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HOLYOKE

Sun

Council approves funding for schools

By Quinn Suomala
Correspondent

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke City Council approved funding for Maurice A. Donahue and Lt. Elmer J. McMahon Elementary to get new doors and windows.

This approval was for a schematic design study that will look at both schools to determine what steps need to be taken to procure new doors and windows for both schools.

For Donahue the council allocated \$125,000 for the study and for McMahon they allocated \$75,000.

These amounts were based upon each schools’ individual needs and cover not only the study but the estimated costs for the future work on the buildings.

McMahon had already had part of their windows and doors replaced in previous work, so this study will be to finish the job.

“We originally weren’t able to do the courtyard

See COUNCIL, page 6



Above, the mural unveiling at La Borinquena. Right, Stephanie Colon and Edgardo Miranda Rodriguez celebrate the unveiling. Submitted photos

Murals unveiled

HOLYOKE – New murals were unveiled last weekend in the city. The work was done by Edgardo Miranda-Rodriguez, comic

book artist and creator of the bestselling superhero series La Borinquena. The ribbon cutting was held Sept. 12. Mural creation has been

going on in the city for the past few years, as various spaces have been decorated through multiple programs and grants. 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.



Superintendent shows off soccer skills, learns about teamwork



As part of a new video series, Superintendent of Schools Jackie Glasheen worked out with the Holyoke High School girls soccer team. Submitted photo

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

In a very unique way to connect with the community, new HPS Superintendent Jackie Glasheen launched a new monthly video series on Tuesday, Sept. 15, as part of her commitment to building one team for Holyoke.

Her first video brought her out on the Holyoke High School soccer field where she met with the four captains of the varsity girls soccer team, along with head coach Kellen Matthews.

“I am going to pick their brains today, and they are going to tell me how to build a really strong team,” Glasheen said at the start of the video. In the minutes that

See SUPT., page 6

Community helps advocate for paras

By Quinn Suomala
Correspondent

HOLYOKE – Many community members of Holyoke Public Schools came before the school committee on Sept. 14 to advocate for a better collective bargaining agreement for paraprofessionals.

The community members specifically desired higher pay for paras as well as longer assault leave.

Assault leave is a form of paid time off offered to paras and teachers when they have to step away from work due to an injury that resulted from

See PARAS, page 6

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Wistariahurst set to host cemetery tours



The Skinner family monument located in Forestdale Cemetery.

HOLYOKE – Step past the cemetery gates and peer behind the veil with Wistariahurst Museum 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.

The tours will be held on Saturday, Oct. 10 with tours starting at 3 and 3:20 p.m. More time slots may open as tours fill up.

This tour will lead guests throughout the upper, paved level of the cemetery. A knowledgeable guide will share the meanings behind grave markers’ iconography

and will lead guests to the graves of notable figures in Holyoke history. Wistariahurst volunteers portraying these historical figures will share information about their lives and deaths.

Cemetery Tours at Forestdale Cemetery include walking and standing on cement and gravel walkways, with tours lasting around forty-five minutes to one hour. 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. Additional time slots may be available if the current time slots sell out.

Hibernians, PNCU holding food drive

HOLYOKE – The Hibernians of Hampden/Hampshire Counties, in partnership with the Polish National Credit Union, are conducting a food drive through Dec. 1 for 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.



Mall hosting ‘Get Hired’ job fair event on Sept. 24

HOLYOKE – Job seekers across Western Massachusetts are invited to Holyoke Mall to advance their careers during the Get Hired Job Fair on Thursday, Sept. 24, from 1 to 4 p.m. on the lower level in Macy’s Court.

This free community job fair, sponsored by Springfield Public Schools, features employers across a diverse number of industries, seeking candidates at all skill levels to fill both full-time and part-time positions. Candidates will connect with employers one-on-one for on-the-spot interviews and hiring.

Just some of the Western Massachusetts businesses participating in this fall’s job fair include UMass Amherst Police Department, Florence Bank, MassHire Holyoke, Gandara Center, JCPenney, Hannoush Jewelers, Touched by an Angel, TruNorth Bank and more.

Interested employers should contact James Geraghty, Advertising Manager, at 617-840-2998 or jamesgeraghty@pyramidmg.com.

