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Death Cafe Group meets at library

By Christina Gioscia
Correspondent

HOLYOKE - On Friday Aug. 28 a Death Cafe group had a meeting at Holyoke Public Library. Death Cafe originally started in England and since then it has spread to America and throughout the whole world with new Death Cafe's popping up all the times. The group on Friday was facilitated by volunteer Nao Sakurai.

Sakurai explained the rules of Death Cafe.

"The rules, recommendations are that you talk about you know, something death and dying and

you also have to have tea and something to much on. And then we have to make it clear that this is not like, a grief support," Sakurai said. "It is okay to discuss about grief but we cannot give medical advice. And also, just to talk about it, no other agenda. Because sometimes people from like you know, sometimes people try to convince other people to one way of thinking. So yeah, we try to avoid that. I mean, we can talk about your own opinion, but we don't want to, you know, convince other people. So, that we have all

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Superintendent Jackie Glasheen begins her first year as the head of Holyoke Public Schools.

Turley photos by Brendan Rooney

Superintendent Jackie Glasheen begins first year at helm of HPS

By Quinn Suomala
Correspondent

HOLYOKE - New Superintendent Jackie Glasheen has been settling into her position.

Glasheen started as the superintendent on July 1, and she hit the ground running.

Already she has been hard at work ensuring everything goes well this school year.

Glasheen and her team put together several leader retreats to prepare for the school year.

"We brought together school leaders, our school committee leaders, and our teachers union leaders in the same room and talked a lot about belonging, well-being and working well together," Glasheen said.

In the spirit of belonging and well-being, Glasheen also made sure to reach out to families to help them prepare for the start of the school year through com-



Jackie Glasheen

munications and back-to-school events.

As the school year has started, Glasheen has worked with the community and decided on three priorities she will focus on this year: high quality instruction with strong inclusive practices, ensuring that every student, family and staff feels a sense of belonging, and building the district back up

after receivership.

"I feel like we are aligned in our vision for this year," Glasheen said. "We've clearly identified our priorities and we're moving in the right direction."

Glasheen wants to ensure that the students at Holyoke have access to the best education possible.

She will be working with teachers to ensure that they are planning education around all the students in their classes and truly meeting each of their

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FALL SEASON BEGINS



Turley photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

On Tuesday evening, the Holyoke High School girls volleyball team got their season underway. The Knights took on Chicopee High School. See more photos in next week's edition as well as highlights from the match with the Pacers. Holyoke's fall sports programs began on Tuesday, with the first week of the season culminating with a football game Saturday morning at Chicopee Comprehensive.



A new, inclusive playground was unveiled at Morgan School earlier this week.

Submitted photo

Morgan unveils new inclusive playground

HOLYOKE - Students at Morgan Elementary School now have a new space to play, explore, and grow together. On Wednesday, September 2, the school officially unveiled its brand new inclusive playground, giving students of all

abilities a welcoming place to unwind during recess.

The new playground features musical and interactive equipment creating opportunities for students to move and play in different ways. The space was designed to encourage stu-

dents of all abilities to participate and enjoy time together.

The playground was one of several construction and improvement projects completed by Holyoke Public Schools over the summer. This project was made pos-

sible through a Community Development Block Grant received by the City of Holyoke.

With the new space now open, students can look forward to making new memories with their classmates for years to come.

Residents tell council to demand limits on Flock cameras

By Quinn Suomala
Correspondent

HOLYOKE - Holyoke residents came forward during the city council meeting on Sept. 2 to make their disapproval of Flock cameras clear.

President Tessa Murphy-Romboletti and Councilors Anne Thalheimer and Mimi Panitch placed an order on the agenda which called for the council to review the history, authorization and use of Flock cameras and other automated license plate technology in Holyoke.

The goal of the review and research is to determine if legislation is needed to address civil rights or privacy issues caused by the presence of the technology.

Many residents and community members of Holyoke came forward in support of this order.

Community members felt that this order was needed in order to protect their privacy and rights.

"These cameras are a violation of privacy," AJ Beatty said. "They are tracking the movements of every single person in this room, everybody who drives through Holyoke, regardless of if they have ever committed a crime."

Beatty mentioned how the recordings then go into a national database and that there is currently no safeguard against unethical and inappropriate uses of these recordings.

Others who came for-

See FLOCK, page 10

HCC hires Melissa Mills-Dick as vice president of advancement

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College has hired Melissa Mills-Dick as vice president of institutional advancement and executive director of the Holyoke Community College Foundation.

Mills-Dick, a resident of Granby, brings more than 20 years of leadership experience in nonprofit and higher education fundraising, advancement, communications, and community engagement. She joins HCC from Hampshire College, where she most recently served as chief advance-

ment officer and previously held leadership roles in advancement, campaign strategy, alumni relations, and communications.

During her tenure at Hampshire College, she served as a member of the executive team and strategic advisor to two college presidents while leading a 15-person advancement team. She spearheaded the institution's largest-ever fundrais-



Jaqueline Glasheen

ing campaign, which raised \$55 million in unrestricted operating support over six years, including securing several of the largest gifts in Hampshire history.

Her experience also includes cultivating major philanthropic partnerships, engaging alumni and community stakeholders, strengthening board relationships, and developing innovative fundraising and

communications strategies.

Before joining Hampshire College in 2014, she held advancement and communications leadership roles with Planned Parenthood.

At HCC, Mills-Dick will lead Institutional Advancement, a 19-member division that includes the college's development, alumni, grants, and marketing and communications teams. As executive director of the HCC Foundation, she will oversee day-to-day operations of the college's nonprofit fundraising corpo-

ration. In both roles, she will work closely with the Office of the President, college leadership, the foundation board, alumni, donors, community partners, and other stakeholders to strengthen philanthropic support and advance the college's mission.

She holds a Master of Fine Arts degree in writing and literature from Bennington College and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Hampshire College. She has also participated in leadership development programs through the

Massachusetts Association of Independent Colleges and Universities and Planned Parenthood Federation.

"We are very happy to welcome Melissa to HCC," said President George Timmons. "I know she will continue HCC's commitment to strengthening relationships with alumni, donors, community partners, and regional stakeholders while creating new opportunities to support student success and the future of the college."

Mills-Dick will begin her new position on Sept. 14.

Hibernians, PNCU hosting food drive

HOLYOKE – The Hibernians of Hampden/Hampshire Counties, in partnership with the Polish National Credit Union, are conducting a food drive September-December 1for Providence Ministries.

The drop-off location is Rush Insurance [previously PNCU Insurance] at 270 Westfield Rd. in Holyoke.

The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts estimated that approximately 61,000 people are food insecure in Western Massachusetts. Providence Ministries needs food supplies as the winter months approaches. Suggested drop-off items include Chef Boyardee, pasta, mac and cheese, tuna, soup, rice

baked beans, and cereal.

In addition to the food drive efforts, every six weeks the Ladies Order of Hibernians and the Holy Cross Cursillo Group of Springfield make sandwiches for Kate's Kitchen.

Anyone interested in supporting the sandwich program, may call Rosalie Pratt at 413-532-1677.

BOH reports about West Nile Virus

HOLYOKE – The Board of Health reports the presence of multiple West Nile Virus-positive mosquitoes in Holyoke over the past two weeks.

A total of 18 West Nile Virus positive mosquitoes have been trapped in Hampshire and Hampden counties: 5 in Hampshire, 13 in Hampden. Holyoke and bordering communities accounted for 15 virus-positive mosquitoes: 3 were trapped in Holyoke, 1 in Northampton, 6 in Chicopee,

2 in South Hadley and 3 in West Springfield.

There have been 5 confirmed human infections statewide, all in Suffolk and Middlesex County.

As fall approaches, the Board of Health states, incidents of West Nile Virus (WNV) and Eastern Equine Encephalitis may become more common. Mosquitoes are most prevalent at dawn and dusk and in wooded and swampy areas. Wearing long sleeves and bug spray will help deter mosquitoes, but

they are not 100% effective. Standing water such as bird baths, bins and buckets, old tires left outside, and leaky hoses provide a breeding ground for mosquitoes and in turn contribute to the spread of mosquito-borne diseases.

