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New 'playbook' guides schools

HOLYOKE – From the very first day of school, HPS principals and their teams have been working diligently to implement strong systems for culture, instruction, and operations to ensure a highly successful school year.

Each school follows a first quarter "playbook" to support a strong start, with high-impact practices identified each week across four domains: teacher skills, foundations of weekly data meetings, student culture, and school-wide systems.

As part of those efforts, Executive Director of School Leadership Sarita Graveline and Assistant Superintendent Jackie Glasheen are visiting all schools to support principals and their teams as they begin to implement the playbook.

"This early in the school year, a lot of the focus is on routines. For example, teachers are working to develop essential routines in the classroom, such as giving clear

instructions when distributing and collecting work, and also while students are in the hallways between classes and at dismissal," said Glasheen. "Investing now in these routines will help ensure our classrooms run effectively and will allow us to prioritize time on learning in the long run because students know what is expected of them."

Establishing routines early on is one important component of a strong start to the school year, but there's more to it, as well.

"It's also critical that teachers work to establish a positive student culture, which includes such steps as greeting students by name and connecting what students are learning to topics that interest them," said Graveline. "Building strong relationships at the start of the school year helps set the foundation for a students feeling a sense of belonging and well-being, which is a key focus area for Holyoke this year."

See SCHOOLS, page 10

Committee cleans parade route



By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

HOLYOKE – Last Saturday throughout the city, the St. Patrick's Committee of Holyoke, in partnership with OneHolyoke CDC, and a few volunteers met up at Brennan's Place before taking to the streets to clean up areas along the Road Race path and Parade route, as part of the 3rd annual 'Day of Service'. Among those in attendance and providing service were the 2026 Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade Grand Marshal, Michael J. Moriarty; Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade President Jim Wildman; 2025 Grand Colleen Moira Reardon, and countless others.

It was revealed via the Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade FB page that the coalition collected trash along High, Maple, and Hampden Streets, as well as Veterans' Memorial Park, and in total filled more than 40 bags of trash.

Providing a bit of how the clean-up initiative came into reality was Dave Haslam, Social Media Coordinator, for the

St. Patrick's Committee members continue to work on the parade route during last Saturday's "Day of Service."
Turley photos by Brendan Rooney

See CLEAN, page 6



Startling line with Boomer, Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi delivering remarks as supporters watch on.
Turley photo by Brendan Rooney

City hosts Sheriff Shuffle 5K

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

HOLYOKE – Last Saturday, Sept. 7, more than 500 people braced the elements to take part in Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi's 'Sheriff Shuffle 5K' to raise awareness and funds for domestic abuse. However, the night before, the Paper City experienced an unforeseen microburst storm that almost led to the initial cancellation of the event, as the extreme weather left the Elks Lodge property and adjacent areas covered in massive downed trees and the facility without power. Despite the challenges, perseverance prevailed as the 26th annual road race carried on, and it was a resounding success.

Reflecting on the Herculean effort put forth by all first responders and calling upon the vast wealth of resources from the Hampden County Sheriff's office, while spotlighting the leadership of Holyoke's resources and the part they played in assisting in clean-

up efforts, was Cocchi.

"At around 6 p.m. on Saturday, this road race wasn't going to happen," he said. "And I got a phone call, and they said, 'Hey, I think you have to think about postponing the event.'" Cocchi quickly responded by noting, "The Sheriff's office doesn't quit." Cocchi then revealed he deployed the Hampden County Sheriff's Office Arborist Program, the Hampden County Sheriff's Workforce Initiative, along with the Community Restitution Crew to assist in the ongoing restoration efforts. "They worked around the clock and are still working right now to clear all of the debris, all the brush, and to take down the dangerous trees," Cocchi said. "And I have to tell you, Holyoke Gas and Electric (HG&E), Holyoke Water, and the Holyoke DPW were phenomenal across the board."

Cocchi also touched upon the indomitable spirit of the citizens of Hampden County by revealing that everyone who participated would be part of establish-

ing a 'movement' in support of the victims and survivors of domestic violence, while shedding light on the families affected by the initial tragedy.

"It's not about looking at the obstacle that was put in front of us with the microburst; it's about looking at how we can make a difference today, and supporting the men and women who are the victims of domestic violence," he said. "We're taking a stand, and I want to make it clear that this behavior is not ok, and we're going to continue to support the YWCA and the work being done by Liz (Dineen) and her staff because their work is so important, and they are making an impact on people's lives." He also added, "I just want to say events like this don't happen without community support, and the fact that the Sheriff's office may be the logo on the front of the jersey, make no mistake about it, this is a community, multi-agency effort to support the men

See SHERIFF, page 6

Storms rip through city, causing extensive damage

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

HOLYOKE – Last weekend, Western Mass communities such as Holyoke and Chicopee were caught in the midst of a microburst storm that left Hampden County in a state of rebuild.

The inclement weather was due to five tornadoes touching down in Worcester and Middlesex Counties, which were classified as EF-1 rating, as highlighted in a newly released report from the National Weather Service. The report revealed that two separate tornadoes touched down in Paxton in a matter of only minutes, with an estimated peak wind speed of 94 mph.

In addition, throughout Saturday evening, staying in Central Mass, Holden, Berlin, and Stow all had a tornado touch down as well, this time with an estimated peak wind of 104 mph.

However, despite not experiencing a tornado in the Paper City, there's still plenty of work to do that will take place over the next couple of weeks, according to comments from HG&E Manager Jim Lavelle. In

"Approximately 70 customers were affected by power outages, but were restored by Sunday afternoon."

- Jim Lavelle
HG&E Manager

addition, HG&E also noted "Over the weekend, in collaboration with Mayor Garcia and the City's emergency response team, HG&E crews worked around the clock to repair the damage from the quick-moving storm

Saturday afternoon," Lavelle said. He also touched upon the fact that clean-up efforts included removing trees and limbs from utility infrastructure and restoring damaged poles and wires. Before noting that power for the majority of customers was restored on Saturday evening during the Microburst. However, Lavelle confirmed that "approximately 70 customers were affected by power outages, but were restored by Sunday afternoon."

In addition, Lavelle revealed that HG&E crews faced 'some very difficult conditions' to quickly restore power to customers, and then put out a call to reaffirm that the restoration efforts is going to take a little bit, as he said, "there is still work to be done in the coming days and weeks to clear utility infrastructure from fallen and leaning trees and branches."

The final thing Lavelle

See STORMS, page 10



Trees in the fallout of the microburst.

Submitted photo

Garcia to lead contingent to sister city in Puerto Rico

HOLYOKE – The City of Holyoke will deepen its sister-city bond with Salinas, Puerto Rico, later this month.

On Sept. 18, Mayor Joshua A. Garcia will lead a delegation of local leaders and representatives from Explore Western Mass, the destination marketing organization for Western Massachusetts, on a special visit to the coastal city. Casella Waste Systems of Holyoke is sponsoring the trip.

The visit will celebrate cultural connections, promote tourism, and highlight the historic role Holyoke played in the invention of

volleyball in 1895. A friendly volleyball match between leaders from Holyoke and their counterparts in Salinas will serve as a centerpiece of the trip, honoring Holyoke as the birthplace of the sport while recognizing the deep love of volleyball across Puerto Rico.

The Holyoke volleyball squad will include Coach George Mulry, Director of the International Volleyball Hall of Fame; Executive Director of the YMCA Conor Bevan (volleyball was invented at the Holyoke YMCA); Parks and Recreation Director Jon Moquin; Planning and Economic Development



Director Aaron Vega; City Councilor Juan Anderson-Burgos, and leaders of community organizations such as Nueva Esperanza and Enlace de Familias.

“Our sister-city relationship with Salinas is rooted in shared history, culture, and community,” Garcia said. “This visit is an opportunity to celebrate our ties, showcase the pride of Holyoke, and continue building bridges between Western Massachusetts and Puerto Rico.”