For more information on Holyoke Mall stores, restaurants, and entertainment venues, please visit Holyokemall.com or follow us on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok.

Businesses invited to 58th Annual Chamber Cup

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

The Chamber Cup offers companies and organizations

sponsoring a hole or meal, donating raffle prizes, or volunteering during the event. Each option offers a different path to visibility and engagement, whether a company wants to host clients, recognize employees, promote its brand, or support a signature community event.

The day will include golf at Westover Golf Course, breakfast, lunch, raffles, and opportunities to connect with business owners, executives, public officials, nonprofit leaders, and professionals from throughout Western Massachusetts. For sponsors

and raffle donors, the event provides added exposure before and during the tournament, helping businesses stay visible among a broad and engaged audience.

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

Salute to Holyoke Day at The Big E Sept. 22

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.

Preserving your Digital Life History event at library

HOLYOKE – What happens to all the family history we have on our phones, social media pages, and in our emails? How do family historians manage their own digital files and those of family members to create a lasting digital legacy?

Archivist and genealogy consultant Rhonda Chadwick will be at the Holyoke Public Library at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday,

Sept. 24, to coach attendees on preserving emails, Facebook posts, word documents, pictures, and more.

She will go over best file formats for long-term use and provide guidelines for saving digital audio and video files. She will also discuss digitizing old VHS tapes, papers, photographs, and books. Hosted by the Holyoke History Room and made possible by a grant from the Holyoke Local

Cultural Council, with funding from the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

The Holyoke History Room’s monthly Genealogy Labs also resume this month on Wednesday, Sept. 23, from 2:30 to 5 p.m. in the Computer Classroom. Hillary Schau (2:30 to 4:30 p.m.) and Iris Alicea Flores (3 to 5 p.m.) offer assistance to drop-in researchers. Iris has expertise in Caribbean and South and Central

American genealogical resources and is bilingual.

Additional drop-in labs are Oct. 28, Nov. 18, and Dec. 16. Ms. Alicea Flores will also offer a special presentation on Saturday, Oct. 17: Exploring Hispanic Genealogy & Indigenous & African Caribbean Roots.

All events are free and no pre-registration is needed. Holyoke History Room, Holyoke Public Library, 250 Chestnut St.

Memento Mori ‘haunting’ exhibit at Wistariahurst Museum coming this October

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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Citywide clean-up seeking volunteers

HOLYOKE – A citywide clean-up organized by the Hampden County Sheriff’s Department will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 30, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

The clean-up is part of the city’s preparation of Hispanic Heritage Month, Sept. 15 to Oct. 15, which

celebrates the culture, history, and contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans.

Volunteers are asked to assemble in the parking lot at Heritage State

Park on Appleton Street between 9:45 and 10 a.m. The clean-up will be followed by a cook-out at the park.

Participants are asked to register in advance: <https://forms.gle/8EqGizLMRiixsrTf9>

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Girls Inc. announces the addition of new board members

HOLYOKE – Girls Inc. of the Valley, a nonprofit dedicated to supporting and empowering young women through research-based programming, mentorship, and college and career readiness opportunities, announced the appointment of seven new members to its board of directors.

The new board members bring a diverse range of professional expertise, lived experiences, and community perspectives that will help Girls Inc. of the Valley expand its impact and advance its mission of creating opportunities for young girls to thrive.

“We are thrilled to welcome these seven exceptional leaders to Girls Inc. of the Valley’s board of directors,” said Executive Director

Suzanne Parker. “Their collective expertise, passion, and commitment to empowering girls will be invaluable as we continue to grow our programs and reach more youth with the resources, relationships, and opportunities they need to succeed.”