A risk map can be found at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-arbovirus-update> and information about the symptoms of WNV infection here: <https://www.cdc.gov/west-nile-virus/signs-symptoms/index.html>.

Indigenous Joyfest at Wistariahurst

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

No Loose Braids has led speaking engagements at educational centers and univer-

sities across Massachusetts, given presentations, and led social songs and dances at public events. As a Nipmuc-led organization, No Loose Braids will highlight this tribe, which is one of New England's most historic and largest native communities. Founder of No Loose Braids Andre Strongbearheart Gaines Jr. will be leading this year's Indigenous Joyfest. Andre has many roles, including being a father, public speaker, traditional dancer, and Indigenous Activist for Indigenous rights.

During this event, visual artist and a citizen of the Métis Nation of Ontario

Tracey-Mae Chambers will have her fiber art installation "Hope and Healing Cross Border" on view in Wistariahurst's Music Room. Chambers will discuss the inspiration behind this piece and how her large-scale fiber installations focus on "collective grief, care, decolonization, and remembrance within public and institutional space."

Indigenous Joyfest is part of Wistariahurst's Sensory Friendly event series. Need to take a break from the energy? A low-sensory area will be available to guests. This event will be free and open to the public.

UCCH announces upcoming events

HOLYOKE – We're falling (get it?) for our September events calendar at the United Congregational Church of Holyoke, with two free events open to the public.

First up is our Community Meal on Friday, Sept. 11 at 5 p.m., featuring baked ziti, Italian meatballs, salad, rolls, and dessert, sponsored by Hamel's Catering in Holyoke. A

Family Movie follows at 6 p.m. All Are Welcome, everyone eats, and it's completely free.

Love to sing? You're in luck. MCS is bringing back Karaoke Night on Thursday, Sept. 17 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. All ages and abilities are welcome for an evening of laughter, good vibes, great music, and community. Free of charge.

The United

Congregational Church of Holyoke is an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ. We welcome all individuals, regardless of where they are on their journey. If you'd like to learn more about UCCH, please visit our website at www.uccholyoke.org, find us on Facebook or Instagram, or call our office at 413-532-1483 Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Salute to Holyoke Day at The Big E

HOLYOKE — Salute to Holyoke Day, an annual celebration at the Eastern States Exposition (The Big E), will be observed on Tuesday, Sept. 22.

The salute highlights Holyoke's history, businesses, schools, and community pride. The day includes a Holyoke-themed parade through the fairgrounds, with residents, community

organizations, public officials, schools, and other representatives coming together to showcase the Paper City.

Mayor Joshua A. García said the observance is an opportunity to have a good time while celebrating Holyoke pride, the city's unique identity, and Holyoke's rich industrial, cultural, migrant and immigrant history.

NAMI offering family program

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

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

It is a designated evi-

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

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

Documentary reveals city's hidden infrastructure

HOLYOKE – On Wednesday, Sept. 16, at 6 p.m., Holyoke Media will host a screening of a short documentary titled "Wastewater Infrastructure, Climate Stressors & Adaptation Plans: The City of Holyoke's MVP Journey."

The documentary highlights Holyoke's hidden infrastructure, spotlighting public works operations, climate adaptation, and flood controls.

The public is invited. Holyoke Media is located at 1 Court Plaza (lower Suffolk Street).

Church holding fall festival

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

There will be something for everyone: Gift basket

raffles, 50/50 raffle, vendors, plants, bake sale, and a Cafe'. Free ample parking is located behind the church and all are welcome.

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

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A PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

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

R.E.J.

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New murals to be unveiled this weekend

HOLYOKE – Common Wealth Murals (CWM) and Nueva Esperanza will host a Mural Unveiling and Ribbon Cutting for a new Holyoke mural, La Borinqueña, on Saturday, Sept. 12 at 1 p.m. The new mural is located in the City’s newly-recognized Puerto Rican Cultural District, at the corner of Hamilton and Main Streets in South Holyoke.

Edgardo Miranda-Rodriguez, comic book artist and creator of the best-selling superhero series La Borinqueña, will be in attendance with his family at the unveiling and Ribbon Cutting, along with Holyoke Mayor Joshua Garcia; State Senator John Velis; State Representative Pat Duffy; Holyoke City Councilors; and leadership from

Common Wealth Murals and Nueva Esperanza.

The mural, La Borinqueña, designed by Miranda-Rodriguez and Somos Arte Studios, honors the 10th anniversary of Puerto Rico’s groundbreaking superhero while recognizing the imagination and vision of her creator. The mural celebrates Puerto Rican heritage and the power of storytelling and representation, while bringing an iconic contemporary Puerto Rican superhero to the heart of Holyoke’s Puerto Rican community.

The Sept. 12 ribbon cutting will celebrate the completion of the mural and recognize Miranda-Rodriguez as a trailblazer in comic book storytelling. His independently published

La Borinqueña books have become part of the permanent collection of the Smithsonian and are taught internationally in classrooms from primary schools through graduate programs.

The mural was created as part of Common Wealth Murals’ Community Mural Training, a hands-on professional development program that provides artists with practical experience in community-engaged mural making. Participating artists worked alongside CWM to learn the process of producing large-scale public art, from preparing and painting mural panels to installation. More than 100 Holyoke residents helped to paint the mural. The La Borinqueña mural is one of several murals created through the

training in Holyoke and Springfield, building the skills and experience of local and regional artists while creating new public art rooted in the communities where it lives.

La Borinqueña debuted in 2016 as an original superhero whose stories center Puerto Rican identity, culture, history, environmental justice, and social issues. Over the past decade, the character and Miranda-Rodriguez’s work have helped expand representation within the comic book world while inspiring readers to see Puerto Rican stories and experiences reflected in the superhero genre.

In addition to being the writer and creator of the La Borinqueña superhero series, Miranda-Rodriguez is the

recipient of Eisner’s Humanitarian Award for his philanthropic efforts via the benefit anthology Ricanstruction: Reminiscing & Rebuilding Puerto Rico featuring La Borinqueña teaming up with Wonder Woman, Superman, Batman and other DC Comics heroes. Miranda-Rodriguez self-published this anthology under his own studio Somos Arte Studios Inc. and to date has raised close to a quarter of a million dollars for grassroots organizations in Puerto Rico via the La Borinqueña Grants Program. Miranda-Rodriguez has also



served as an Arts Envoy for the U.S. Department of State, giving talks and leading workshops throughout Latin America about graphic novels and social justice.

Chamber to hold social event, Irish celebration

WEST SPRINGFIELD – Join the West of the River Chamber of Commerce for a special social event on Friday, Sept. 18 at West Springfield Town Hall, located at 26 Central St., West Springfield from 8 to 10 a.m.

The September Morning Social will include mingling with may-

ors, city councilors, and economic development members from County Kerry, Ireland.

There will be a celebration of Ireland with networking and fun all rolled into one.

Registration is required through the chamber’s website or by contacting the chamber.

Cider Donut Dash 5K to end domestic violence

HOLYOKE – Lace up your sneakers on Saturday, Sept. 26 at Ashley Reservoir, where the community will come together with purpose, and for a sweet finish of cider and donuts.

The 5K starts at the Elks Club, 250 Whitney Avenue, with runners starting at 10 a.m. and walkers at 10:05 a.m. A 1.5 mile fun run will also be held.

Following the race there will be cider donuts, fresh

apple cider, music and community connection.

The Alianza 5K: Cider Donut Dash brings people together to raise awareness, support survivors, and help build a future free from domestic violence.

Run fast, walk with friends, or bring the whole family to cheer on the community. There’s a place for everyone at the start line (and plenty of donuts waiting at the finish).

Held just ahead of October’s Domestic Violence Awareness Month, this event serves as a meaningful kickoff by bringing the community together to show up and stand with survivors.

