosting an adult chess club beginning Tuesday, Aug. 27 from 4 to 5 p.m.

The club will be held every Tuesday in the Community Room. There is no experience necessary and all adults are welcome to come play and learn the game.

Springfield's Tech High School to hold reunion

SPRINGFIELD – The spirit and comradery of Springfield's Tech High School is alive and well as they gear up for another exciting reunion on Saturday, September 28 at the Elks Lodge #61 at 440 Tiffany Street from noon to 6 p.m. The reunion is open to all Tech classes and friends.

An outside barbecue will be held rain or shine under the lodge's pavilion and a special tent. The BBQ will include hot dogs, hamburgers, sausage and peppers, salads, dessert and more. Cash bar

Free parking and handicap accessible.

A fun-filled afternoon will include a live band and dancing, cornhole and bocce games, raffles and time to reminisce with friends over the years and make new friends as well. Donations will be accepted for raffle prizes.

According to committee chair Mike Borecki, "Last year we had a terrific turnout of over 300 people and we anticipate a larger group this year. We're thrilled that the Tech Spirit is alive and well and look forward to

many years to come".

Seating is limited and tickets are \$25 each. All are on a first come, first served basis. Open seating. For tickets call Mike Borecki '72 at 413-351-6572, Dawn Duncan '71 at 413-896-3930, Paul Montefusco '69 at 413-596-6607, or Matt Villamaino '67 at 413-896-2206. We're always looking for volunteers. If interested, contact Mike Borecki.

Located on Elliot Street in Springfield, MA Technical High School was founded in 1906 and closed in 1986.

Fall Festival to be held at St. Paul's

HOLYOKE – St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 485 Appleton St., will hold their Fall Festival on Saturday, Sept. 28, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Parish Hall and on the Church grounds. There will be something for everyone: Gift Basket Raffles, \$5 Fun Raising Raffle, Vendors, Plants, Bake Sale, a Cafe', and Outdoor Activities for Families. Free ample parking is located behind the Church and all are welcome.

For more information, please call the Church Office at 413-532-5060.

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters
By Russell Gloor



Advice sought on when to claim Social Security

Dear Rusty

I could use some advice on whether or not I should start collecting my Social Security benefits now. I am 67 and three months old and plan to continue working for at least for the next year or two.

Signed: Seeking Answers

Dear Seeking

Deciding when to claim Social Security is, indeed, an important decision, as it will affect you for the rest of your life. Mainly, deciding when to claim your SS retirement benefit should consider your financial needs, but your life expectancy and marital status are equally important.

At your current age past your Full Retirement Age of 66 years and six months you are already earning Delayed Retirement Credits at the rate of .677% higher benefit for each month you continue to delay.

That adds up to an additional 8% benefit for each full year you wait beyond your FRA to claim, and that growth will continue until you are 70 years old. At that point, your benefit will be 28% higher than it would have been at your FRA.

If you expect to achieve about “average” life expectancy about 84 for a man your current age, then waiting until 70 to claim, will get you both a higher monthly amount and the most you can get in cumulative lifetime benefits. Waiting, however, only makes sense if you expect at least average longevity.

If your health is poor and you have reason to believe you won’t live to the “average,” then claiming earlier makes more sense. FYI, you

See SECURITY, page 5

Election letters to the editor welcome

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 newspaper 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.



Guest Column

Questions on lilacs and onions



Nancy wrote in with this question for the Garden Lady: “I am hoping you can tell me why the leaves on my lilac bushes are turning brown, crispy and then fall to the ground. I had very nice lilac flowers this past May but now the leaves are not doing well. Thank you for any suggestions you can give me so my bushes will be back next spring.”

What you mention Nancy, seems to be happening to a lot of lilacs in the area. All you have to do is ride in the car and you will notice brown leaved lilac bushes or those that are nearly devoid of leaves altogether! My best guess is that Pseudocercospora leaf blight of lilac is the culprit.

Last year it was quite noticeable as well. Some lilacs even lost their leaves then sported flowers in October because the plant, after leaf loss, was tricked into thinking it was time to flower and and grow new leaves.

Because this new growth is very tender, you may notice tip dieback in spring on those areas of new growth and/or flowering. It sim-

ply didn’t have enough time to harden off before winter.

Lilacs are tough plants, though, so don’t despair.

What can we do to help, you ask? First of all, clean up fallen leaves and debris so that it won’t spread the inoculum. Second, water the bushes well and at the base if this fall is droughty.

In the spring, prune out any dead branches, disinfecting your tools in between cuts. You can also choose to prune the plant in such a way so that there is better airflow throughout. That always helps to cut down on diseases.

I’m not a chemical girl – I really try to enhance my cultural practices to strengthen the overall health of the plant. I am sure there are options out there for this particular malady should you wish to research it.

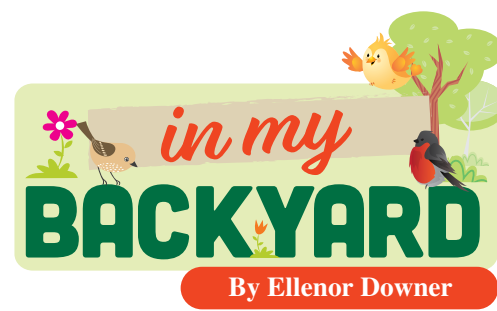
Maria grew three varieties of onions this year. “The first variety has dropped all of its tops. What do I do next? Can I use them now or do they have to go through some kind of process before putting them in storage?”

This is a great question. I did a column some time ago on how to best cure onions.