The new board members are:

- Sabria Brown; Independent Researcher and Consultant
- Tatiana Cole; Free to Flourish, LLC
- Sheree Denson; Union Labor Life
- Bernadette Harrigan; MassMutual
- Glorimar Irizarry; Holyoke Health Center
- Johanna Truswell; ISO New England
- Phyllis Williams-

Thompson; Workforce Development Professional

They will join Girls Inc. of the Valley’s current board of directors, which includes:

- Nikai Fondon-Bannister; She Did That! Podcast
- Darryl Bonner; Liberty Bank
- Denise Brown; Bentley University
- Donna Byron; Retired Software Engineer IBM
- Jacqueline Charron; Greenfield Cooperative Bank
- Jenny Cruz Rivera; Holyoke Public Schools
- Tiffany Espinosa; Stepping Stone Wealth
- Alaina Macaulay; Tufts University
- Kiari Martinez; Arrow Properties, Inc., and Explore Holyoke

- Cherlynne Mills; 360 Federal Credit Union
- Trishna Mudumbi; Collins Aerospace
- Chelsea Parker; River Valley Counseling Center
- Lynn Starr; Retired, EVP & Senior Advisor Community Banking
- Zhane Stone; Glenmeadow
- Elise Zalenski; O’Reilly, Talbot & Okun Associates Inc.

Together, the new and current board members will help guide Girls Inc. of the Valley’s strategic direction, strengthen partnerships, expand resources, and support the continued development of programming designed to help young women build confidence, leadership skills, and pathways to opportunity.

“Girls Inc. provided my daughter with an incredible growth opportunity on the youth advocacy board, which helped her cultivate interests in social activism,” said new board member, Phyllis Williams-Thompson. “Now years later, my daughter is a senior at Johns Hopkins University, studying political science and in future years plans to pursue a law degree focused on youth advocacy and social justice. As a parent, I know Girls Inc. provides young girls with the foundation they need in their lives to build confidence and empowerment for achieving their chosen career and personal pathway!”

Longtime supporter and new board member, Glorimar Irizarry said, “The strong,

smart, and bold motto is something that I will always stand behind because it’s what is needed for our youth, especially in our current environment. We need to always support our youth to speak their truth and build encouragement by having them understand that if they believe in themselves, they can accomplish anything.”

The appointments come as Girls Inc. of the Valley celebrates their recently renovated headquarters at 480 Hampden St. in Holyoke. With the addition of these seven leaders, and the expansion of their onsite programming location, Girls Inc. of the Valley is positioned to build on its existing momentum and deepen its impact in the communities it serves.

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 pro-



gram 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 discussions on confidence, healthy relationships, positive self-talk, self-love and women’s health among their favorite topics, along with hands-

on experiences like a car maintenance workshop and opportunities to connect with peers from across Hampden County.

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

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

COLLEGE NOTES

SNHU announces summer 2026 President’s List

MANCHESTER, NH – It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Summer 2026 President’s List. The summer terms run from May to August.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President’s List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Luis Rondon of Holyoke
Caitlin Scanlon of Holyoke
Gleny Rodriguez of Holyoke
Michaela Kosloffsky of Holyoke

Chamber to hold networking 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 mayors, 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.

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.

wistariahurst

Darkened Hallways Tour

OCTOBER 14TH, 2026

6:30PM

WISTARIAHURST MUSEUM

238 CABOT STREET, HOLYOKE, MA

Darkened Hallways returning to Wistariahurst

HOLYOKE – Wistariahurst Museum is delighted to welcome guests for our Darkened Hallways Tours this fall.

Guests will be immersed in an evening of spine-tingling discovery and feel the lingering energy of past inhabitants and workers who once occupied the museum’s haunted halls. Our docent “ghost host” will lead visitors through the home by candlelight and will uncover stories of the Skinner family, the tragedy that moved their home and business to Holyoke, and other chilling tales from the

mansion’s history.

“These tours are a perfect opportunity to get to know the museum after dark,” Megan Seiler, Museum Director, comments.

This exclusive guided tour of Wistariahurst Museum includes standing, walking, and transitioning between the first and second floors using our Grand Staircase in dim lighting.

If you are interested in our Darkened Hallways Tours and have any questions about accessibility, please reach out to us at info@wistariahurst.org.

This is a rare opportunity to experience a guided tour in the bewitching hours of the night.

Join us for an unforgettable exploration of the supernatural side of Wistariahurst.

Unlock the secrets, embrace the mystery, and dare to tread where history meets the paranormal. Secure your spot for an evening that promises intrigue and spine-tingling excitement, these tickets sell fast so grab yours now.

An additional tour may be added if the first tour sells out.