Registration fees now through Sept. 24 are \$45 for adult 5K runners/walkers. Prices increase at 1 a.m. on Sept. 25 to \$55 for adult 5K runners/walkers and \$35 for youth under age 18.

Online registration closes

at 9 a.m. on Sept. 26. To register, visit www.runreg.com/Alianza.

Proceeds support Alianza DV Services, whose programs provide free and confidential advocacy, shelter, prevention, and support services to survivors of domestic violence and their families throughout our region.

For more information about Alianza DV Services, visit www.alianzadv.org/.

‘Lighting the Way’ Oct. 1 event to help support kids in foster care

AGAWAM – 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, Oct. 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, play-



- 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
- 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

Memento Mori exhibit at Wistariahurst Museum

HOLYOKE – Wistariahurst Museum will be welcoming October with a haunting exhibit all about death and dying in the Victorian era. Visitors will see historic items relating to mourning, while learning what mourning customs were common in the late 1800s. Wistariahurst opens Memento Mori just in time for spooky season, on Oct. 1 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

In the late 1880s, many individuals perceived death as an unavoidable reality, and loss often affected their house-

holds. As societal perceptions of mortality evolved, people began seeking methods to cope with their grief, leading to intricate death and mourning rituals, some of which are still practiced today. Disease and death did not discriminate between social classes or gender, and many people had to begin preparing for and accepting the inevitability of loss early in life. This exhibit uses historical clothing and artifacts to let viewers explore the life, death, and mourning customs of the late 19th century. Attendees can view

items from the Wistariahurst Museum’s archives, along with objects from the Storrs House Museum and Archive in Longmeadow, MA.

“It was fascinating to research how mourning impacted people during the late 19th century, and how many of the traditions they started continue to this day,” says exhibit curator Rachel Powell. “It’s amazing to see the similarities we have with those who mourned so long ago, and how we can connect with them through the keepsakes they collected.”



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Guest Column

SOCIAL SECURITY
Matters
By Russell Gloor



Why change Social Security now? It's a working 'Ponzi Scam.'

Dear Rusty:

Maybe everybody has the same reaction that I do to Social Security insolvency.

I do not understand a system that has been basically run like a Ponzi Scam since its inception; why have you decided (in 2026-2027) that now is the time to change a perfectly good Ponzi Scam.

In all reality, this began with Babylon. I'm sure that if you searched the meaning of the words "Babylonian money magic," you would understand what I'm talking about.

If this is as good as the Earth has, why would you mess with a perfectly rotten thing. Why would you decide to change currencies to some sort of fragile digital currency?

Signed: Skeptical Senior

Dear Skeptical Senior:

You touch on an item that the Association of Mature American Citizens Foundation has dealt with many times over the years, specifically the notion that Social Security has the characteristics of a Ponzi Scheme.

Our position in response to that notion is that Social Security was created and operated with full transparency with its financial status, formulas and long-term deficits completely and publicly documented and reported to the President and Congress annually.

Unlike the infamous Charles Ponzi, the government has a permanent pool of contributors through mandatory FICA and SECA (self-employment) payroll taxes and is designed to remain in operation infinitely as long as there's a tax-paying workforce.

Moreover, the Social Security system is overseen by Congress, specifically the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee, and the Government Accountability Office. The Social Security Administration is subject to routine hearings by these congressional overseers and maintains an independent Office of the Inspector General to ensure the integrity of its financial operations.

Contrary to Ponzi victims, all participants retiring from the workforce and their dependents recover their Social Security con-

tributions via benefit payments, some more than others based on their level of participation in the system. Also, contrary to Ponzi Schemes, Social Security was designed as a social insurance system and has operated successfully in that mode for over nine decades.

What raises the notion of a Ponzi Scheme comparison these days is the looming insolvency facing Social Security just six years from now. This financial problem, however, has nothing to do with fraud.

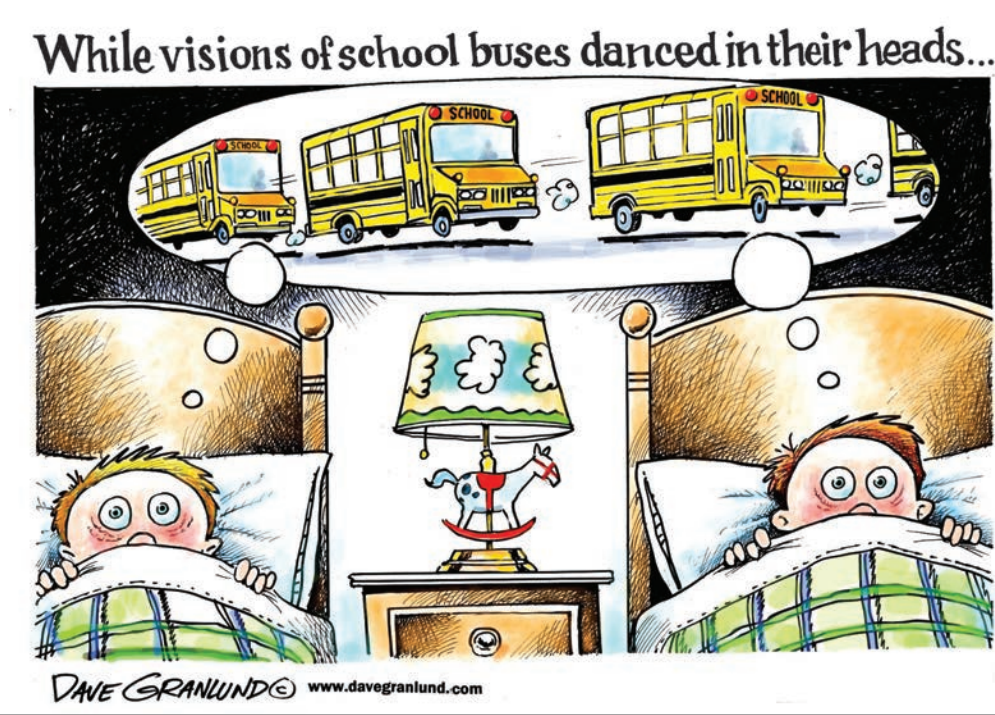
Rather, it is a function of workforce demographics and the fact that Congress has long deferred corrective action on a problem that has been known for the past four decades.

We sometimes hear well intended, but sometimes uninformed comments from some Washington politicians invoking the Ponzi Scheme reference, but we believe that Congress is finally waking up to the urgency.

And we also believe Congress is now starting to move seriously to set a course for correction in time to ward off the impact of insolvency. AMAC is proud to be a part of the collective thinking currently surfacing, and our Social Security Guarantee is in play as a plan to be considered.

We invite you to review our SS reform plan (at <https://amac.us/social-security-guarantee>) and likewise to stay tuned to our Social Security Report website (<https://socialsecurityreport.org/>) where we post regular updates on a variety of matters pertaining to Social Security and retirement.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



Guest Column

Teachable moments during preservation

I had far too many plans for a long weekend. There were peaches to can, apple-sauce to make, peppers to roast and tomatoes to turn into sauce and salsa. Oh yes, and cabbage to ferment into sauerkraut.

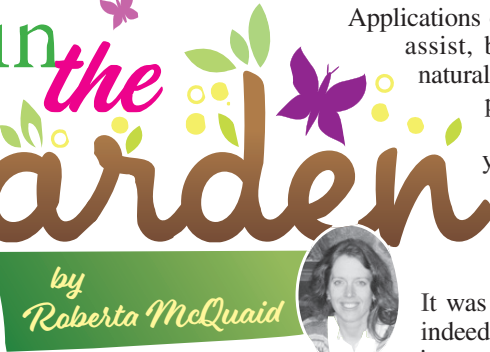
Tis the season! Someone once said that it is important to "make hay while the sun is shining." That is exactly what I did.

While I was at it I came across a few teachable moments, and that is what I want to share with you today.

Some of my peaches have brown rot and some had split pits. Brown rot is a fungal disease that leaves furry brown areas on the fruit.

It can spread fast. One day a small patch; the next day half a fruit is infected.