In addition to the volleyball match, the delegation will tour popular attractions in Salinas, experiencing the city’s natural beauty, culi-

nary offerings, and cultural life. Representatives from Explore Western Mass will highlight the tourism and cultural assets of Western Massachusetts, strengthening opportunities for collaboration and future exchanges.

The sister-city relationship between Holyoke and Salinas reflects the enduring bond between Puerto Rican communities and Holyoke, which is home to one of the largest Puerto Rican populations per capita in the United States. This visit underscores both cities’ commitment to celebrating heritage, fostering tourism, and creating meaningful connections for residents and visitors alike.

Cemetery tours at Forestdale

HOLYOKE – Step past the cemetery gates and peer behind the veil with Wistariahurst as our volunteers channel the spirits of Holyoke’s ancestors, leading you through the meandering paths of Forestdale Cemetery. Established in 1860, Forestdale Cemetery is a serene yet beautiful landscape and the final resting place for many of Holyoke’s founding families, politicians, and other notables who helped breathe life into the city.

Guests will walk amongst the monuments, markers, crypts, and crosses to discover the mystique of

Holyoke’s vibrant heritage.

“Learn some of Holyoke’s history through the tales of the people that lived and died here,” Penni Martorell, City History, shares. “Forestdale Cemetery is such a unique and beautiful setting to reflect on the history we share with the people you will see represented in our tour.”

Discover all there is to know about living and dying in Holyoke from narratives of the people who now find solace beneath these hallowed grounds. Cemetery Tours at Forestdale Cemetery

include walking and standing on cement and gravel walkways with tours lasting around forty-five minutes. To fully enjoy this tour, we ask that guests wear comfortable shoes and weather-appropriate clothing. In the event of rain, the tours will be canceled, refunded, and not rescheduled. Wistariahurst Museum’s Cemetery Tours blend history, concepts of the afterlife, and local connections to create an unforgettable outing. Tickets for this delightfully spooky and educational tour sell fast, so make sure to purchase your tickets before they’re gone

Nurses get free car wash Sept. 27

HOLYOKE – Gary Rome Hyundai and MiraVista Behavioral Health Center are teaming up to honor nurses with Scrubs to Suds!, a free nurse appreciation car wash on Saturday, Sept. 27, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Gary Rome Car Wash • Dog Wash • Detail Center and MiraVista (while supplies last).

“I believe it is important to support those who give selflessly to our community,” said Gary Rome, President of Gary Rome Hyundai. “Nurses are the heartbeat of healthcare, and they deserve recognition not only for their skill, but also for the compassion they show every single day. This partnership with MiraVista allows us to say ‘thank you’ in a meaningful way, and we are proud to celebrate their contributions.”

“This innovative event is a wonderful way to thank not only our own dedicated nursing team, but also nurses throughout the community,”

will be available, and nurses will receive a small free gift courtesy of the Gary Rome Car Wash • Dog Wash • Detail Center and MiraVista (while supplies last).

“This innovative event is a wonderful way to thank not only our own dedicated nursing team, but also nurses throughout the community,”

said Kimberley Lee, Chief of Creative Strategy and Development at MiraVista Behavioral Health Center. “It is also an opportunity for nurses to learn more about the meaningful work being done at MiraVista and how they can be part of a growing and supportive healthcare organization. We are especially grateful to Gary Rome for his partnership in bringing this fun and unique appreciation event to life.”

As an added show of appreciation, Emergency Services employees are eligible for a 25% discount on car wash memberships at the Gary Rome Car Wash • Dog Wash • Detail Center—another way the dealership recognizes the critical contributions of those on the frontlines.

Family Story Night at HCC to highlight adult education and literacy week

HOLYOKE – In recognition of National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week, Holyoke Community College Chief of Police Jacqueline Robles will read the children’s classic Harold and the Purple Crayon during Family Story Night at the college on Wednesday, Sept. 17.

Sponsored by HCC’s Marieb Adult Learner Success Center, Family Story Night will run from 5:30 to 7 p.m. inside the Parent Learning Center (Frost 269) and in the hallway outside on the second floor of the Frost Building. In addition to the book reading, which will be conducted in English, Spanish, and American Sign Language, there will be arts and crafts for kids, pizza and other snacks, free school supplies, plus an opportunity for student parents to connect with representatives from HCC student support programs.

The purpose of National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week (Sept. 15-19) is to promote awareness about the importance of adult education and family literacy.



Chief Robles will read the children’s classic Harold and the Purple Crayon during Family Story Night at the college on Wednesday, Sept. 17. Submitted photo

Born in Puerto Rico and raised in Springfield, Robles is a graduate of Holyoke High School and has been a member of the HCC police department for 22 years. With her promotion from sergeant, she became the first Latina to serve as HCC police chief and the first Latina police chief in Massachusetts.

Last spring, she was named a Commonwealth

Heroine by the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women. On Friday, Sept. 12, she will be honored by the Springfield Puerto Rican Day Parade Committee at a kickoff breakfast at Wycoff Country Club in Holyoke, and on Sunday, Sept. 14, she will march in the Springfield Puerto Rican Day Parade as the 2025 Civil Service Ambassador.

Museum to host ‘Faces on the Fenceline’

HOLYOKE – Wistariahurst Museum is excited to announce the return of our popular outdoor display, Faces on the Fenceline. This outdoor, walking exhibit in the front of the museum features portraits of Black people in New England who have and are currently making history. Visitors can scan the QR code provided at the exhibit to learn more about the people in the portraits and delve deeper into the impactful stories of these remarkable figures. A list of the people in the 2025 Faces on the Fenceline exhibit will also

be available to view online at wistariahurst.org. Guests can also learn more information about local prominent Black figures that shaped Holyoke by visiting our archives. The vibrant, canvas backdrops for the portraits in Faces on the Fenceline were made by visitors at the Juneteenth celebration this summer at Wistariahurst in collaboration with Genuine Culture, adding a unique and sentimental touch to this exhibit. This year, we have had more canvases painted than any previous years, with 32 colorful canvases created by members of the

community. This outdoor display is an opportunity for everyone to explore the rich history and contributions of notable Black figures who have shaped our city, New England, and history as a whole. We invite you to experience this free and visually stunning exhibit by strolling past the museum on Beech Street.

Faces on the Fenceline 2025 will be on display starting September 23, 2035 through October, weather permitting. Scan the QR code on the attached graphic or next to the installation to view a list of the people featured in the exhibit and learn more about them! To make an appointment to see the archives and learn more about local prominent Black figures, contact Wistariahurst Museum at info@wistariahurst.org or call (413)322-5660.

Our grounds and gardens are open to the public every day from dawn to dusk so that everyone can explore, discover, and engage with the Faces on the Fenceline exhibit.



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Fall Festival at St. Paul's

HOLYOKE – St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 485 Appleton St. will hold their Fall Festival on Saturday, Sept. 27 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be something for everyone: Gift basket raffles, \$5 fun raising raffle, vendors, plants, bake sale, and outdoor activities for families. Free ample parking is located behind the church. For more information, please call the church office at 413-532-5060.

Fill out opioid survey

HOLYOKE – The Opioid Community Survey is now accepting responses until Oct. 3. The survey is provided in both English and Spanish. Ten survey takers will be randomly selected for prizes and announced at the Nov. 3 public meeting. The survey link is also available on Facebook and <https://www.holyoke.org/opioid-response/> or call 413-322-5610 and take the survey over the phone.

HCC celebrates grand opening of new Tech Center

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College celebrated the grand opening of its new Tech Center with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Wednesday, Sept. 3.

Located on the second floor of the HCC Campus Center, the HCC Tech Center is a newly refurbished space dedicated to providing students with all the technological support they need to be successful.

"No other community college in the Commonwealth has a facility like this one dedicated to helping students succeed in today's technological world," said Kim Florek, HCC's chief information officer and head of the IT Department.

Funding for the Tech Center came from a \$250,000 "Tech Rise" grant HCC received from the Employment and Training Administration, which is part of the U.S. Dept. of Labor. The money was principally used to buy furniture, computers, and other technology for the center, as well as the hiring of student interns.