Read on for some great tips: Many of my onions gave me the signal a week or two back that they would soon be ready for harvest. You see, their tops began to fall over.

After most of them did, I bent the rest on purpose. A few days later I pulled them up and laid them, tops and all, on the ground

See GARDEN, page 5



The Massachusetts Audubon Society reported the sighting of a Virginia rail in Hampshire County at Lake Wallace in Belchertown.

The Virginia rail is a small rail of nine inches. It has a long bill, which can be reddish at the base. Its back has dark feathers with reddish brown edges. The face is gray. It summers on freshwater and brackish marshes and winters in salt marshes.



Virginia rail

It feeds on mud flats in search of worms, snails and aquatic insects. The rail is heard more than seen. Calls are given mostly at dawn and dusk, but may occur at other times of the day or night. The male’s territorial call is a metallic “kit kidit kidit kidit kidit.” It also gives a “kikikikeer” and a series of descending grunts. The female lays five to 12 buff eggs with dark marks in a loose, canopied, cup like nest of coarse grasses, reeds and sedges placed on the ground.

Brimfield birds

A Brimfield resident frequently visits his ponds in his area. He said in an email, “On Aug. 17 I saw five great egrets at the no named pond on New Reed Street in Warren. Great egrets have shown up there starting in August most years, usually one or two. I had never seen more than three at that location previously.”

He said, “A few days before that sighting I had seen a great egret at the osprey pond on South Street that is about half a mile from the pond on New Reed Street. I had never seen a great egret at that pond before.”

Belted kingfishers

He observed interesting behavior between two belted kingfishers at the pond in Warren. He said, “A female was chased all around the pond for over half an hour by a male. I saw

See BACKYARD, page 5



EDITOR/SPORTS
Greg Scibelli
thesun@turley.com



ADVERTISING SALES
Wendy Delcamp
wdelcamp@turley.com

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PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

DEANNA SLOAT
Graphics Manager



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

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

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

Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

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

BBB SCAM ALERT:

This phishing scam claims a process server is looking for you

Paula Fleming

pfleming@boston.bbb.org

Many scams start with an intimidating phone call. A “debt collector” needs you to pay immediately. Or a “police officer” claims to have a warrant for your arrest. The latest variation involves a phony “process server” and a non-existent court case against you. BBB Scam Tracker continues to receive reports of this phishing scam. Here’s how to spot it.

How the scam works

You receive a call, or several calls, from an unknown or blocked number from a person claiming to be a process server. They might say there is a lien on your home or someone is taking you to court over unpaid medical bills or another matter. The caller may also claim you or a family member are a “person of interest in an important matter that requires immediate attention,” and federal law prohibits the caller from sharing any additional information. Similarly, in other cases, the scammer may be secretive, saying they can’t reveal details until your papers are served.

Next, they’ll ask you to “confirm” sensitive personal information about yourself, such as your date of birth, address, or Social Security number. When you’re hesitant to give out this information, they stress the urgency of the matter - after all, this is a court matter! If you ask too many questions about who is making a complaint or

what company the process server works for, the scammer will get angry and sometimes threaten more action against you. The caller may also try to scare you further by asking if you will be home or at work within the next hour since they will be arriving soon to serve you papers, get your signature on legal documents, and demand to see your forms of identification.

Sometimes, the “process server” may be phishing for information about your family members. According to a report on BBB Scam Tracker, one consumer shared, “Previously left me a voicemail about a lawsuit against my grandmother using her full government name a few weeks ago. Today they called again and asked if I knew the person, to which I said no, and then asked if I was (my full government name), to which I also said no. The person continued to be very pushy until they finally decided to end the call.”

The people behind this scam don’t have any legal papers to deliver, they want to get their hands on your personal information to commit identity theft.

BBB Scam Tracker sees many reports about process server phishing scams. One consumer recently shared their experience, “I received a call from a private number, claiming to be a “process server” stating they had papers regarding a lien on my home...I checked with my police department, and town, i have no liens on my home.” Another person shared, “A fake process server called my mom and she called them back. They used my maiden name which I have not had in over 20 years about a county matter from a county

not local to me saying they had papers to serve [and] they wanted to validate my information. My mom hung up but it scared her.”

How to avoid phishing scams

- Be wary of scare tactics and unsolicited phone calls. Scammers love to threaten people with legal action or hefty fines, scaring them into giving up their personal information and money. They hope fear will make you act without thinking. Always remember that representatives of a reputable business or legal office will be polite and civil, even in a serious situation. They won’t pressure you to act immediately “or else.”

- Search your local court website. If you think there’s a chance someone has filed a lawsuit against you, check your local court’s website. Search your name to see if any lawsuit has been filed. If nothing comes up, you’re in the clear.

- The scammer may have some personal information. Don’t give them more. Scammers may have some of your personal information already from a previous phishing scam, a data breach, or some other source. If you’re speaking with the scammer, you may even notice that the information is out of date. For example, they may use your maiden name or a previous address or workplace. Even if the information is out of date, they may use these stolen details to get even more information from you. For example, they might read your Social Security number and then ask you to “confirm” your date of birth. If they

read off out-of-date information, they may trick you into providing current information. Even if someone already has a few details, don’t give them any further information unless you are sure you’re dealing with someone you trust. Be careful when responding to questions that require a simple “yes” or “no” response, since the “Can you hear me?” scam is still around, too.

- Don’t give out personal information about family members, either. BBB Scam Tracker reports also share that these scammers are calling people to inquire about family members. If someone is asking you to validate information about another individual, hang up the phone. Afterwards, it’s a good idea to notify the family member about the call you received. That way, they can be on the lookout for other scams and take action to protect their personal and financial information if it’s at risk or has been stolen.