Much like with apple scab, sanitation will go a long



way to aid in prevention. Your goal is to prevent disease spores from overwintering.

Throw out any fallen infected peaches. If peaches are clinging to the trees well after harvest, pick these "mummies" and get rid of them too.

Rake up leaves that may also carry the disease. If raking is unrealistic, mow under the tree to encourage the leaves to break down.

In late winter, prune to encourage good air flow, a paramount practice in disease prevention. Thin fruit to four to five inches apart.

Applications of fungicide can assist, but I prefer the natural route as much as possible.

I encourage you to do your own research.

Split pit on peaches is new to me. It was like the pit was indeed split, and sometimes stuck in each side of the fruit. From there, rot can begin to take over.

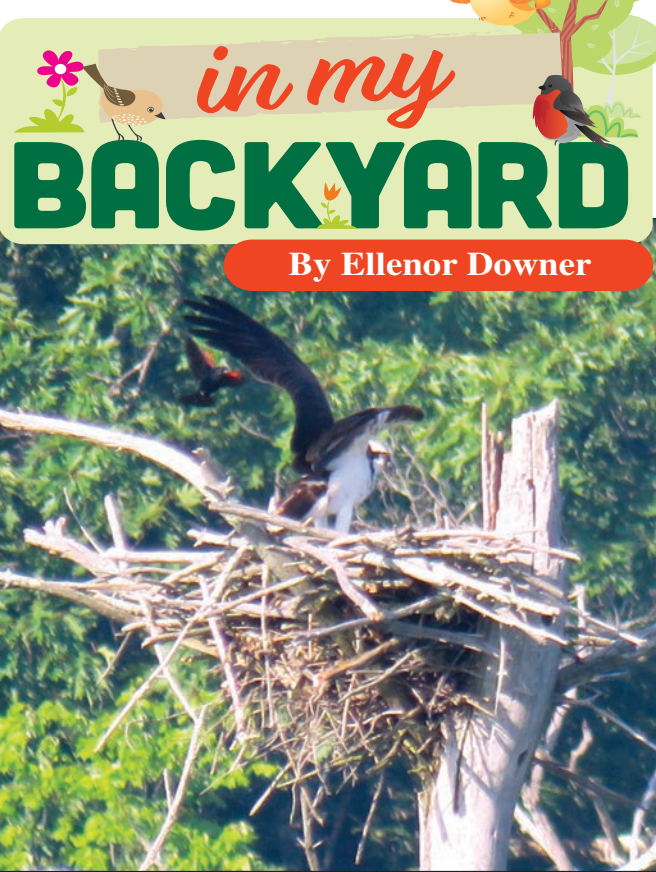
Apparently split pit a physiological issue. Too much rain prior to harvest could be the culprit especially since spring and early summer were somewhat dry.

Watering during dry spells, and applying a mulch around the base of the tree to conserve and even out moisture can help.

While working with my apples I observe a few clusters of tiny dots here and there, as well as patches of gray over the apple's skin.

See GARDEN, page 5

Guest Column



Osprey at nest.

Photo by Doug Moore

on artificial structures.

Osprey eggs do not hatch all at once. Rather, the first chick emerges up to five days before the last one. The older hatchling dominates its younger siblings and can monopolize the food brought by the parents.

If food is abundant, chicks share meals in relative

harmony; in times of scarcity, younger ones may starve to death.

These birds may log more than 160,000 migration miles during its 15 to 20-year lifetime. Scientists track ospreys by strapping lightweight satellite trans-

See BIRDS, page 5

CHECK OUT ALL THE



www.turley.com

The Holyoke Sun welcomes election letters to the editor

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

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

For more information, call 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspa-

per plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in *The Holyoke Sun*.

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

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

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

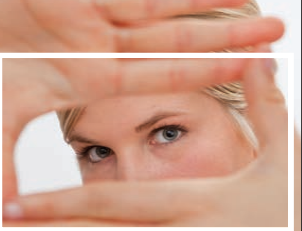
Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon. Please email (preferred) letters to thesun@turley.com. Mailed letters can be sent to *The Sun*, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

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Applications open for HERizon 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: “It was a breath of fresh air to connect with other girls face to face and build a community.” “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. “My confidence is so much better.” “I’ve been able to set boundaries for myself without having to feel bad about it.” “I’ve become more of a girl’s girl, combined with so much more confidence.” Participants cited discus-

sions 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. Questions about the program may be directed to Halie Matthew at Halie.Matthew@mass.gov.



Friends of Veterans Memorial Cemetery seeking board members

AGAWAM – The Friends of the Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Agawam announce their upcoming meeting. The public is welcome to attend. Event Details: The meeting will take place Wednesday, Sept. 17 at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street. Doors open at 5:30 for the 6 p.m. meeting. For easy access, enter the lower level through the back entrance. We are now accepting nominations for the 2027 Board of Directors. The board is comprised of seven members. All nominations must be submitted by the date of the

meeting or in person during the meeting. Self-nominations are welcome. If you are self-nominating, you may provide a short bio with your submission to help members learn more about your background and interest in serving on the board. To submit nominations prior to the meeting, please submit your information using the Contact Us section in the footer of our website at: <https://www.agawamfriends.org/>. Community members and supporters are encouraged to attend to hear updates about “The Friends” activities and participate in the nomination process. Please contact us with any questions via our website <https://www.agawamfriends.org/> or email us at agawamfriends@gmail.com.



GARDEN, from page 4

These are summer diseases known as fly speck and sooty blotch respectively. Both occur after lots of rain and humidity. Unfortunately all apples are susceptible to them, but the good news is that they only mar the apple’s good looks; it doesn’t penetrate the skin nor will it affect its taste. Some elbow grease will likely rub it off. To reduce the likelihood of your apples getting these diseases prune for good air flow (it will dry out fruit faster after a rain) and remove nearby wild blackberry canes (the diseases overwinter here). I talked about peppers and tomatoes not that long ago, but I do have to say that I am upset that I had what feels like one round of peppers. There are no little pepper replacements anywhere on most of my plants. I know my rock edged raised beds get hot, and tend to dry out quickly, so per-

haps that is the culprit for “some then done.” Drought then a deluge could force the blossoms to fall off. I’ll be sure to keep this in the forefront of my mind as I plan next year’s garden. Soaker hoses and more organic matter may help. As I was processing the tomatoes I stopped twice to save some of the seeds of two of my favorites. If you grew open pollinated, non hybrid tomatoes and plan to start your own seeds indoor next spring, you’d be silly not to save your own seeds! Cut open a tomato – scoop out the goop and put it in a small jar with a few drops of water. Wait a few days until mold forms on top and then dump into a sieve and separate out the seeds. Allow to dry on paper towel and then store in an envelope marked with the variety and date. You just saved yourself some cash, too! The only thing I have to say about my cabbage is

that I wish I had grown more of it. All of my Crucifers – broccoli, cabbage and kale worked out so tremendously well under insect netting that I will definitely grow it that way again next year. No worms at all. Planting a few early cabbages and some later ones was smart to spread out the kraut. Next year I’ll just add a few more to my plot. Alas, the harvest season is in full swing. I am so incredibly grateful for my garden and what I can preserve for use in the off season. Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 34 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.