"We provide the first level of support to students and all their personal devices – laptops, cell phones, tablets," said Tech Center manager



President George Timmons gets ready to cut the ribbon officially opening the new HCC Tech Center on Wednesday, Sept. 3. Submitted photo

Walter Pfau. "If it's got a screen and a power button, we'll help them troubleshoot it. But the heart of this space isn't about fixing devices, it's about helping students feel more capable, more technologically independent, and, ultimately, more connected."

Besides Pfau and other IT staff, the Tech Center will be run by a team of student interns who can also offer one-on-one support to their classmates who need assistance with their devices, and computer programs and apps. "Interns not only provide peer support but also

co-develop resources, assist and lead training sessions, and bring fresh ideas to campus-wide technology conversations," said Pfau. "This spirit of innovation and collaboration aligns with HCC's mission to 'educate, inspire, and connect,' empowering students to build digital con-

fidence and community at the same time."

Previously, students, along with HCC faculty and staff, had to go across campus to the first floor of the Frost Building to the IT Help Desk for all their computer needs. The HCC Tech Center is more centrally located, across from the Student Engagement office, adjoining the HCC Bookstore, and steps away from the cafeteria and food court, where students tend to congregate between classes.

In addition to one-on-one tech support, the Tech Center has computer stations for students to use, a classroom for interactive workshops and meetings, and cubicles where other HCC support staff, such as financial aid counselors, can set up shop during special events, like Registration Express and Accepted Students Days.

"The Tech Center is an extension of the IT Help Desk, but it goes beyond the physical repairs that the Help Desk is set up for," said Scott Conrad, director of IT services. "This will allow us to spend more time on the in-depth problems students might have."

Join the Great Holyoke Brick Race

HOLYOKE – You are invited to build a brick race car for the 14th annual Great Holyoke Brick Race to be held Saturday, Oct. 11 from 12 to 3 p.m. located at 80 Race St. The event is sponsored by Paper City Studios in downtown Holyoke. The purpose of the event is to bring together the diverse community of Holyoke and surrounding towns for a day of fun, excitement and creativity for all to enjoy. We want to have as many brickracecars

as can be created.

As the name implies, a "Brick Race" involves designing and building a brick racecar that is cleverly mounted on wheels and raced down an inclined track using only gravity to cross the finish line. The Brick Race will emphasize creativity and the sculptural quality of the racecars as well as making the fastest machine to cross the finish line first.

To compete in the 2025 Great Holyoke Brick Race,

simply complete the registration form online at www.thegreatholyokebrickrace.com. Space is limited to 50 entries, accepted first-come, first-served. No entry fee. Teams encouraged. Check-in begins at 11 a.m. Arrive early to sign in, get your race number, and prep your vehicle.

Want to give your brick a trial run? Join us for an optional test da on Saturday, Oct. 4 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Make it fast. Make it weird. Make it unforgettable.

Friends of the Mass. Veterans Memorial Cemetery to hold meeting

Nominations for the 2026 Board of Directors sought

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 p.m. For easy access, enter the lower level through the back entrance.

We are now accepting nominations for the 2026 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.agawam-friends.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.agawam-friends.org/> or email us at agawamfriends@gmail.com.

United Congregational Church to host community meal Sept. 12

HOLYOKE – Autumn is right around the corner, and so is the United Congregational Church of Holyoke's Community Meal. Those who attend will have the opportunity to warm up from the crisp fall evening with meatball stroganoff, salad and dessert. Dinner will be served Sept. 12

at 5 p.m., followed by a family movie at 6 p.m.

The Community Meal is hosted on the second Friday evening of each month at the church at 300 Appleton Street. All Are Welcome to attend, and the meal is completely free of charge. The menu changes monthly; past

meals have featured lasagna, Thanksgiving dinner, breakfast for dinner, steak sandwiches, and more. Parents must accompany their children.

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.

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Guest Column



Can I claim my own SS benefit now and get half of my husband's benefit later?

Dear Rusty:

I would like to get an answer concerning taking my Social Security benefit soon and switching to my spouse's benefit when he begins to take his.

I am 64 years, 9 months old and my husband is 65 years, 7 months. My benefit is low due to the fact that I did not work for about 25 years while raising our children. My benefit would be \$573 at age 65. My husband's benefit at age 67 will be \$3,326. My first question is: can I receive half of my husband's benefit once he begins drawing his? Secondly, if I draw my benefit now will that reduce the amount I can draw from his benefit later?

Signed: Uncertain Spouse

Dear Uncertain:

As you may know, the Full Retirement Age for both you and your husband is 67. If either of you claim before your FRA your monthly SS retirement amount will be permanently reduced and, if you are currently working, you will be subject to Social Security's Annual Earnings Test, which limits how much you can earn while collecting early benefits. The earnings limit for early filers is \$23,400 for 2025 (changes yearly and, if that is exceeded, SS will take away some of your benefits (\$1 for every \$2 over the limit). They "take away" by withholding future payments until the penalty is satisfied.

That said, if you claim your personal SS "soon" (e.g., at age 65), you will get about 87% of the amount you would get by waiting until your FRA to claim. You would, indeed, get a "spousal boost" when your husband claims, but you would not get 50% of his age 67 amount. That's because of the way spouse benefits are calculated. When your husband claims, you will get a "spousal boost" added to your early benefit amount (\$573?). The amount of

that spousal boost will be computed as 1/2 of your husband's FRA amount (e.g., \$1663), minus your FRA entitlement (likely about \$661) for a spousal boost of about \$1002. But since you won't have yet reached your FRA when your husband claims, the amount of the spousal boost will also be reduced (to about \$926), which will be added to your age 65 amount of \$573 for a total monthly spousal benefit of about \$1499.

So, the answers to your two questions are:

Because you claimed your Social Security retirement benefit early and won't yet be your Full Retirement Age when your husband claims, you will not get half of your husband's benefit when he claims. You would likely get about 45% of his benefit.

If you take your own SS retirement benefit now, you will get a higher benefit when your husband claims, but the amount you get will be less than half of his FRA entitlement.

The only way you can get the full 50% of your husband's FRA benefit entitlement is to wait until your own full retirement age to claim Social Security.

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 ssadvisory@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



Guest Column



Male Eastern towhee

A Brimfield resident has a wildlife camera in his yard. In a recent email he said, "Surprisingly an adult male Eastern Towhee was seen on the wildlife cam, images quite often even though I don't see him often in the yard. I haven't seen a female or juveniles this summer."

The male Eastern towhee has a black body, rufous sides, white belly and long tail with white spots. The female has a brown body. Juveniles are brown



with heavy streaking. They like dense brush, forest edges and overgrown areas; hence, why it is not always seen. This large sparrow, 7 to 8 inches long, forages on the ground, scratching through leaf litter for seeds and insects. In my first sighting of a towhee, the scratching sound alerted me to its presence.

The towhee is a ground nesting bird that can be attracted to gardens with untamed vegetation. They build an open cup nest hidden under a shrub or in dense vegetation. Its song is a "drink your tea" and a sharp "che-wink" call. They are short distance migrant, wintering in the southeastern United States, but some may linger in northern areas.

Other Brimfield birds
The Brimfield resident and his wife saw a Northern flicker probing around plants in their flower bed. Coming to his birdbath are gray catbirds, adults and at least one juvenile, as well as blue jays, who come for a drink. Since he stopped feeding peanuts due to black bears, he has not seen tufted titmice, red-bellied woodpeckers, Northern cardinals or as many blue jays. Other birds that show up at the bath include chipping sparrow, female or immature; scarlet tanager, female or immature; common yellowthroat warbler; male American goldfinch; American robin and mourning dove.

See BIRDS, page 5

Peach pits and preservation

My first experience with growing peaches was back at my parents' house when a peach pit sprouted in their compost pile.