For more information

Reading up on phishing and impostor scams can help you spot a con before it’s too late. Watch out for jury duty scams, too, which also use imposter tactics and threatening phone calls to scam people into paying up.

You may also visit BBB’s Spot a Scam page for tips on recognizing scam tactics.

If a scammer contacts you, report your experience to BBB.org/ScamTracker. Your report can help us boost consumer awareness and make scammers’ tactics less effective.

BACKYARD, from page 4

brief begging behavior from the male so think it might have been a juvenile looking to be fed. The male would fly towards the perch where the female was sitting. Sometime the female flew off the perch before the male got close and other times the female sat for a bit before flying away. This continued, around and around, back and forth, all around the pond. I never saw either bird hover like it was attempting to catch a fish. Occasionally the male would land on the same branch as the female and she would fly away immediately.”

Wild turkeys

The Brimfield resident has a wildlife camera in his yard. On Aug. 17 he checked the camera and it showed two adult turkeys and three poults had visited the yard. He said, “We knew turkeys had

been about because my wife found a feather in the driveway. We haven’t seen

turkeys much the last few years and it has been some time since we have seen poults.”

Earlier this week, I saw a large flock of wild turkeys consisting of a few adults and many poults in Hubbardston. After I took the where is photo for the paper, I returned home the same way. The flock was still there.

Massachusetts Audubon sightings

Massachusetts Audubon Society reported in Berkshire County a Baird’s sandpiper on Bridgeview Lane in Sheffield, two Caspian terns at the Cheshire Reservoir in Cheshire, a Bonaparte’s gull on Lake Onata in Pittsfield and a black-crowned night heron in Dalton.

In Franklin County there were a modest numbers of red crossbills at the Montague Sandplains Wildlife Area in Montague where at least 33 were tallied, a summering ring-necked duck also continued to be seen at the Turners

Falls Power Canal.

At the East Meadows in Northampton in Hampshire County there was a northern shoveler, four sandhill cranes, four short-billed dowitchers, nine stilt sandpipers and a dickcissel. Elsewhere in the county there was a Virginia rail and a marsh wren at Lake Wallace in Belchertown, four sandhill cranes in the fields off Old Post Road in Worthington and two blue grosbeaks at the Honey Pot in Hadley.

Hampden County had two blue-winged teal and a red-necked phalarope at the Longmeadow Flats in Longmeadow and two Caspian terns at the Ranch Golf Course in Southwick.

In Worcester County four sandhill cranes were seen on Hall Road in Hardwick and eight red crossbills at gate 43 at Quabbin Reservoir in Hardwick. At Birch Hill Wildlife Area in Winchendon three Acadian flycatchers and 28 red crossbills were counted. Five evening grosbeaks were present in Royalston. A sanderling was spotted at Quaboag Pond

in Brookfield, and two blue-winged teal and a Louisiana waterthrush were seen at Bolton Flats Wildlife Area in Lancaster.

Another pond visit

The Brimfield resident and his wife, who regularly visits local ponds, saw two great egrets, six mallards, a belted kingfisher and a male goldfinch at the New Reed Street pond in Warren.

At South Street in Warren, the couple saw a great egret, two male wood ducks in eclipse plumage, two osprey, a juvenile and an adult, who brought a fish for the juvenile. At Sherman Pond in Brimfield there were no birds just a lone fisherman and at Wheeler Pond three wood ducks and a green heron.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

GARDEN, from page 4

in the sun. I turned them once or twice over the last couple of days.

When the tops turn completely brown, I will cut the stems to one inch and spread them on screens single file in a warm and dry, well-ventilated area to cure further. They can rest in that spot for up to two months, then will be placed in mesh bags in a winter location where temperatures stay close to 40 degrees.

Instead of cutting the stem, you can braid them, for a pretty and heirloom style storage option. Start out with three onions, tying some jute or string around one of the stems to add strength.

Braid the three together one round, then add an onion each time you cross over. When you have 10 or 12 onions running the length of the braid, quit and wrap the jute around the stems to end your work.

Make a loop and now you have way to hang it. Once hung, you can simply yank off the size onion you need from the braid.

A couple of notes: Apples, bananas, and tomatoes are kept clear of onions in storage because these vegetables excrete ethylene gas as they ripen and will cause onions to sprout prematurely. Also, use bulbs that have two centers first, they won’t store well.

It is interesting to mention that the same compound that starts the tears flowing when we cut into onions – sulfur, is also a potent fungicide and bactericide.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 32 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.

SECURITY, from page 4

may find this tool helpful to determine your potential life expectancy: <https://socialsecurityreport.org/tools/life-expectancy-calculator/>.

You can, of course, simply delay claiming for as long as you are still working and then file for benefits at that time. When your paychecks stop is frequently the best time to start your SS benefits to supplement the lost work income. And, if you are married and your wife will be entitled to a survivor benefit from you, then waiting longer to claim enhances the benefit your surviving spouse receives at your death; your surviving spouse would get your benefit amount, instead of her own smaller amount. If that is a consideration, then waiting, at least until you stop working or age 70 if feasible, is often a prudent choice.

So, the choice is yours to make, con-

sidering your financial needs, life expectancy and marital status. You no longer need to worry about Social Security’s annual earnings test for those collecting benefits before their FRA but, if it is financially feasible, waiting still longer will mean a higher monthly benefit for the rest of your life.

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.

The New England Mosaic brings artists together

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – The New England Mosaic was on display at the Agawam Community Artists and Artisans art show.