BIRDS, from page 4

mitters to the birds’ backs. The devices pinpoint an osprey’s location to within a few hundred yards and last for two or three years. During 13 days in 2008, one osprey flew 2,700 miles from Martha’s Vineyard, Massachusetts to French Guiana, South America. The oldest known osprey was at least 25 years, two months old and lived in Virginia. It was banded in 1973 and found in 1998. Glossy ibis On July 13 Doug Moore

saw a glossy ibis at Lake Wallace. They expanded their range over the past century from the southeastern United States to include much of eastern North America. At a distance the glossy ibis looks uniformly dark, but a closer look in sunlight reveals deep maroon, emerald, bronze and violet feathers. Large flock of grackles I saw a large flock of grackles in late August. I did not count them, but there were at least 50, probably more. They flew from one

side of the road to the other. I stopped the car and waited for them to safely pass. There were stragglers and some flew behind the car as well as in front of it. Seeing them reminded me that the fall migrations are happening or at least the birds are gathering in flocks to make their journeys south. Some species of birds travel long distances to their winter habitat. Ospreys are just one of many that travel thousands of miles. People may report a bird sighting by emailing edowne@turley.com or calling or texting 774-262-5882.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Longtime Vogue editor Wintour

5. A Spanish title of respect

10. A way of looking

12. Properly

14. Rolled steel

16. Not down

18. Law degree

19. Consume food

20. Intermediate ecological stage

22. Old world, new

23. Dispense justice

25. Stiff hair-like structure

26. Ethiopia

27. Cool!

28. Father

30. An enthusiastic devotee of sports

31. Holm oak

33. Be united

35. Rattling breaths

37. Supermarket chain

38. Provided with a quality

40. Samoan monetary unit

41. Swiss river

42. Hill (Celtic)

44. Have already done

45. ATM company

48. Syngman __, Korean president

50. Very willing

52. Arctic explorers (abbr.)

53. Food listings

55. Bachelor’s place to crash

56. Big Blue

57. Sports magazine

58. Relating to a place north of south of the equator

63. Female follower of Bacchus

65. A type of laugh

66. Slovenly women

67. Large jug

CLUES DOWN

1. Boxing’s GOAT

2. Zero

3. Midway between north and northeast

4. Concurred

5. Added flavor

6. Amount of time

7. Eggs of parasitic insects

8. S-shaped moldings

9. Atomic #45

10. __ d’art: small artistic item

11. A godparent’s “kids”

13. Nocturnal burrowing lizard

15. Hit lightly

17. Aircrafts

18. Witness

21. Alluding to something

23. Take to the limit

24. Baglike structure in a plant or animal

27. Start over

29. Administered

32. Romanian monetary unit

34. Unit of liquid capacity

35. Equips with weapons again

36. Disney town

39. Female deer

40. Title of respect

43. A place to go rafting

44. A way to conclude

46. Type of television

47. Georgia rockers

49. Leonhard __, Swiss mathematician

51. Slang for gun

54. River in Bosnia and Herzegovina

59. Bar bill

60. Small, gray-headed crow

61. Frozen water

62. Norwegian krone

64. Commercial

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 6

Blessed Sacrament Parish

Rev. Duy Le

frduyle@blessedsacramentholyoke.org

1945 Northampton St., Holyoke

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Your Community Church

St. Peter’s Lutheran Church

Rev. Debora Stein

34 Jarvis Ave., Holyoke

Office: (413) 536-3369

Office: stpetersholyyoke@gmail.com

Pastor: revdebma@gmail.com

Website: www.stpetersholyyoke.org

Social media:

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Monday and Thursday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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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](https://instagram.com/stpaulsepiscopalchurch_holyoke)

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Holyoke, MA 01040

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The Holyoke Sun • SEPTEMBER 11, 2026 • 5

Volunteers set for cleanups of sections of river shores

WESTFIELD – Volunteers along the Westfield River and its streams will join cleanup crews across four states on Saturday, Sept. 19 (and Saturday, Oct. 10 for Agawam) to clean up Westfield River sections of the Connecticut River watershed.

Mark Damon, president of the Westfield River Watershed Association (WRWA) is coordinator of the cleanup. “Our volunteers combine with the Connecticut River Conservancy’s volunteers and many other smaller organizations to clean up the Connecticut River watershed from its source all the way to the sea. Groups like ours take a Saturday morning and use it to make a significant difference in our watershed.”

For 70 years, the Watershed Association has worked to clean the banks and the waters of the once-polluted Westfield River. “The Westfield River and its watershed is so much cleaner than it used to be, largely thanks to our volunteers,” continues Damon. “There’s still more that we can do, however. Think globally, act locally – here’s your chance.”

There are thousands of people who live near the Westfield River and can access it for fishing, picnicking, walking, paddling, and even swimming. “We’ll have small groups working at different sites along the river. When groups like families

or teams volunteer, we keep them together. We’re glad to work with the community to keeping it clean and inviting.” Damon, who teaches at Westfield State University and Holyoke Community College, invites his students to join in. “Young adults are especially helpful in providing the muscle that we need to move some of the bigger items we find. Over the years, we have hauled out tires, baby carriages, mattresses, bicycles, appliances. Almost anything can get dumped thoughtlessly—and illegally.”

According to Sheryl Becker, the other WRWA clean-up coordinator. “We definitely make a difference. Decades ago, the river ran pink or yellow or green depending on the color of the dyes and chemicals being dumped into it. Now it’s swimmable. We are always pleased to find that sites we return to are now so clean that it only takes a couple of people an hour or so to pick up the area. If we could get rid of those “nips” [small plastic adult-beverage bottles,] cleanups would go even more quickly.” She also notes, “Due to the traffic from Big E, the Agawam clean-up at Pynchon Point is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 10.”

The WRWA is part of the Connecticut River Conservancy which sponsors the annual Source to Sea Cleanup, a volunteer network spanning four states

that cares for the Connecticut River and its tributaries. Damon’s vintage bright blue tee shirt proudly proclaims: Hard Work. Real Fun. True Impact. “It’s a great cause—keeping our environment clean—and everyone is welcome,” adds Becker. “Mostly we just clean up along the banks of our rivers and streams. We find all kinds of garbage from old tires to plastic bot-



Submitted photos
Volunteers are needed to help with the cleanups.

Organizers target watershed sites in Westfield, Russell, Huntington, West Springfield and Agawam. Assignments are generally completed about noon or 1pm.

Everyone is welcome; children must be supervised by an adult. WRWA will arrange with local communities for pickup of trash and debris recovered at each site. For questions, contact Mark Damon regarding Westfield locations at markjdamon@gmail.com or Sheryl Becker for Agawam area sites at sherlearth69@gmail.com.

The Westfield River Watershed Association was established in 1953 to protect and improve the natural resources of the watershed, as well as to expand recreational and other land use opportunities for people’s enjoyment and for sound ecology.

Cooper’s Gifts 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/.

Learn about volunteering at Harmony House Sept. 12

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 might be 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 to find out more about how you can help.

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, Sept. 12 from 10:30 a.m. to noon, at the Chicopee Public Library, 449 Front Street, come and 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.harmony-housewma.org/volunteer-1 or email us at admin@harmony-housewma.org.

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Posting qualified applicants for FT position. Working Foreman. Provides direct in-field 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 operation and maintenance skills. Must have a valid driver's license and be able to operate a heavy truck. This is a full-time position. For full job description see www.hadwick-ma.gov.

TOWN OF HADWICK HELP WANTED

The Town of Hadwick 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.hadwick-ma.gov. Qualified applicants should send cover letter and resume to ad@townofhadwick.com or send to PO Box 975, Gilsum, MA 01037.

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The Holyoke Sun

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

St. Joseph’s community 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

NOTICE

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

SPORTS

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MISSIONS

www.sports.turley.com

Boys soccer set for season

HOLYOKE – Practices picked up last week for Holyoke boys soccer as they looked to get ready to start the regular season. Holyoke’s first game was on Sept. 9.

They are back in action on Friday, Sept. 11 at Southwick at 5:30 p.m. Their first home game is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 15 against Pathfinder at 4 p.m.

The Knights were set to open the season earlier this week.



Boys soccer practices continued last week.



Patrick Smith O'Connor sends a pass away.