The resulting tree was moved to a spot in the yard and within a few years, my parents became peach preservers. It was fun for them to "work on" the peaches together, and what I mean by this is blanching, peeling and quartering them, then putting the pieces in a container in syrup and freezing them.

Sure, it was a sticky mess of a time but worth it all to have this bounty in the dead of winter.

Fast forward 30 years to the present day and my mini orchard, deemed "the tiny place" when my kids were little. There I have three peach trees, all started from pits. Two trees were from my friend Eva and one I started on my own.

I planted the pits in my garden in the fall maybe 5 years ago. They went through the stratification process over the winter which helped to

break dormancy. Gradually they would germinate over the spring and summer months. Sometimes they need two winters to complete the process and still not all will germinate. I think the last time I had four or five out of a dozen pits pop up. One tree to keep and others to share!

This year's was the best peach harvest I've ever had on these trees. It was probably the combination of the last couple of wet summers encouraging new growth on the tree and then mild weather this spring during bloom time. It is always so disappointing to have the tree so beautifully in flower and then a couple nights of very cold weather come through to kill them all. I still didn't have what I would call a bumper harvest for three trees, but we

had enough to can 17 quarts (thanks for the canning lesson, dear friend!) and also eat plenty of the fruit fresh off the tree.

Here are a few fun facts about our favorite fuzzy fruit.

Peach trees prefer soil that is near neutral to alkaline. I never think of liming under the trees, but maybe that would be a good idea.

Flower buds are borne only on shoots that grew the previous year. So it is important to prune your trees to encourage new growth.

Peach trees should be pruned to an open center, so that the sun can ripen the fruit. In our part of the country, prune when the tree is blossom or right after it is done flowering. At that point in the growing season you can also see and remove winter damaged branches and stems more easily but be careful not to knock off developing fruit by accident.

I read that spreading compost under the tree right after it has been harvested will start the tree out on the

See GARDEN, page 5

The Holyoke Sun welcomes election letters to the editor

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

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

For more information, call 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspa-

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

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

the HOLYOKE Sun
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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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Levi's first mountain



By Julie Midura
Correspondent

I knew going into this hike that it would require a strategy. You see, our energetic 3-year-old grandson, Levi, can play outside for hours, but walking uphill for long distances isn't his strong point. Peaked Mountain in Monson is not a long or strenuous hike, but when you're not even 3 feet tall, even 475 feet of elevation gain can feel like Mt. Everest.

He started strong, making it to the frog-filled pond with ample energy, but about a third of the way to the top, he said, "Memere, pick me up."

Since carrying my 28-pound grandson to the summit was not what I had

in mind, I decided to utilize every ploy in my arsenal to ensure that he would hike the trail under his own power. I implemented Ploy #1... DISTRACTION.

"Let's look for the red blazes on the trees," I said. Levi inched his way forward in search of the large red painted circles marking the trail. "I see one!" he exclaimed each time he saw a blaze. This only distracted him for a distance of three blazes, so I needed a new distraction.

I asked him if he wanted to be a big boy and use one of my trekking poles like the 'real hikers' do. His eyes lit up. I shortened one of my poles and showed him how to use it. He wrapped his tiny hand around the handle, and for the next 5 minutes, he was so busy staring at the tip of the trekking pole with each step forward that he kept tripping on it.

Whereupon he decided to use the pole for more entertaining purposes. He wielded it over his head like a light saber in order to strike every large boulder he happened upon. Then he transformed it into a javelin to pierce mushrooms with. And finally he turned it into an excavator to



Submitted photo

dig in the mud and dirt.

In between the trekking pole fun, he found boulders to climb on, rocks to throw, branches to hang from, and long sticks to drag behind him. With all of the distractions, it was slow going, but at least he was moving upward on his own 2 feet. Until, that is, the trail became steeper, and he suddenly proclaimed, "I can't do it."

It was time for Ploy #2- DISCOVERIES.

Levi seemed less than impressed with the views, but very excited to celebrate his victory with mini muffins and apple juice. Once he had popped the last muffin in his mouth, he was off like a rocket, exploring the summit. We allowed him the freedom to test his abilities. Levi climbed, jumped and scrambled over numerous boulders. He tripped, then righted himself. He learned what his three-year-old self was capable of.

When he asked Tom and I if we could play hide and seek, we happily obliged. Tom and I spent close to an hour taking turns hiding so that Levi could find us. However, I drew the line when he said, "I'm going to hide by myself, and you and grandpa can come find me." Sorry little man, unless you're wired with a tracker, that's not happening!

When it was finally time to head down, Levi once again asked me to carry him. So I resorted to Ploy #3... BRIBERY. "Levi, if you can make it all the way down to the trailhead on your own two legs, we can stop for an ice cream on the way home."

Needless to say, the vanilla ice cream with rainbow sprinkles sure hit the spot!

Spending time in nature

is crucial to a child's physical health, as well as for their emotional and intellectual development. The best way for children to grow up to be healthy, well-rounded individuals with a strong sense of independence and compassion is to get them off of the screens and into nature. The benefits of outdoor play cannot be understated.

A child needs unstructured time to explore their natural environment. They need to be encouraged to play in a stream, walk through the woods, dig in the dirt, go fishing, or even climb a mountain. Many important life skills that children will need as they grow into teens and adults can be learned through outdoor activities-skills such as multi-tasking, troubleshooting, planning and prioritizing. Outdoor play also helps to build self-confidence, independence and self-esteem. It decreases stress, and increases attention, focus and motivation. I encourage every parent and grandparent to do everything you can to get the children in your life outdoors. Teaching children to appreciate our natural world and all of its wonders is one of the most amazing gifts that you can give them!

BIRDS, from page 4

Common nighthawks

The Brimfield resident said, "I sat out front for three nights recently looking for migrating common nighthawks, but was skunked, didn't see any. However two members of the Allen Bird Club reported large flights last week and this weekend. Both live west of the Connecticut River.

Helping birds

A previous column mentioned the poisoning of birds of prey when they eat rodents that ingested anti-coagulant rodenticide bait. Birds can get stuck on glue traps when used outdoors to kill rodents. The birds die or end up horribly injured. The lucky ones are taken to wildlife rehabilitators, who can

often save the bird. However, they then need to spend months in care growing back feathers.

South Hadley resident

A South Hadley resident said in an email, "Cedar waxwings sound like delightful birds, I hope I can see one or more some day. I'm in the process of removing non-native and invasive plant species from my property and intend to plant berry bushes, among other things. Maybe that will entice them. Though I do have tons of pokeberry on the perimeters of my yard."

Eagles, ravens and more

My daughter, Paula, saw a bald eagle circling the Ware River by the Church Street rail trail. It was flying very low so either it was landing or just took off. She

also heard a raven calling by the covered bridge and then saw it in a tree. She and her daughters saw an osprey while driving over a bridge in Rhode Island. She also had a Carolina wren on her back deck recently.

Canada geese

Two of my grandchildren and I saw a huge flock of Canada geese in a field in North Brookfield last Friday. I stopped to look at them and my granddaughter, Lizzie, took a photo of the geese.

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

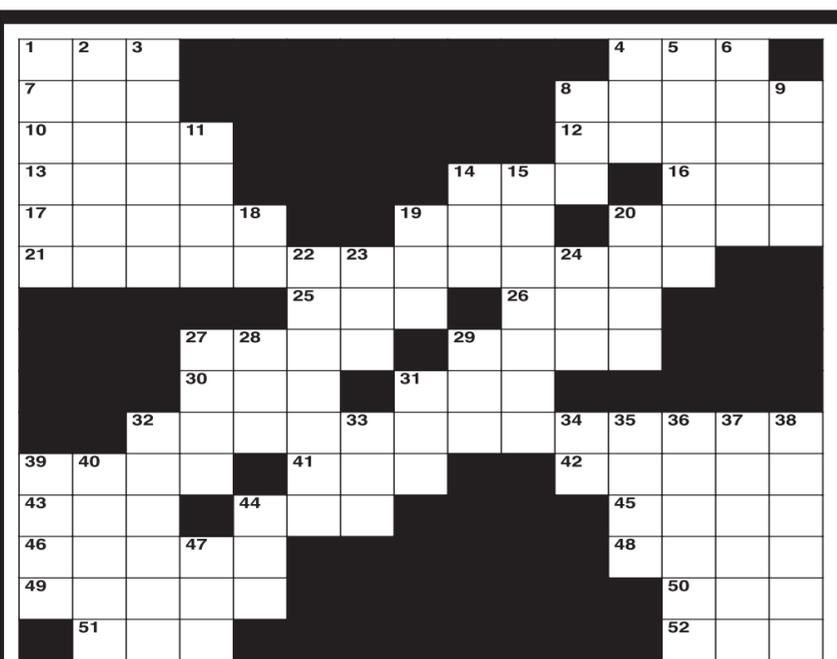
right foot. I am going to get to that later this week.