This piece of art is a cumulation of 250 smaller pieces made by community members all around the area. All the pieces this year center around the theme “I love New England”.

“It’s community art, it engages our community in art, we support scholarships and people just love the diversity of the art people come up with,” Vice President of ACAA Judy Lever-Duffy said.

Lever-Duffy got the idea of the mosaic from the Florida Keys.

Lever-Duffy as well as her co-chairs for the mosaic Cindy Bouley and Karen Conkey work on putting this mosaic together over the course of several months.

Beginning in March they put out blank free tile kits at all the libraries in the area, such as Springfield, Agawam, Westfield and more.

People are then welcome to stop in, pick up a kit and decorate their tile as they desire, so long as they stick to the theme of the year. They can then turn their tiles back into the library where Lever-Duffy and the others will pick them up.

Anyone is welcome to come in and decorate a tile, and they are welcome to use whatever medium they enjoy. Some people painted, others made collages and others even made sculptures on the tiles.



Turley photos by Quinn Suomala

The New England Mosaic was on sale at the Agawam Community Artists and Artisans art show. There was a wide variety of tiles displayed through the New England Mosaic that people could purchase at the Agawam Community Artists and Artisans art show.

Once all the tiles are turned in, Lever-Duffy and her co-workers then come together to assemble the tiles in order to create the mosaic.

All of the tiles are sold for \$25 and the proceeds go to scholarships at the local high schools.

Lever-Duffy and the others have been doing this mosaic for three years and each year they have seen it grow.

Last year they invited Scantic River Artisans to join the work, and they did so gladly. Lever-Duffy hopes that the work will continue to grow and move up the valley.

She has enjoyed seeing the interest in the project increase over the past few years they have done the project.

“It’s very rewarding because we are getting people involved in art, we accept everything that anybody does, nobody is

discriminated against, it’s just expressing yourself,” Lever-Duffy said.

One of Lever-Duffy and Bouley’s favorite parts of the process is when they get to bring all of the artwork together and present the mosaic to the community for the first time.

They do an unveiling at the Agawam Community Golf Course so that all of the community members can come together at once to admire the art.

“It’s fabulous, you can see the diversity of the art,” Lever-Duffy said. “The golf course did a great job with us.”

“Watching people look at it and just look at every single one and try to decide which one(s) they’re going to get,” Bouley said. “The night of the unveiling it’s just amazing. We have a crowd and they just go up and down and try to look at each canvas and not miss one.”

Bouley is grateful to all of the community members who took the time to create a tile for this mosaic.

“[When we get the tiles], all six of us just stand there and stare at it, we just can’t believe how beautiful it is,” Bouley said. “People took the time to do all of this art and then just donate it, and they really put a lot of thought into it.”

All involved in the mosaic hope that it helps to bring the community together and to allow them to get into art. They want to share how joyful art can be.

This mosaic will be on display once more at the upcoming Scantic River Artisans art show, which will be at Thornton Burgess School, 85 Wilbraham Rd. in Hampden.

The show will be on Friday, Sept. 13 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. and on Saturday, Sept. 14 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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Knights ready for start of fall season

HOLYOKE – Out on the turf at Roberts Sports Complex, members of the Holyoke girls soccer and field hockey teams practice in advance of regular season openers that were set to take place this week. Girls soccer was scheduled to play its first game on Sept. 5 against Easthampton, and will play its home opener on Monday,

Sept. 9 at 4 p.m. against Ware. Field hockey gets going with a home match against Greenfield High School at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 6. The Knights then face West Springfield on the road Monday night at 7 p.m.



A member of the girls soccer team work on passing. Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



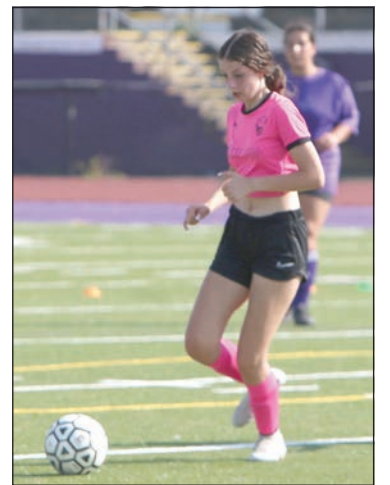
The field hockey team watches drills during practice last week.



Members of the field hockey team practice penalty strokes.



Girls soccer was scheduled to open the regular season this week.



The girls are looking for a turnaround season this year.

Western Mass Relics put cap on season

LUDLOW – The Western Mass Relics, a softball league for elder citizens in the region, wrapped up its season a couple of weeks ago with playoffs and a championship game. It was the Q-Tips who came out on top in the league, which is based in Ludlow.