The Knights are looking to get back into tournament contention this year.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



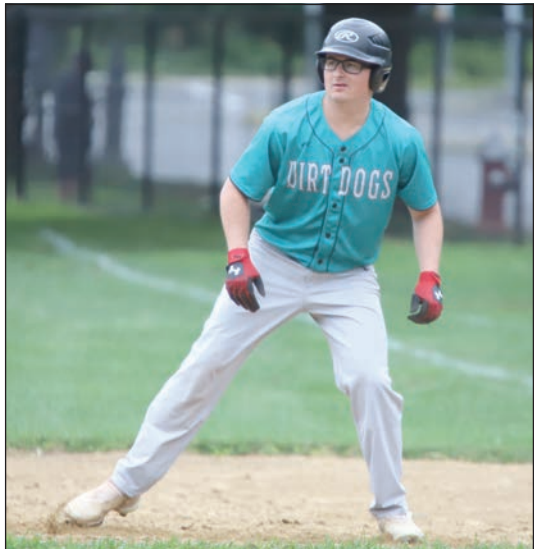
Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Andres Conde delivers a pitch for the Knights.



Tory Buck takes a swing and fouls off a pitch.



Pete Moulin sends a pitch away for the Dirt Dogs.



Tom Burzynski leads off first base.



Matt Morin sends a throw to first.

Dirt Dogs take Pioneer Valley championship

SOUTH HADLEY – On Aug. 22 at Beachgrounds Park, after trailing earlier in the game, the Dirt Dogs came back to defeat the Knights 7-5 to sweep a best-of-three game championship series to win the Pioneer Valley Baseball League’s title for 2026.

This was the first year of Pioneer’s merger with the Quabbin Valley Baseball League. The merger includ-

ed the addition of the Blue Jays to bring the league to six teams.

The Dirt Dogs had Pioneers best record of 19-2 in the regular season and the Dirt Dogs went on to win five consecutive games in the double elimination playoffs. The Knights went 16-4 in the regular season and were defeated in winner’s bracket of the playoffs by the Dirt Dogs. They

would go on to beat the Wolves 2-1 in 11 innings in the elimination final to make it to the championship series for a rematch with the Dirt Dogs. The Dirt Dogs won the championship opener 18-4 at Mackenzie Stadium in Holyoke on Aug. 18.

Pioneer will have a four-team fall league for the first time, which begins on Sept. 12.

Final tune-up for football



HOLYOKE – Last Saturday morning, Holyoke High School football hosted West Springfield for scrimmage. It was Holyoke’s final scrimmage of the preseason. The Knights are in action for the first time in the regular season on Saturday morning against Chicopee Comprehensive at 11 a.m. at Szoat Park. Holyoke’s first home game is on Thursday, Sept. 24 against Agawam.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Left, the defensive line goes on the attack. Below, the offense runs a play.



Holyoke gets ready to return the ball on kickoff.



The Holyoke defense goes after a ball carrier in heavy traffic.

Classifieds

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The Town of Oakham is seeking a dependable individual to serve as a **PART-TIME CUSTODIAN** for the Oakham Town Hall and Library. Position Details:
• Approximately 5-7 hours per week
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• Responsible for general cleaning and custodial duties at the Town Hall and Library
Interested candidates should email admin@oakham-ma.gov for further information and town employment application.
The Town of Oakham is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

HELP WANTED

TOWN OF WARE JOB OPENING Part-Time Custodian

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-benefited, \$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

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



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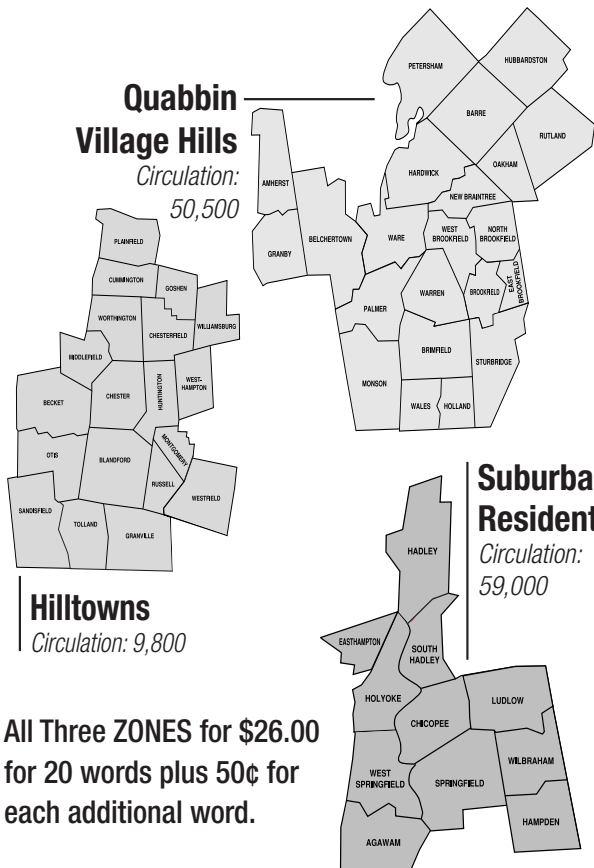
DEADLINES: FRIDAY AT NOON

CATEGORY:

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price \$26.00
21 Base Price \$26.50	22 Base Price \$27.00	23 Base Price \$27.50	24 Base Price \$28.00
25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00

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Racing heats up Stafford Motor Speedway

STAFFORD SPRINGS, CT – With Stafford Motor Speedway approaching its final races of the 2026 season, drivers are quickly running out of time to either establish themselves as a championship contender, or make a move up in the standings before the season ends. Here is a division by division breakdown of how each of Stafford’s five weekly divisions has played out thus far in 2026:

SK Modified® Division
Stafford’s premier weekly division sees Keith Rocco on track to claim a fifth career track championship. A fifth SK track title would tie Rocco with Bob Potter for the second most in Stafford history, trailing only the late great Ted Christopher with 9 SK titles.
Todd Owen kicked off the 2026 season with what was his first SK Modified® feature win since Sept. 2024. Owen, defending SK track champion Jon Puleo, and Tyler Chapman all took turns holding the SK point lead in the early stages of the sea-

son, but Rocco’s consistency sees him currently holding a 66-point advantage over Puleo with Marcello Rufrano and Owen tied for third, 86 points behind. Rocco took the point lead for the first time following the July 10 feature event and he has not relinquished the lead since. Rocco heads into the Sept. 4 Paradiso Insurance LM 50 program riding a streak of 10 consecutive top-8 finishes, but all it would take is one bad night for Rocco for his comfortable 66 point margin to disappear.

Late Model Division
Stafford’s Late Model division is the tightest championship fight going at Stafford with the top-8 drivers spread less than 50 points, or one race win, apart. Five different drivers have each held the Late Model point lead at some point during the 2026 season. Chris Buffone opened the season with a victory in the NAPA Spring Sizzler and after losing the point lead to Kevin Gambacorta and then Chris Meyer, Buffone was

back on top before Adam Gray took over the lead following the June 12 feature event. Gambacorta would swap the lead with both Gray and Meyer once more before Gray went back into the lead following the July 10 feature event and he has held the lead ever since. Much like Keith Rocco in Stafford’s SK Modified® division, Gray is racing for what would be a fifth career Late Model track title at Stafford. Meyer goes into the final 4 races trailing Gray by 10 points, Gambacorta is third 24 points behind, Wayne Coury, Jr. is fourth, 34 points behind, Michael Bennett is fifth, 40 points behind, Darrell Keane and Buffone are tied for sixth 42 points behind and defending track champion Paul Varricchio, Jr. is eighth, 46 points behind.

SK Light Division
Stafford’s SK Light division has seen its 2026 season evolve into a story of two dominant seasons. Chris Matthews opened the season with a victory in the NAPA Spring Sizzler and

looked like he would have things on cruise control as he posted podium finishes in the first 7 races with 1 win, 5 second place, and 1 third place finish among those 7 races. Although Matthews has added 3 more wins to his season total since that streak, he has also finished outside the top-15 five times since then and he has fallen to 4th in the standings, 66 points behind Nick Anglace.

Anglace has been the other hot SK Light driver during the 2026 season, racking up 7 wins over the first 17 races. Anglace’s win total trails only Ryan Waterman, who has 10 wins in the Street Stock division, for the most feature wins at Stafford this season. Former SK Light champion Tyler Barry has quietly kept himself in contention for a second track title, holding the point lead himself for several weeks before Anglace took over the top spot in the standings. Barry has yet to win a race in 2026, but he is the co-division leader with 11 top-5 and 14 top-10

finishes this season. Barry goes into the Sept. 4 race 20 points behind Anglace with Daltin McCarthy, who scored his first career SK Light victory earlier this season, sitting third, 42 points behind.