Peach trees are not very long lived. You may get 10-20 years out of them. Trees usually top off at around ten feet tall and wide.

There are such a thing as super dwarf trees, grown as specimens in the shrub border or a kitchen garden, but from what I hear, fruit qual-

ity isn't the best. I'll stick to the regular size trees, thank you! And planning ahead with replacement trees means sowing some pits in the garden this fall. Even my mom has sown some around the foundation of her house, just as an experiment. I love that she is still experimenting. I would imagine the memories of "working on" the peaches with my dad hold a special place in her heart.

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



CLUES ACROSS

1. Utilitarian fashion accessory
4. Engine additive
7. Macaws
8. Listens to
10. Self-righteously moralistic person
12. Made of wood
13. Chinese lute
14. Beginning military rank
16. Indicates near
17. Ties the score
19. Chum
20. Long ago
21. Localities
25. Midway between northeast and east
26. Make fun of
27. Tennis great Arthur

29. Construction location
30. Cow's noise
31. Blue
32. One of the Fab Four
39. Formula 1 team
41. Dash
42. Lifting device
43. Basics
44. Keyboard key
45. Old Irish alphabet
46. Shaking of the Earth's surface
48. Covered stadium
49. Sword handles
50. Longing or yearning
51. Creators' social network
52. Boxing's GOAT

CLUES DOWN

1. Occur
2. Show up
3. Capital of Taiwan
4. Ocean
5. Givers and ___
6. Gets ready
8. Ad ___
9. Fit of irritation
11. Criminal organization
14. Exclamation that denotes disgust
15. American state
18. Sensor hub
19. Before
20. The boundary of a surface
22. Witnesses
23. Singular
24. Type of meal
27. Music awards show

28. Former French coin of low value
29. A bag-like structure in an animal
31. Schenectady County Airport
32. Calm down
33. Partner to cheese
34. Cola brand
35. Stepped on
36. Japanese city
37. Type of coating
38. A citizen of Yemen
39. Popular breakfast item corned beef
40. On a line at right angles to a ship's length
44. First responders
47. Short-term memory

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 8

CHURCH DIRECTORY



Your Community Church

Blessed Sacrament Parish

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

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

Our Lady of the Cross Catholic Parish

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

St. Peter's Lutheran Church

Rev. Debora Stein
34 Jarvis Ave., Holyoke
Office: (413) 536-3369
Office: stpetersholyokeye@gmail.com
Pastor: revdebma@gmail.com
Website: www.stpetersholyokeye.org
Social media:
facebook.com/stpetersholyokeye
OFFICE HOURS:
Monday - Wednesday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.,
Thursday 2 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. (Call first)
WORSHIP:
Sundays at 9:30 a.m. (also on Facebook Live) & Thursdays at 7 p.m.
Other: Prayers with Pastor - Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. - on Facebook Live.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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

Donations needed for Thomas J. O'Connor animal shelter

AGAWAM – For a limited time, Cooper's Gifts, Apparel, Home located at 161 Main St., Agawam is accepting shelter supply donations for Foundation for TJO Animals, which is located at 237 Memorial Drive, Springfield.

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. They are 501(c)(3) organization. Donations will be collected at Cooper's now through Sept. 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, and we are open 7 days a week," Gourde said. Items may be brought to the shop anytime up until Sept. 30. Cooper's

is open daily 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sundays 12-4 p.m.

"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 cus-

tomers 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 \$62,000 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/.

CLEAN, from page 1

St. Patrick's Committee of Holyoke.

"So this is our third annual day of service, and it was initially kicked off during Hayley (Dunn's) presidency," Haslam said. Dunn is the current Media Liaison and is a Past St. Patrick's Committee of Holyoke President, and it should be stated that her presence can be felt everywhere throughout the Parade or 'Green Season.'

Haslam also noted that it's a point of tradition which allows volunteers and the committee to have the ability to give back to those who continue to provide and offer support, while having a chance to beautify the Paper City.

"We partner with OneHolyokeCDC for all of our supplies, which supply all of our pickers, trash bags, as a way to keep ourselves safe, and we are grateful to have them (OneHolyokeCDC) be here in the city of Holyoke," he said. "But it's a really big team effort that sees the committee come together, and we are grateful for Brennan's Place to be our host spot."

In addition, offering reflection about what it meant to be the Grand Colleen until her successor is found was Reardon.

"This whole year has just been a whirlwind of events, and giving back to

the community, and celebrating Irish Heritage," Reardon said. She also discussed her hopes and aspirations for the upcoming Parade, now being at the proverbial halfway point, while offering a bit of advice for those who may come after and wear the crown.

"I'm really excited for the next upcoming season and I hope any young Irish women in the Western Mass area, or in Holyoke, will want to come out and try out for the chance to be a Colleen, as it's a great opportunity, and full of a great committee," Reardon noted.

And finally joining in on the experience, and providing a reaction to the sense of unity was St. Patrick's Committee of Holyoke volunteer and local business owner Altavive Chinn, of L5 Restoration LLC.

"This was an amazing experience, and I love to do volunteer work, and it's just nice to know we're helping make Holyoke clean," Chinn said. She also said her enthusiasm to be part of the Parade from a different angle, and felt it's a big moment for the city.

"I'm excited and there's a lot that happens, as there are a ton of events," Chinn said. "And I want to add that the committee does an incredible job, and I love the city of Holyoke, and I want to add that Holyoke is a beautiful place and it's nice to know people are committed to keep it clean."



Volunteers gather outside Brennan's Place before heading out to clean up area streets.

Turley photos by Brendan Rooney



The coalition gets ready to head out.



OneHolyokeCDC provided plenty of supplies.

SHERIFF, from page 1

and women of our communities that have become victims, and survivors," Cocchi said. Before issuing a stern warning while raising domestic abuse awareness "As the Sheriff, I want everyone to know we're in the fight, we're not going anywhere, and we're going to continue every day to try to make a little bit of difference in moving the needle to a safer, more respectful, community because that's what everybody deserves and that's what people expect," said Cocchi.

In addition, offering similar sentiments about the resilience of the community and the Hampden County Sheriff's office was Springfield Mayor Domenic Sarno, who was one of the guests of honor at the road race. Sarno revealed that he sent over Springfield's 'forestry crews' to assist as much as possible, after a brief conversation with Holyoke Mayor Joshua A. Garcia.

"We did some mutual aid on Saturday, as we saw you guys (Holyoke) got hit pretty hard with a microburst," Sarno said. "I sent over Tom Ashe and Alex (Sherman), and they helped out with your electric light and got everything going, and the Sheriff's crew did a hell of a job, cleaning this up."

Sarno also bestowed ample praise on the continued efforts of Cocchi to combat the battle of domestic abuse.

"The Sheriff Shuffle raises over thousands and thousands of dollars, and I commend Sheriff Nick (Cocchi), who has done a hell of a job, to help individuals and families get back



A look at the runners ready to go as they continued to pile in

Turley photos by Brendan Rooney

on their feet," he said. "Even though every year it seems to rain a little bit, the rain has stopped, and at this time in the darkness, when you see the darkness, all of these efforts help people see the light at the end of the tunnel."