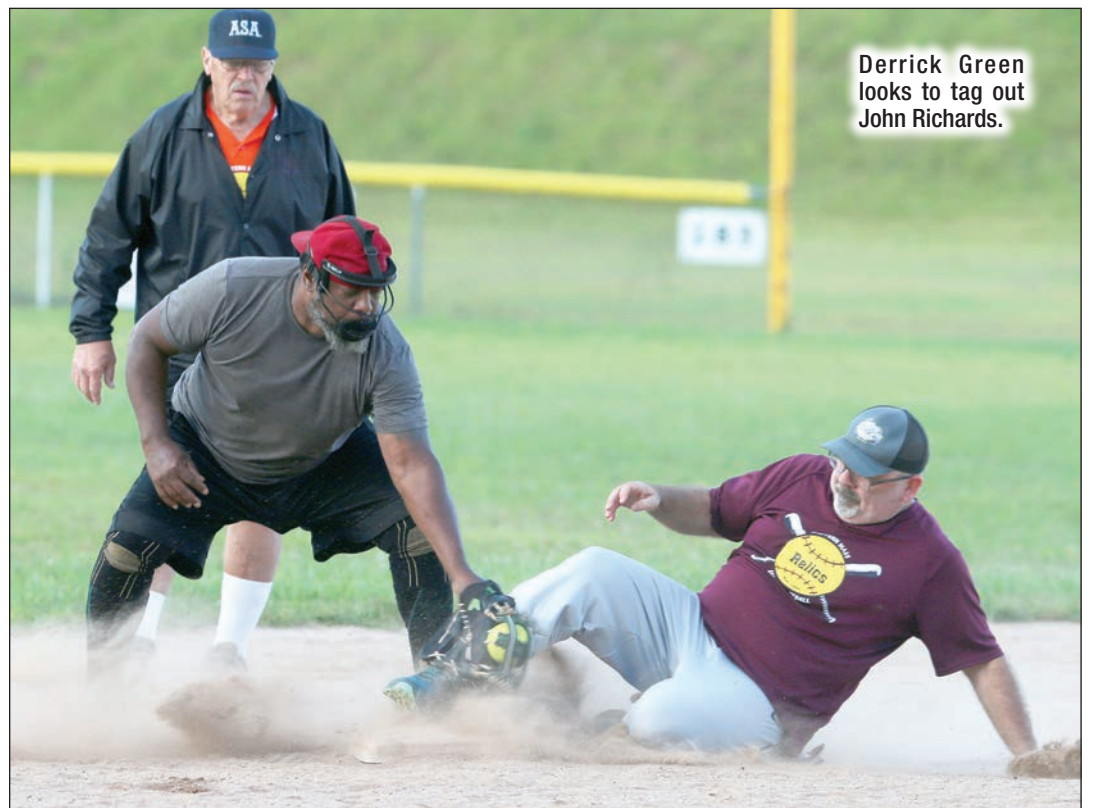
Paul Grugden takes a swing.



Dan Jasak delivers a pitch.



Jerry Ago sends a pitch away.



Derrick Green looks to tag out John Richards.



George Slattery looks to slide safely into second.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdog

Four-run eighth leads A's to Valley Wheel title

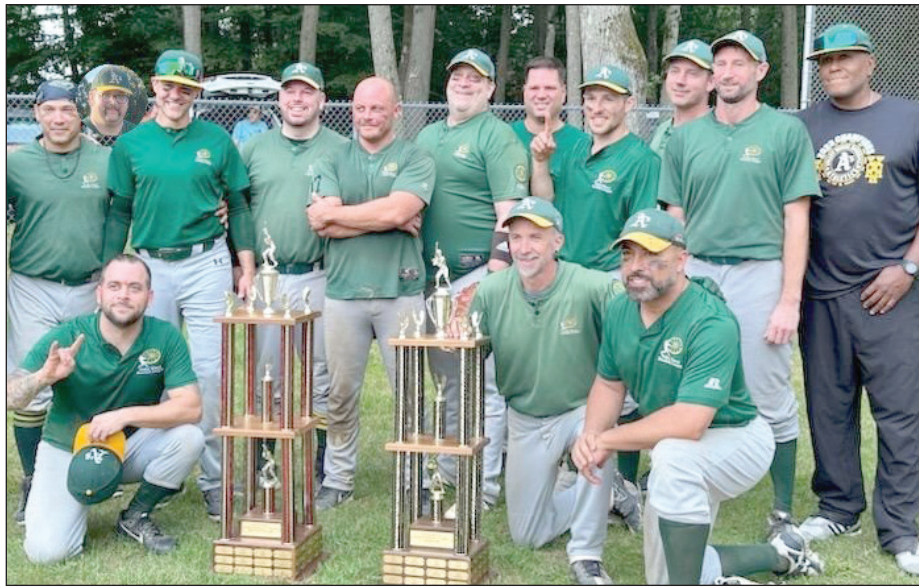
LONGMEADOW – The A's Dan Baker doubled in a run in the bottom of the eighth inning to break a scoreless tie and lead the Athletics to a 4-2 victory over the Cubs in the 18th Valley Wheel Baseball League championship game.

League Commissioner Jim Nason who sat right behind home plate for the action stated, "I think it might be the most exciting and best-played Valley Wheel game I've ever seen."

A picture-perfect day for baseball at DiPippo Park in Longmeadow turned into quite the pitcher's duel with defensive gems all over the field. The top seeded A's were taking on the 3rd seeded Cubs in a rematch of the 2023 Valley Wheel Championship, in which the A's won 13-12 after erasing an early 7-0 deficit.

The Cubs have had revenge on their minds all season and came out swinging their sticks. A's starter Mike Bielen took a perfect game into the 5th inning when he faced the Cubs a month ago, but any thought of a no-hit bid ended when the Cubs leadoff hitter Jon Campbell singled to start the game. Cory Conardo followed with another single before Bielen walked Mark Caputo to load the bases with no outs. Bielen would bear down. He got a strike out and two pop ups to leave the bases loaded and escape the jam. Bielen would only give up one more hit over his next five innings of work.

Cubs starting pitcher Jon Campbell was coming off a 10-strikeout performance in the Valley Wheel semifinals and was just as dominate in the championship game. Campbell scattered three hits over six innings without giving up a run.



The Valley Wheel Athletics captured the championship on Sunday, Aug. 25. The A's defeated the Cubs 4-2 to take the title. Submitted photo

A's manager/infielder Tim Provost continued to employ his playoff strategy of giving Bielen mid-game breaks so that he could start and finish the game. The A's Erick Velez came on in relief in the 3rd inning and retired the side in order with two spectacular leaping catches by shortstop Kevin Hill. Bielen would return in the fourth inning and struck out two in a one, two, three frame.