Limited
Late Model Division
Jason Lafayette opened the Limited Late Model season with victory in the NAPA Spring Sizzler, which vaulted him into the early season point lead. Lafayette would hold the point lead until the middle of June when Jeremy Lavoie took over the top spot. Lavoie and Lafayette traded the point lead several times with former track champion Rich Hammann also taking the lead for a week before Lavoie went back to the front, where he remains going into the Sept. 4 feature event. Lavoie is seeking what would be his fourth career track championship in the Limited Late Model division and he leads Norm Root, III, who is still looking for his first win of the 2026 season, by 10 points.

Lafayette and Hamman are currently tied for third in the standings, 28 points behind Lavoie.

Street Stock Division
The Street Stock division has been a one-man wrecking crew in 2026 as Ryan Waterman has absolutely dominated the competition. Waterman has amassed 10 wins over the first 16 races this season to see himself 48 points clear of Brent Gleason in second place. Waterman has been so dominant this season that he has finished 15 of the 16 races this season in the top-4 with the lone blemish on his record a 17th place finish in the July 31 feature event. Gleason has yet to win this season but he is the only driver to have recorded a top-10 finish in each of the first 16 races. Jason Raymond is currently third in the standings with 3 victories and he is 58 points behind Waterman. The only other driver within 100 points of Waterman is PJ Evans who is fourth in the standings, 96 points behind.

Thunderbirds announces series of promotional themes

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds are excited to unveil a stacked promotional and theme schedule for the 2026-27 AHL season, marking the 100th anniversary of professional hockey in the City of Firsts. This year’s promo calendar blends fan-favorite traditions with new giveaways and never-before-seen surprises sure to delight T-Birds fans of all ages.

“As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of professional hockey here in Springfield, we take immense pride in knowing this game has been a staple of our community for a century—and in the atmosphere we’ve cultivated for fans of

all ages,” said Thunderbirds President Nathan Costa. “Our mission has always been to create traditions and marquee nights that people look forward to year after year—blending pop culture, meaningful community initiatives, and inventive, spirited experiences that make every game memorable. Thanks to our incredible fans, the Thunderdome has grown into one of the most electric environments in the league, and that passion and deep connection to our fanbase continues to fuel everything we do.”

Once again this season, fans should note that all Saturday home games will kick off with 6:05 p.m. puck drops, along with one

Wednesday night matchup on March 10. Paid parking will continue to be available throughout the season at the nearby Convention Center CarPark, and The Landing—the outdoor plaza next to the CarPark—will be open and activated for select nights during the season. Fans seeking free parking can still take advantage of the MGM Springfield garage.

The puck drops on Saturday, Oct. 10, with Opening Night presented by MGM Springfield as the T-Birds welcome the Laval Rocket to town as head coach Steve Ott and captain Chris Wagner leads their squad into an exciting new season. Ahead of puck

drop, fans can stop by The Landing for the Community Bank N.A. season-opening Block Party, presented with support from the Springfield BID, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., featuring live music by Fever, food & drink, and plenty of energy to launch another unforgettable season. The T-Birds are poised to celebrate an 11th consecutive Opening Night sellout inside the Thunderdome.

In addition to the appearances and themes below, fans can expect to see specialty jerseys corresponding to the following themes: Teddy Bear Toss, Heritage Night, Ice-O-Topes Night, Pink in the Rink, and St. Patrick’s Day.

Railers announce matchup

WORCESTER – The Worcester Railers Hockey Club (@RailersHC), proud ECHL (@ECHL) affiliate of the St. Louis Blues (@StLouisBlues), announced a home preseason game, presented by Bando Performance, to be played on October 10th at the Fidelity Bank Worcester Ice Center at 7:05 p.m.

New this season, this year’s preseason game in Worcester on Oct. 10 will be a ticketed event. All proceeds from the game will be donated towards the Captain’s Fund, which provides financial assistance and support for youth hockey families. Fans can purchase \$5 tickets for the opener.

Promotional Schedule
The Worcester Railers have announced the themes for all 36 home games for the 2026-27 season. This season’s promotional schedule includes 13 different giveaway nights, eight nights with specialty jerseys, and nine nights where the Railers will be donning their brand new Heart of the Commonwealth Jerseys. Fans can click here to view the full 2026-27 Worcester Railers Promotional Schedule.

The Worcester Railers HC 2026-27 Opening Weekend at the DCU Center is Sat., Oct. 17th and Sun. Oct. 18 vs. the Maine Mariners and Trois-Rivières Lions. The 508 Club is now on sale for the 2026-27 season.

Public Notices

**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. HD25P0999EA
Estate of:
Lawrence Emil Jodoin
Also known as:
Larence E Jodoin
Date of Death: 11/17/2024
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for S/A - Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by **John J Ferriter of Holyoke, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that **John J Ferriter of Holyoke, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **With Corporate Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/29/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED

ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 01, 2026
Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate
09/11/2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No. HD26P1886EA
Estate of: Wayne P Kroll
Date of Death:
July 24, 2026
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Jessica L Provost of Chicopee, MA**
Jessica L Provost of Chicopee, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without** surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the

administration by the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
09/11/2026

**City of Holyoke
Office of Purchasing
536 Dwight Street, Room 3
Holyoke, MA 01040
INVITATION TO BID
IMPROVEMENTS AT
SCOTT TOWER
Bid #2027-4P**

The City of Holyoke invites sealed bids for IMPROVEMENTS AT SCOTT TOWER, Bid#2027-4P, Holyoke, MA in accordance with documents prepared by GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc.

The work under this contract shall include the redevelopment of the landscape at the base of Scott Tower. Site work shall include demolition, cast-in-place cement concrete stairs and ramps; repairs to existing concrete slab; stone masonry, re-pointing of existing stone masonry; integral colored and stamped concrete pavement; bituminous concrete pavement; furnishment and installation of hand railings and guard rails; landscaping; removal and replacement of spiral staircase; graffiti removal and anti-graffiti coating application; and all ancillary work as depicted in the drawings and specifications.

Beginning at 10:00 AM on September 9, 2026, all Project documents will be distributed by the City of Holyoke in electronic format only. Submit requests for documents to Jaime Morrow,

Chief Procurement Officer, at morrowj@holyoke.org between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM. Requests shall include firm name and address, contact name and title, email address, and telephone number. This project may be funded in whole or part with federal funds. Bidding procedures shall be in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. c. 149, §§44A through 44J, as amended.

A non-mandatory Pre-Bid briefing will begin on September 16, 2026 at 10:00 AM beginning in the parking lot at Community Field near the playground. From there, bidders may drive up the Scott Tower access road to Scott Tower.

Attention is called to the minimum wage rates required to be paid for all labor on this project. Wage rates are established in schedules issued by the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, in accordance with M.G.L. c. 149, §§26 through 27H., as amended, and the U.S. Department of Labor in accordance with the Davis-Bacon and Related Acts. Said schedule(s) are included in the bid package and the contractor will be responsible for paying the higher of the two rates. It is the responsibility of the Contractor, before Bid opening, to request if necessary, any additional information on Minimum Wage Rates for those trades people who may be employed for the proposed Work under this Contract.

Materials, equipment and supplies to be used on this project are exempt from sales tax to the extent provided by M.G.L. Chapter 64H, Section 6 (f). All Filed-Sub-Bid questions or requests for information shall be submitted in writing via email to morrowj@holyoke.org by September 23, 2026 at 4:00 PM. The answers will be issued via addenda to all bid holders no later than September 28, 2026.

Filed Sub-bids for the trades listed below will be received

until October 1, 2026 at 2:00 PM. Filed subbidders must be DCAMM certified for the trades listed below and bidders must include a DCAMM Sub-Bidder Certificate of Eligibility and a signed DCAMM Sub-Bidder’s Update Statement. Trades: MA-SONRY MISCELLANEOUS AND ORNAMENTAL IRON.