As Cocchi mentioned prior, the charity race was organized in collaboration with the YWCA of Western Massachusetts, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting victims of domestic violence through various programs. Providing a bit of further insight about the continued partnership between the Hampden County Sheriff's office and the YWCA was Tiera Wright, the V.P. of development and communications for the YWCA of Western Massachusetts.

"It's such a great partnership because it really spreads the word on how necessary it is to raise awareness about domestic violence, and as our CEO (Dineen) has stated prior, it's also great to have a male role model showing other men, because we have had increased calls of men to our hotline whenever he's

(Cocchi) has come out in support, so it's just great to have law enforcement but also Sheriff Cocchi's reputation behind us to raise awareness for domestic violence," Wright said. Wright also revealed that the YWCA operates four residential programs, along with featuring 20 community-based programs, and a domestic violence shelter to assist victims in need of support.

In addition, before the opening festivities of the race kicked off and the supporters sped to the starting point, Race Coordinator and Program Supervisor at the Hampden County Sheriff's Office, Davis Snow, took a moment to reflect on how everything came together, and offered a bit of history about the 'Sheriff Shuffle.'

"It's truly incredible how everyone has come together, and that's the vibe and the theme of what we're doing here, as our goal is to bring everyone, while encouraging the opportunity to extend the invitation and take a stand and raise awareness for an incredible cause," Snow said. "So this is a long, ongoing event designed, and there

have been a variety of partnerships in the past, such as the Boys and Girls Club of Western Mass, the Youth Leadership Academy, but we have been selecting the YWCA of Western Mass for the past few years due to the uptick we have seen in

there will be a Sheriff Shuffle," Cocchi said as he got the crowd pumped up. "We can put events on, but make it known without you, this isn't just an event to recognize and support domestic violence survivors, it's to also remember and acknowledge the poor men and women who didn't make it, but more importantly, this is a movement of our community saying enough is enough," Cocchi said. "And we're not going to stand for it anymore because nobody has the right physically, emotionally, or mentally to get in somebody's wheelhouse and change how they live their life, and I'm so proud of my friend Liz (Dineen) and all of her staff at the YWCA because what they do makes a difference." Cocchi then set the stage for Dineen,

impact of domestic violence and recognizing the ongoing battle that carries on.

"Domestic violence is something that should not occur in the home, the workplace, or the community, and if you know anybody who is a survivor of domestic violence, please have them call the YWCA of Western Mass," Dineen said. "I have the most incredible team of employees who want to help, and together we can change the paradigm for the future for the woman and for her children, so call us, we want to help, and once again, thank you for being here and participating in this event, and thank you, dear Nick."

Cocchi also passed the mic to Snow, who kept his remarks short and to the point.

"It was an all-night effort that saw many hands come together to make this event and moment possible," Snow said as he delivered remarks to the runners, before delivering a sense of everlasting gratitude to all first responders across all services.

After the race came to an end, attendees then returned to the Elks community room, where live music was being played, raffle prizes were drawn, and champions were crowned as the overall 5K race champion was Joseph Harris, 32, of South Hadley, and taking home the title for the women's bracket was winner Alexandra Ferreira, 32, of Springfield.

The funds raised from the race will aid all programs and initiatives from the YWCA, furthering the organization's mission to provide critical resources and services to those affected by domestic violence.

"It's such a great partnership because it really spreads the word on how necessary it is to raise awareness about domestic violence,"

- Tiera Wright
YWCA of Western Massachusetts

domestic violence, which is extremely alarming." He also unveiled that there is a plethora of resources that many may not know about, and that the event is rooted and founded upon bringing the community together to break the stigma of domestic violence, and to make a sense of change for the victims and survivors affected.

Once the runners were set at the starting point, both Cocchi and Dineen delivered memorable speeches.

"There is no quit in our game, and let it be known

but before she delivered her remarks, the runners offered a standing ovation.

"Thank you for all coming out, I so deeply appreciate every one of you being here, and I need to make a shoutout to Sheriff Cocchi," Dineen said. "You (Cocchi) are amazing. You moved heaven and earth to have this event, and you mobilized the people you knew that could do this, and this is fantastic."

Dineen also delivered a sense of gratitude to Snow before touching upon the

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Holyoke girls volleyball wins first two games

HOLYOKE – It was a successful week for the Holyoke High School girls volleyball team as the regular season opened. The Knights defeated Commerce 3-1 last Tuesday in the season opener and then came home and

started the home slate with a 3-0 sweep of SICS.

The Knights will travel to Chicopee High School on Friday, Sept. 12 at 6 p.m., then come home to face South Hadley on Monday, Sept. 15 at 5:30 p.m.



Anaya Rosario reaches out for a bump. Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Tatiana Gonzalez goes for the set.



Mellani Santana Rodriguez gets the bump to her side.



Kelcy Brunelle attempts a spike.



Vicssel Colon gets a hit from the libero position.



Jadhe Cortes Rodriguez sends the ball over the net.

Soccer splits first two games



Jaybriel Rivera-Soto sends a goal kick away. Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke High School boys soccer team defeated Southwick in its season opener last Thursday evening. Nayan Tabin, Xevier Davila, and Kerdy Laura scored the goals for the Knights. Ryan Kennedy had two assists.

The Knights would suffer a 3-2 loss against Pathfinder on Monday, Sept. 8 and are 1-1 to start the season. Holyoke next faces Westfield on Tuesday, Sept. 16 at 5 p.m.

Jaybriel Rivera-Soto sends a goal kick away.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Christian Piedra gets the touch.



Nathaniel Gomes tries to turn play around.



Gigi Morales fights a pair of opponents for the ball. Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Catalina Cotto gets a stick on the ball.



Ari Kazigan kicks the ball away for a save.



Sujelyz Peralta tries to defend against an opponent.

Knights field hockey takes pair of losses

HOLYOKE – Last week, Holyoke High School field hockey opened up the regular season with two losses.

The Knights fell to Southwick 11-0 followed by an 8-0 defeat against

Smith Academy. The Knights seek their first win on Sept. 12 against Amherst Regional at 4 p.m.

► Sports

Leclerc, Patnode get wins at Modnaddock

WINCHESTER, N.H. - Teen Ty Leclerc is for real and so too is a slightly older guy named Todd Patnode. The potent pair split a pair of 35-lap Modified main events Saturday night at Monadnock Speedway, with each backing up his dash to victory lane with a strong third-place performance in the second feature event.

Other winners Saturday on the high banks of the Great Race Place included Super Street hot shoe Zach Zilinski, who won for the second time this summer and Gordon Farnum, Farnum, who jumped into the Swanzey Oil ride mid-season, won for the third week in a row and fourth time this summer.

While points aren't kept in the youth Young Guns division, 2025 will be remembered as the year of Hunter Duquette. The Bay State teen scored his track-high seventh win Saturday. And in the Six Shooters, defending track king Michael Yeaton moved to

the top of the leader board with his second win of the summer.

Leclerc started up front alongside Andrew Brousseau as the Allstates Material Group 604 Modifieds went to war in the night's first of two 35-lap features. The Taunton, Mass. star, who'd scored his first career win just three weeks earlier, jumped all over the opening lead and never looked back.

Top gun Tyler Leary raced most of the way in Leclerc's shadow but could never find a path around the flying teen. Patnode was quickly up to Leary's bumper but could advance no farther, settling for the bronze medal finish and setting his sights on a bigger prize in the nightcap.

With the top eight then inverted to start round number two, top points man Brian Robie, who entered Saturday night's twins with four wins already this summer, took charge on lap two. Patnode, though, firing from row three, led by a foot as the two former

champs hit the stripe on lap four and then held strong to beat Robie to the checkers by a single length. Leclerc, blasting off from row four, was strong in third.

While Robie was winless on the night, he and his potent Bar Harbor Bank and Trust ride still holds a commanding 64-point lead in the race to the 2025 604 Modified championship, with only two remaining races this season.