Hill then stepped on the mound in the sixth inning and Campbell led off with a bunt single. Conardo followed with another hit. After a ground out that held the runners, Hill walked Bryan Ring to load the bases. Hill then induced a 4-6-3 double play to get out of the jam.

In the top of the sixth inning the game remained scoreless when Jason

Mikesell walked and advanced to second on a wild pitch. The next hitter popped up down the first base fence line but A's first baseman Ryan Walsh made a sliding catch for the second out and the runner held up. After another walk, Bielen got a pop up to end the inning.

In the top of the seventh, Hill returned in relief and with two outs gave up back-to-back singles to Aaron Holcomb and Ryan Lopes before hitting John Britt with a 1-2 pitch to load the bases. Hill then found an extra gear as he struck out the Cubs with their leadoff hitter up to end the inning.

In the bottom of the seventh inning with Britt on in relief, the A's threatened for the first time all game. Bielen walked and got to third base with one

out. Michael Waterhouse hit a hard grounder to third and Bielen was thrown out at the plate. After Hill singled the A's would have second and third with two outs before Britt would get a pop up to end the inning.

With Bielen back on the bump, he retired the 2-3-4 hitters of the Cubs in order in the eighth inning. The game remained tied 0-0 heading into the bottom of the eighth inning when Dan Oleksak would leg out an infield single. Provost followed with a walk, before Dan Baker doubled over the head of the left fielder to plate the first run of the game. After an error, Provost scored. Baker would score on a wild pitch, before Walsh hit a sacrifice fly to center to give the A's a 4-0 lead.

Bielen went out to close the game in the ninth inning, but walked Jonathan Downs to lead off the inning before Chris Curtis singled. Bielen retired the next two hitters before walking Greg Gallivan to load the bases. With the Cubs down to their last out, Paul Audette grounded to shortstop, but the A's second baseman could not corral it giving the Cubs life and their first run. A wild pitch would plate another run and put the tying run at second base when Bielen got a ground ball he refused to let get by him. He tossed it to first for the final out of an epic game.

The A's won their seventh Valley Wheel Championship and became the second team to win the pennant as the top seed in the regular season and win the championship in back-to-back seasons. The Indians did it in the inaugural two seasons in 2006 and 2007. The A's who started off the season 0-3, finish by winning 12 of their last 14 games.

National Champion UConn to play on Enshrinement Weekend

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame is excited to introduce the Basketball Hall of Fame Enshrinement Game benefiting Coaches vs. Cancer as part of Enshrinement Weekend. This special event will feature a matchup between the back-to-back NCAA National Champion Connecticut Huskies and the Rhode Island Rams on Monday, Oct. 14, at the Mohegan Sun Arena in Uncasville, Connecticut.

This game will be the Huskies' first appearance since clinching their second consecutive title in April. UConn head coach Dan Hurley previously led Rhode Island from 2012-18, guiding them to the NCAA Tournament in 2017-18.

"We are thrilled to host and partner on this exhibition game as part of our Enshrinement Weekend festivities," said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame.

"This game not only brings together two outstanding college basketball programs but also highlights the power of our sport to make a positive impact off the court. By supporting Coaches vs. Cancer, we are proud to contribute to the fight against a disease that has touched so many lives. We look forward to a memorable weekend that celebrates the spirit of basketball and those who inspire us all."

The NCAA waiver-approved charity game will cap off the Hall of Fame's weekend's festivities, which also features the Class of 2024 Enshrinement Ceremony on Sunday, October 13, in Springfield, Massachusetts – the Birthplace of Basketball. All net proceeds from the game will benefit Coaches vs. Cancer and the American Cancer Society.

"We appreciate the Naismith

Basketball Hall of Fame's support of our work to improve the lives of people with cancer and their families," said Dr. Karen E. Knudsen, CEO of the American Cancer Society. "Our partnership with the NABC has been invaluable in helping us fund research and directly support those going through a cancer journey. The support and awareness this game will provide extends our reach even further and moves us closer to ensuring everyone has the opportunity to prevent, detect, treat, and survive cancer."

Coaches vs. Cancer is a nationwide partnership between the American Cancer Society and the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC). The program brings together coaches, fans, and the basketball community to support the American Cancer Society's efforts in advancing cancer

research, providing patient support, and advocating for those affected by the disease. Currently raising over \$10 million annually, the Coaches vs. Cancer initiative has raised more than \$167 million to help fulfill the mission of ending cancer. For more information, please visit coaches.cancer.org.

"Mohegan Sun is a proud partner of both UConn and the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame, and we're once again thrilled to have an expanded role in Enshrinement Weekend, which will now include this marquee exhibition game inside the 10,000-seat Mohegan Sun Arena," said Jeff Hamilton, President & GM of Mohegan Sun. "UConn vs. URI on October 14th, benefiting Coaches vs. Cancer, will be a great experience for fans, and it is a great way to cap off one of the most exciting weekends of the year at Mohegan Sun."

Quabbin Valley to start fall league

The Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League is looking to start an eight-game fall program for the over-28 population. The league, which plays a spring/summer regular season with six teams for 15 games followed by playoffs, is hoping to continue the fun into the fall with a short eight-game schedule for interested players.

Preliminary details are still being worked on, but the league is looking to have four teams with six "regular season" games followed by a semifinal in the seventh week, and a final/consolation game in the eighth week.