All General Bid questions or requests for information shall be submitted in writing via email to morrowj@holyoke.org by October 6, 2026 at 4:00 PM. The answers will be issued via addenda to all bid holders no later than October 9, 2026. General Bids will be received until October 15, 2026 at 2:00 PM. The work is estimated to cost \$673,975.00.

General bidders must be certified by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) in the category of work “GENERAL BUILDING CONSTRUCTION” and must submit a current DCAMM Certificate of Eligibility and signed DCAMM Prime/General Contractor Update Statement. Only eligible and responsible sealed bids on this project shall be received by the Awarding Authority from qualified Bidders submitted on forms furnished by the Awarding Authority and clearly identified on the outside of the bid with the name and address of the bidder, and the name and Bid Number of the project, and submitted to:

City of Holyoke
Purchasing Department
City Hall, Room 3
536 Dwight Street
Holyoke, MA 01040

And received no later than the times set forth below, when they will forthwith be publicly opened and read aloud at this location. General bids and sub-bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit, in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the bid amount, in the form of a Bid Bond; cash; or a certified check; or a treasurer’s check; or by cashier’s check

issued by a responsible bank or trust company, made payable to the City of Holyoke.

If you are submitting a bid with a mail service we advise allowing extra time for your documents to arrive and for you to check tracking labels (if applicable). Bids will not be accepted via email and late bids will not be accepted. Bids delivered in person may be delivered on the applicable Filed Sub-Bid or General Bid due date between 10:30 AM and 2:00 PM and must be received before the applicable deadline. Do not place Bid packages in any exterior drop box.

The successful General Bidder shall furnish a Performance Bond and a Labor and Materials Payment Bond, each in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the Contract Price, from a surety company authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and satisfactory to the Awarding Authority. The Awarding Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and/or waive any informality, if it is deemed to be in the public interest so to do.

09/11/2026

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

HPS, from page 1

individual needs.

 “That can be really hard, especially when you have classes of 20 or 25 kids,” Glasheen said.

 While she has noticed gains in proficiency for many students, she has also taken note that special education students and second language learners have not gained proficiency at the same rate.

 Therefore, she plans to focus this year on figuring out how to give these students the support and guidance they need.

 One of the strategies she hopes to implement is focusing on connection, not just content.

 “In order to teach kids content, you have to have connection first,” Glasheen said.

 Additionally, Glasheen plans to make sure that every student, family, and staff feels seen and supported in Holyoke Public Schools.

 “We want to support you and we want you to be successful,” Glasheen said.

 She and her staff plan to work on outreach and inclusive practices to ensure that all community members have their voices heard.

 Finally, Glasheen is aware that after the years

spent in receivership, many community members will need some time to adjust to the schools being under local control again.

 “Any of our staff left and many of our families’ school-choiced out,” Glasheen said. “We want to ensure that we do some repair work across stakeholders as we are entering our second year of local control.”

 Part of this task includes working with the bargaining units in the district to ensure that they have fair and equitable contracts that are also within the reach of the district.

 “All of our units are important and we want to make sure that they get what they need to be successful,” Glasheen said.

 Overall, Glasheen feels hopeful for the start of the school year. She also feels that her prior time with HPS helped to prepare her for the superintendent position and allowed her to have a strong start.

 Prior to this position, Glasheen had spent 34 years in various positions at HPS. She taught, was a principal, a coach and an assistant superintendent.

 Moreover, Glasheen was born and raised in Holyoke, and has a strong connection to the community.

“I feel my experience and institutional knowledge made me a great fit for this position,” Glasheen said.

 Additionally, Glasheen is grateful for the support of former superintendent Anthon Soto, who is now the Chief of Finance and Operations.

 “He’s been a partner, he’s been a mentor and he wants nothing more than to see our district succeed,” Glasheen said.

 Soto has offered Glasheen advice and support as she has gone through her first few months in this position.

 Now, Glasheen is ready for this school year and is excited to see everything it will bring.

 She encourages the community to remain connected and that those who may have left HPS during receivership reach out and give them another chance.

 “I have no doubt that the instruction that’s happening across our 11 schools is second to none,” she said. “I encourage community members to come and see before they make a judgment on where they’re going to send their child to school.”

 HPS has a lot to offer, and Glasheen is prepared to continue expanding upon everything they already have.

FLOCK, from page 1

ward during public comment argued that without proper legislation, the private companies with access to ALPR data could utilize it dangerously.

 “This is about drawing a line about at what point we are going to try and stop this kind of invasive technology from taking over the entirety of public space,” Nathan Albright said.

 One community member mentioned that there have already been reports of police officers utilizing Flock cameras illegally.

 In Georgia a police officer utilized the technology to track his ex-girlfriend, so did another officer in Kentucky.

 The people of Holyoke raised concerns over whether this growing trend could spread to Holyoke.

 Many community members argued that technologies like Flock cameras would privatize policing to a dangerous extent.

 “None of us want a surveillance state,” James Lewis said. “This is really privatizing policing by giving this database over to third party organizations who we have to assume are being ethical about how they use them.”

 These individuals asked



Submitted photos

Residents in the city are becoming more concerned about the personal data being taken by Flock cameras.

the city council to keep their arguments in mind while doing their research on ALPR technologies.

 “I would encourage the city council to promote the policies that Holyoke police have already been doing towards more of a community policing approach,” Beatty said.

 The council voted unanimously to send the order to public safety for them to discuss. The order was also sent to the Mayor’s office

 and to the police department for them to weigh in on the legislation.

 Additionally, Councilors Meg Magrath-Smith, Juan Anderson-Burgos, Israel Rivera and Richard Purcell requested that their names be added to this order as a way to show their support.

 The public safety committee will discuss this order in conjunction with relevant parties to determine the best way to move forward.

GROUP, from page 1

everybody has a different perspective on death and dying.”

 Sakurai discovered Death Cafe when listening to a podcast and decided to do further research. Sakurai says, “I think so many things, you know, I lost some people, like my friends, you know, when I was younger and then also, I went through, like my country had so many earthquakes and natural disaster, my hometown also had a big earthquake, you know, we lost

a couple people. Yeah, you know, you can never expect you’re gonna die. And you know, everybody says, ‘When you talk about death, you actually start talking about being alive.’ You know, how to live free, you know, be like awake. Because many people are alive, but they are so distracted in it, not really alive. So, talking about this makes us aware how our life is so finite.”

 During the group food was provided by Sakurai and attendees, including fresh gar-

den tomatoes, chocolate cake, cookies and tea. Throughout the discussion attendees shared their thoughts regarding personal loss, funerals, fear of death and so much more. Death Cafe allows people to have conversations regarding death and the process of dying without worrying about touching on topics that are often views by society as taboo.

 Victoria Allen attended her first meeting at the Aug. 28 session. She enjoyed about the discussion.

“Just excellent banter, wonderful different perspectives,” Allen said. “Different experiences, people spoke so eloquently. I just love hearing people talk about their experiences.”

 Allen believes coming to a Death Cafe meeting could add something positive into someone’s day.

 “To really come with an open mind, honestly, like respectful curiosity,” Allen said. “No expectations. Maybe bring a snack but you don’t have to. And just listen

and be respectful because I loved listening to everybody talk and I loved sharing my story. Because I also really enjoyed the feedback.”

 Sandy Ward explained what she believes Death Cafe is truly all about.

 “The death cafe is an opportunity to just explore,” Ward said. “It’s informal and friendly. And a time you would express ideas, share your story. It is often quite inspiring to hear other people’s views and to in some people get comfort in having

shared theirs and sometimes come to different understandings. I have learned that there’s always something fresh that I can get out of it.”

 Death Cafe is a place for community members to gather to discuss any and all things regarding death and dying. You can ask questions, share your thoughts and opinions, talk about you’re experiences or just listen to other members. For more information about upcoming Holyoke Public Library events, visit the library website.



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