Michael Lashua, stronger and better every week, led the first eight laps of the Twin State Truck Services Super Street feature. Zach Zilinski, though, wasn't about to let him get away, low-lining into the lead in turn two and then holding off a blockbuster cast to score his second win of the season.

Zilinski had to first hold off Erik Smith, and then JD Stockwell, as the presence of five-time winner Dylan Zullo moved closer and closer from his row four starting spot. Zullo rocketed into second on lap 16 but, on this night,

had to settle for second, taking the checkers glued to Zilinski's bumper as he continued his march toward a first-time title, Stockwell finished his strong night's work in third, with two other previous 2025 winners, Chris Riendeau and Smith rounding out the top five.

Reigning Brattleboro Towing and Recovery Pure Stock champ Andrea St. Amour started up front in Saturday night's 25-lap feature and immediately took charge. While she had a swarm of top contenders at her heels, the biggest thing to keep her from cruising into victory lane was coming like a heat-seeking missile from way back in row five.

Gobbling up positions from any lane he chose, Farnum took fourth on lap six, third on lap nine, and sailed past points leader Kyle Kenny two laps later. St. Amour was next. Taking the lead low along the front chute as lap 13 went into the books. He sped off into the sunset to win for

the third week in a row. St. Amour and Carlos Grenier, staged a terrific battle for the second spot, with St. Amour prevailing to earn the runnerup hardware. Jimmy Zellman was fourth on the night, and fifth went to Addison Brooks.

Hunter Duquette made easy work of powering to win number seven in the Doug's Auto Body Young Guns Saturday. Leading all the way in the caution-free 15-lapper, he romped to victory after earlier winning his heat. Ella Grabowski impressed in second, and Maya Bell was third.

Michael Yeaton and Travis Hollins were tied atop the Six Shooter leader board entering Saturday's third outing of the season. Not anymore. Like he'd done a few weeks ago at Claremont, Yeaton, the reigning king of the Six Shooters on the high banks, blasted off to win by a country mile Saturday. Hollins was second, and first-timer Jeff Staiti came home third.

Fresh look inside Hall

HOLYOKE - Big things are happening at the Hall of Fame museum this fall.

Launching Induction Weekend on Oct. 18, the expanded Beach Volleyball exhibit takes fans on an interactive journey through the sport's rise from the sand to the Olympic stage and beyond. Explore historic videos, trace volleyball's global reach with a dynamic world map, and discover how our inductees helped shape the game's incredible story.

The Hall is also unveiling a brand-new Inductee Hall - a dedicated space where every plaque, from the very first class to the Class of 2025, will be honored together in one inspiring showcase of greatness.

Enhanced Olympic and World ParaVolley exhibits will debut with rare artifacts and powerful new stories, giving visitors even more reasons to celebrate the game's diversity and global impact.

The Hall you know is being reimagined to add more - more stories, more history, more ways to connect with the sport we love.

Public Notices

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No.
HD25P1735GD
In the matter of:
Zachary Daly
Of: Holyoke, MA
RESPONDENT
Alleged Incapacitated Person
CITATION GIVING NOTICE
OF PETITION FOR
APPOINTMENT OF
GUARDIAN FOR
INCAPACITATED
PERSON PURSUANT TO
G.L. c. 190B, §5-304

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Valley Springs Behavioral Hlth Hos of Holyoke, MA** in the above captioned matter alleging that **Zachary Daly** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

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

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of **09/19/2025**.

This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceed-

ing may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
 Date: August 21, 2025

Rosemary A. Saccomani
 Register of Probate
 09/12/2025

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION
NOTICE OF A VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING
Project Description:
Replacement of Appleton Street Bridges - Br# H-21-020, Appleton Street over First Level Canal & Br# H-21-014, Appleton Street over Second Level Canal
Project File No. 600935

A Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed project in Holyoke, MA.

WHEN: 6:00 PM, Thursday, September 18, 2025

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed project. All views and comments submitted in response to the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed project consists of the replacement of two bridges that carry Appleton Street over the First and Second Level Canals in Holyoke, MA. The bridges will be constructed in stages, allowing for pedestrian and bicycle access to be maintained for the duration of the project. The final

cross sections for both bridges will include two 11' travel lanes, two 6' bike lanes, and two 8' sidewalks.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands. MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisitions will be presented in the hearing.

Project inquiries, written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking may be submitted to Carrie E. Lavallee, P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to massdotmajorprojects@dot.state.ma.us or via US Mail to Suite 7210, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Major Projects, Project File No. 600935. Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days after the hearing is hosted.

This hearing is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (e.g. interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, live captioning, videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), TTD/TTY at (857) 266-0603, fax (857) 368-0602 or by email (MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us). Requests should be made as soon as possible and prior to the hearing, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten business days before the hearing.

This hearing will be hosted, or a cancellation announcement posted, on the internet at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events>.

JONATHAN GULLIVER
 HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR
 CARRIE E. LAVALLEE, P.E.
 CHIEF ENGINEER
 09/12/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No.
HD25P1810EA
Estate of:
Larissa Dyan Nelson
Date of Death: 04/07/2025
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Helena McCracken of Ashfield, 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: **Helena McCracken of Ashfield, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/26/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION

UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
 Date: August 29, 2025

Rosemary A Saccomani,
 Register of Probate
 09/12/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No.
HD24P1533EA
Estate of:
Mary F. Provost
Date of Death: 03/31/2024
CITATION ON PETITION FOR SALE OF REAL ESTATE BY A PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

To all interested persons: A Petition for Sale of Real Estate has been filed by **Louis A. D'Amarino, Esq. of Taunton, MA** requesting that the court authorize the Personal Representative to sell the decedent's real estate at a private sale.

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 09/24/2025.

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

Witness, **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
 Date: August 20, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani,
 Register of Probate
 09/12/2025

City of Holyoke
Office of Purchasing
Invitation to Bid 2026-10DPW Phase V Stained Glass Window Restoration
 Sealed bids for **City Hall Stained Glass Windows Restoration Project Phase V, Holyoke, MA** will be received on **Thursday, October 2, 2025** at the City of Holyoke Office of Procurement, 536 Dwight Street, Room 3, Holyoke, Massachusetts 01040, Attn: Jaime Morrow, Chief Procurement Officer until **2 PM prevailing time**, at which said Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. All bids shall be submitted within a sealed envelope addressed to the "City of Holyoke Office of Procurement, 536 Dwight Street, Room 3, Holyoke, Massachusetts 01040, Attn: Jaime Morrow, Chief Procurement Officer" and titled "City Hall Stained Glass Windows Restoration Project Phase V, Holyoke, MA, Bid#2026-10DPW". Beginning at 10 AM on September 10, 2025, all project documents will be distributed and supplied by the City of Holyoke in electronic format only. Submit requests for documents to both Jaime Morrow, Chief Procurement Officer, at morrowj@holyoke.org, and Victoria Houle, Assistant City Engineer, at houllev@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 and fax number. The work under this contract shall include complete restoration of the contract specified quantity of stained-glass windows as well as the furnishing and installing of new window frames and protective glazing. All work shall be performed in accordance with the project specifications and generally accepted practices and all applicable standards established by the applicable industry and regulatory agencies. The City Hall is listed in the State Register of Historic Places, all work must comply with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, and the project is being partially funded with a grant from the Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund, Massachusetts Historical Commission. This project may also be funded with supplemental federal funds. Bidding procedures shall be in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 149, Sections 44A-44J and minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. Chapter 149, Section 26-27H, inclusive as amended. A non-mandatory but highly recommended walk through will be held on September 17, 2025 @11AM at Holyoke City Hall, 536 Dwight Street. No electronic submission allowed. The city reserves the right to reject any and all bids.
 09/12/2025