The league will be a bit more informal than the regular spring/summer league with the goal being for players to have fun playing more baseball, work on field and batting skills through more innings in the field and extra at-bats, or potentially working on

or trying out pitching.

As has been traditional in other fall leagues, the Quabbin League will likely be wood-bat only for the fall.

There is an interest form and survey interested players can fill out at www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org. The league is open to all current Quabbin league players as well as players from other leagues who are age 28 and over during the calendar year of 2024.

The league will look to keep the cost very low for the league with preliminary indications having the league in the \$40-50 range to play eight games.

Games will likely be held in the West Springfield, Agawam, Southwick area and are likely to be held on Sunday mornings, though a few games may be held at alternate times. Games are scheduled to begin in September after Labor Day.

Hall of Fame hosts Community Day

SPRINGFIELD – On Thursday, Aug. 22, the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame hosted NBA 2K Community Day for the first time. This exclusive, invite-only event brought together over 80 NBA 2K players from 10 different countries, giving them an early preview of the latest edition in the series, NBA 2K25.

"We were honored to be chosen to host NBA 2K Community Day and bring the international 2K community to the Birthplace of Basketball, showcasing our wonderful city of Springfield on a global stage," said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of

the Basketball Hall of Fame.

Attendees of this year's Community Day had an exclusive look at the all-new dribble engine, ProPLAY™ animation expansion, key updates across offense and defense, and more. Creators also had opportunities to explore the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame Museum.

Additionally, the Hall of Fame welcomed a number of sports gaming media on Thursday as part of the NBA 2K Community Day celebration, including outlets from Australia, France, and the United Kingdom.



SCOUT, from page 1

ent skills. “The families also said they like the fact of being able to do it with their kids so it is a family unit, it makes them more comfortable,” MacInnes said.

At this camp-in, the Scouts set up tents, played games, watched movies and completed a variety of activities in order to earn Scout achievements.

The achievements included rank advancements, camping merit badges and cooking merit badges.

The Scouts were in charge of planning out and cooking the meals for the weekend. The girl Scout troop and some of the older Cub Scouts were primarily in charge of this work.

“To help them learn how to cook we have one of the lodge members

who is going to be there and help them make homemade party-sized pizzas from scratch,” MacInnes said.

Later on there will be outdoor camp-outs at the Scout reservation, and this event was intended to prepare them for that.

“At this camp-in they will be learning how to set the tents, how to set the sleeping bags, or air mattress or cot,”

MacInnes said. “It shows that they can do it...it’s a way to start them off so they’re not as nervous.”

MacInnes hopes that this event will make it

easier once the Scouts move to outdoor camping. This way they already have basic knowledge in how to cook and set-up camp, so when they are outdoors they can focus more on learning new skills.

The families and the youth agreed that starting indoors would be best and then they can move to camping in the woods, which all of the kids are excited for.

This event also helped the older youth to prepare for a Camperie that will happen at the end of October.

“It’s a way for them to start learn-

ing the outdoors,” MacInnes said.

The Scouts primarily planned out the entirety of the event. They have been working on detailing everything over the last two months so this camp-in could be fun and help them all learn.

“They planned on each activity they’re going to be learning,” MacInnes said. “From the Cub Scouts to the Troop Level, they planned our menu, the movies we’re going to be watching, the activities to keep everybody entertained. It’s all planned by the youth, we just guide them a little bit.”

MacInnes is proud of all of the effort they put forward to make this event possible.

To learn more about the Scouts and the events they do, reach out to them at scoutingholyokey@gmail.com. There are programs available for any person from age five to 20.



“It’s a way for them to start learning the outdoors.”

- Scout Leader Heather MacInnes

Public Notices

City of Holyoke PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Holyoke Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, September 24, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.com**; ID: 836-3939-8493; CALL IN *67 646 558 8656 to hear, pursuant to the Holyoke Zoning Ordinance, a Site Plan Review (Sec 10A); Large Scale Battery Energy Storage System (File 164), submitted by AE-ESS Holyoke, LLC c/o Agilitas Energy, Inc to be located at Bobala Road and Kelly Way, Holyoke, MA 01040 (176-00-004A).

A complete copy of the application may be seen in the Office of Planning and Economic Development at 20 Korean Veterans Plaza, 8:30 am-4:30 pm, M-F.

APPLICANT: AE-ESS Holyoke, LLC c/o Agilitas Energy, Inc. PLANNING BOARD: Mimi Panitch, Chair 09/06, 09/13/2024

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS HAMPDEN, ss. SUPERIOR COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT CIVIL ACTION NO.: 2479CV00307 FOUR HARPS, LLC Plaintiff

v. The heirs or legal representatives of EDGAR A. CAPEN and persons claiming under EDGAR A. CAPEN who may claim an interest in certain land in Holyoke, Hampden County, Massachusetts by purchase, descent or otherwise Defendants ORDER OF NOTICE TO: the Defendants,

the heirs or legal representatives of Edgar A. Capen and persons claiming under Edgar A. Capen, who may claim an interest in the real property at 49 Linden Street, Holyoke, Hampden County, Massachusetts (hereinafter the “Real Property”) by purchase, descent or otherwise Four Harps, LLC claiming to have an interest in the Real Property by virtue of that certain deed with warranty covenants from Sophia H. Chioles and Christopher D. Chioles dated December 15, 2017 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 21995, page 290 has filed with this Court a Complaint to quiet and establish title to said Real Property by a judgment “in rem against the land, and a judgment establishing or declaring the validity, nature and extent of the Plaintiff’s title” pursuant to M.G.L. c. 240, §§ 6 to 10.