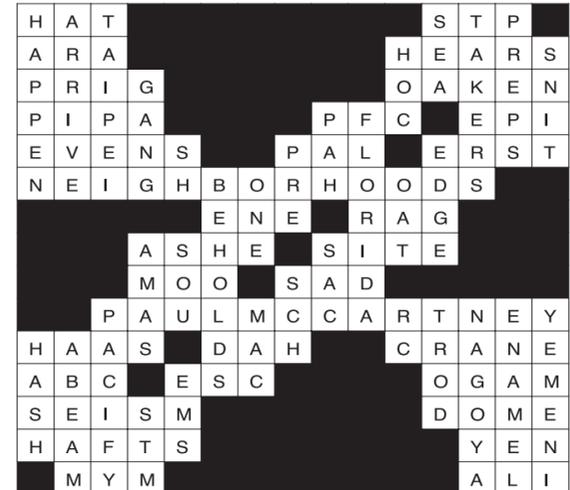
The Holyoke Sun
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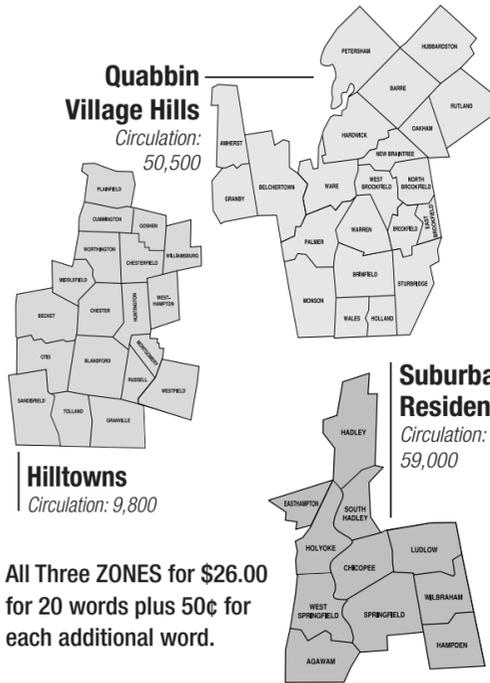
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TOWN OF WARE EQUIPMENT OPERATOR/TRUCK DRIVER

Duties include but not limited to: Operating various types of motorized vehicles, snow and ice removal equipment and other misc. equipment. Participate in snowplowing, road sanding, snow and ice removal, hazardous materials mitigation, and natural disasters. Assisting with preparation of trucks and other equipment for different seasonal jobs including repairing and maintaining sanders and snowplows; repairing roadways, sidewalks, and other surface areas and drainage structures.
Qualifications: A high school graduate or equivalent, experience in the operation of construction equipment, road maintenance, drainage installation, and operation of power equipment and snow plowing, Class B CDL License with Air Brake endorsement required. All applicants must pass a criminal background/CORI check and a pre-employment physical including drug testing. Hourly rate range: \$23.32-\$25.26.
Submit resume to:
Town of Ware
ATTN: Human Resources
126 Main Street
Ware, MA 01082

REAL ESTATE

COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE

SHOP, WAREHOUSE, GARAGE, light industrial, yard space, contractor space/yard for rent. 2k to 4k sq. ft. indoor space available. Large yard/outdoor parking available. Location: **1317 Federal St., Belchertown, MA.** Contact Ben 413-372-2216.

FOR RENT

FOR RENT



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

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

In The News

History Room hosting Comeau presentation

HOLYOKE – On Monday, Sept. 15 at 5:30 p.m., the History Room of the Holyoke Public Library will host Robert Comeau as he shares his research into the more than 30 men from Ireland Parish who fought in the American Revolution. Ireland Parish was the section of West Springfield that became Holyoke in 1850. Although sources from this period are scant, Bob gathers together pension records, maps, local histories, grave-stone evidence, and more to piece together a picture of local participation in the

Revolution from 1775 to 1783. The event is in the Community Room and is free and open to the public. Co-sponsored by the Holyoke History Room, the Holyoke Preservation Trust, and the Holyoke Local Cultural Council.

For family history researchers, the History Room also sponsors a monthly drop-in genealogy lab. The next date is Sept. 24 from 2:30 to 5 p.m. Details are on the History Room webpage: <https://www.holyokelibrary.org/Pages/Index/227250/history-room-news-events>.

Hibernians hosting clothing, food drive

HOLYOKE – The Ancient Order of Hibernians of Hampden/Hampshire Counties along with the Polish National Credit Union

Announce the Annual Clothing and Food Drive for Providence Ministries from September to Dec. 1.

Please drop off gently used clothing, blankets, sleeping bags, and/or non-perishable food items to the Polish National

Credit Union 270 Westfield Rd. Holyoke. Make a donation and be entered to win a raffle basket.

Please help those who are experiencing food insecurity and assist Providence Ministries as they continue to transform lives through their life-changing programs. Stop by the PNCU-your efforts will be greatly appreciated.

Read or subscribe to The Holyoke Sun online at www.sun.turley.com

Registration open for Annual Run Stanley 5K

WESTFIELD – Stanley Park will be hosting the 13th Annual Run Stanley which has grown into a fun yearly tradition for the whole family. Join us for this all-inclusive event on Sunday, Oct. 5 at 10 a.m. at Stanley Park. This event includes the 5K trail run/walk, a 5K K9 trail run/walk, the Munchkin Run hosted by Dunkin' Donuts, and The Stroll & Roll. The Stroll & Roll is a wheel friendly 1-mile non-competitive walkthrough Stanley Park's accessible pathways.

There is also the Stanley Cup School Spirit trophy

for the school with the most participation in Run Stanley. When you register, be sure to enter your school name.

Run Stanley 2025 continues our fundraising efforts to benefit the care of the Frank Stanley Beveridge Wildlife Sanctuary. Please join the community of runners, walkers, hikers, dog owners, and nature lovers of all ages who care about Stanley Park for a fun event that will help to improve the safety and accessibility of its wildlife trails.

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

STORMS, from page 1

touched upon was putting out a call to the public to be a bit patient, as he understands that in the coming weeks, frustrations will be raised and also heard, as the cleanup carries on.

"I appreciate our customers' patience and cooperation, as well as our team's hard work and commitment to our community," Lavelle said.

Adding to the overarching narrative that it's going to take some time for Holyoke to bounce back to normal was Garcia, who provided an update this past Monday morning, via social media on Facebook, about the latest restoration efforts, citing "the primary remaining issue is on Cleveland Street/Park Slope areas, where fallen trees damaged utility infrastructure," he said. "Verizon has not yet responded to address the affected poles, so HGE

crews will be moving forward with installing two new poles. This will enable HGE to replace the damaged wires, with most customers in the area expected to have power restored by approximately noon on Monday." Garcia also confirmed that approximately 10 customers who were served by a hard-to-reach backyard pole line required 'extensive repairs.' Still, it was reported that those restorations have been completed as of Monday evening. It was also revealed this past Wednesday, by Holyoke Water via a social media post on Facebook, that the Whiting St. Reservoir is back open, as all of the fallen trees and debris from the weekend's storm have been cleared. In addition, this past Monday evening, the Holyoke DPW confirmed via social media that the waste facility on Berkshire Street was open on Wednesday and Thursday to help and address resident



Holyoke Police are directing traffic during clean up.

Submitted photos



Cleanup crew at the Holyoke Elks.

disposal needs as they clean up debris from Saturday's storm event. The department noted that Residents were required to possess a dump card, which they can pick up

at the DPW Administrative Office at 63 North Canal Street, as the building is open Monday through Friday, from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. Throughout all

of this, the organization remains committed to developing a plan to provide a Saturday pickup for storm debris that residents will bring to the curb.

SCHOOLS, from page 1

Staff at Lawrence Elementary have found the playbook—and the coaching they are receiving from their supervisors—helpful as they strive to start the school year off well.

"The playbook names our focus each week," said Lawrence Elementary Principal Katie Bourque. "Everyone in our building is thinking about the focus and working on it together."

The playbook is one of many ways HPS strives to live out its instructional vision (English, Spanish) of providing engaging, rigorous instruction that meets diverse needs, fosters a love for learning, and prepares students for future success.

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