If you object to the Plaintiff’s Complaint, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer or other responsive pleading with the Hampden County Superior Court, 50 State Street, Springfield, MA 01103 on or before September 30, 2024 (the “Return Date”), or you may be forever barred from objecting to the Plaintiff’s claims.

Witness: McDonough, J. Attest: William T. Walsh, Assistant Clerk, Hampden County Superior Court 09/06, 09/13, 09/20/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and

Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD24P1481PO In the Matter of: Gertraud K. Frank-Ely Irrevocable Trust of 2022 TRUST CITATION

To all interested persons: A Petition has been filed by: Julia M Frank of Warren, VT requesting Termination of the Gertraud K. Frank-Ely Irrevocable Trust of 2022.

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before 10:00 a.m. on 09/25/2024.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court. Date: September 03, 2024 Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate 09/06/2024

City of Holyoke Notice of Public Hearing The Holyoke Planning Board will hold a public hearing to hear a zoning ordinance text change to specify that no group homes, profit or non-profit, be allowed with-

in the city limits of Holyoke, Ma without the approval of the Holyoke City Council. Hearing will take place on **Tuesday, September 24th, 2024 at 5:30 pm via www.zoom.us** Meeting ID: 836 3939 8493 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 with same meeting ID. To provide comments to the Planning Board, please contact Brianna Tejada at tejadab@holyokey.org Planning Board Chair Mimi Panitch 09/06, 09/13/2024

City of Holyoke PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Holyoke Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, September 24, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.com** ID: 836 3939 8493; CALL IN *67 646 558 8656 to hear, pursuant to the Holyoke Zoning Ordinance, Section 6.4.6.4, a Special Permit for an Increase in Sign Size and for Multiple Signs per wall for Lighthouse-Holyoke, at 92 Race Street (Parcel 038-07-019), submitted by Agnoli Sign Co, Inc.

The complete application may be viewed through the Holyoke Planning Dept M-F, 9-4 p.m.

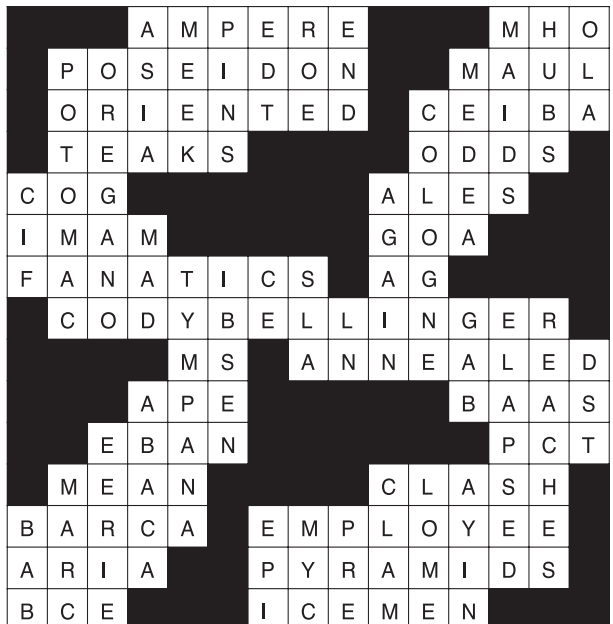
Applicant: Agnoli Sign Co, Inc. Planning Board: Mimi Panitch 09/06, 09/13/2024

PLEASE REMEMBER TO RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

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 \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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



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



There were bounce houses and slides for kids to play on at the back-to-school backpack event at Kelly School.

Turley photos by Quinn Suomala



The Holyoke Medical Center was present to give out information at the back-to-school backpack event at Kelly School.



Kids were able to play laser tag at the back-to-school backpack event at Kelly School.



The Greater Holyoke YMCA handed out resources and information for community members to use.



Kids were able to play on a small patch of ice provided by Holyoke Hockey Club.



Community members lined up in order to get resources and information from a variety of community organizations at the back-to-school backpack event at Kelly School.



Community members lined up in order to receive their backpacks at the back-to-school backpack event at Kelly School.



The back-to-school backpack event at Kelly School had live music for people to listen to as they walked around the event.



Families First provided resources to families attending the back-to-school backpack event at Kelly School.



Staff from Holyoke Public Schools and the Holyoke Safe Neighborhood Initiative welcomed families to the back-to-school backpack event at Kelly School.

SUPPLIES, from page 1

to go back to school," Caisse said.

Caisse has been doing this event for 13 years and he has loved seeing it grow each year.

He begins planning for the event right after the last one ends. He schedules the field the Monday after the back-to-school event so he can ensure it will be booked for the community.

Then in November he sends out emails to remind people to start reviewing the areas and activities they oversee so if they need anything further for the upcoming year, Caisse can have it prepared.

Caisse is grateful to all of the sponsors, people and organizations that helped to make this event possible. Cradle the Crayons, for example, donated all of the backpacks for this event.

He is also grateful to Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi, who allows

Caisse to take charge with these kinds of events.

"He's so passionate about families and communities that he allows me to come out here as part of my job," Caisse said.

More than anything Caisse hopes that through his work with HSNi and doing events like these that he will be able to help kids in Holyoke to have a brighter future.

"There's no greater reward, nothing brings me the satisfaction like seeing somebody become successful, and that's what it's all about and that's what drives me," Caisse said.

He hopes that this event is a highlight in the community's summer.

"The highlight of today is just seeing smiles on the kids' faces, you go down there and when a little kid gets their backpack and opens it up and they're smiling, there's nothing better for me," Caisse said.



Children had the chance to win bicycles at the back-to-school backpack event at Kelly School.