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SOCIAL SECURITY
Matters
By Russell Gloor



Must I Enroll in Medicare at Age 65?

Dear Rusty:

I will be turning 65 next month, I am currently retired and I am not on Social Security.

My question is; Is there anything I have to do, if I don't want Medicare? I am on my wife's employer plan and she works for the Postal Service as a Rural Carrier.

She doesn't plan on retiring for another eight years. Also, I would like to wait till my Full Retirement Age before I draw Social Security at 67. Do I have to draw Medicare at that point?

Signed:
Retired but Curious

Dear Retired but Curious:

As long as you are covered by a "creditable" healthcare plan such as that from your wife's US Postal Service employer, you can defer enrolling in Medicare until your Postal Service Health Benefit coverage from your wife's employer ends.

When that happens, you and your wife will enter a Medicare "Special Enrollment Period" during which you can enroll in Medicare without incurring a Late Enrollment Penalty. Thus, in your specific circumstances, you don't need to do anything about enrolling in Medicare when you turn 65.

That is still true, regardless of when you claim your Social Security benefits. If you claim Social Security at age 67 and before your wife retires from the USPS, you will be required to take Medicare Part A coverage for inpatient hospitalization services, but Medicare Part A is premium-free for those also eligible for Social Security.

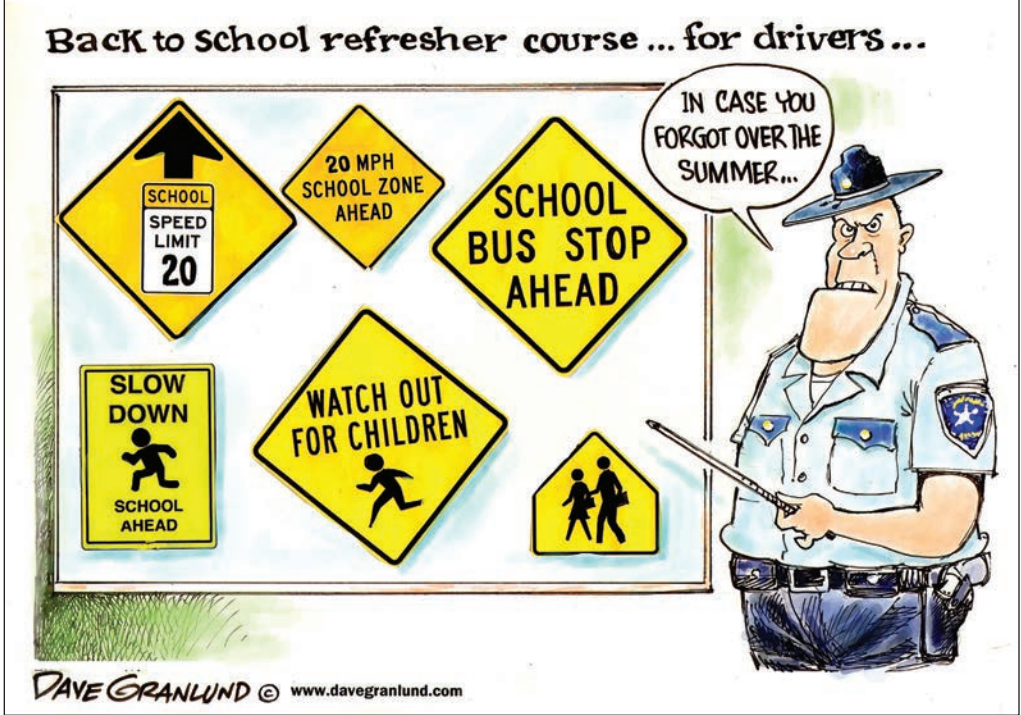
However, enrollment in Medicare Part B (coverage for outpatient healthcare services) is always optional because there is a premium associated with it and you can continue to defer enrollment in Medicare Part B as long as you have "creditable" healthcare coverage from your wife's employer even while you are collecting Social Security.

When you apply for Social Security, you can inform SS that you are declining Medicare Part B because you are still covered by your wife's USPS employer healthcare plan.

Then, when your wife retires and you lose your USPS healthcare coverage, you can enroll in Medicare Part B at that time without a late enrollment penalty.

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-advisor or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

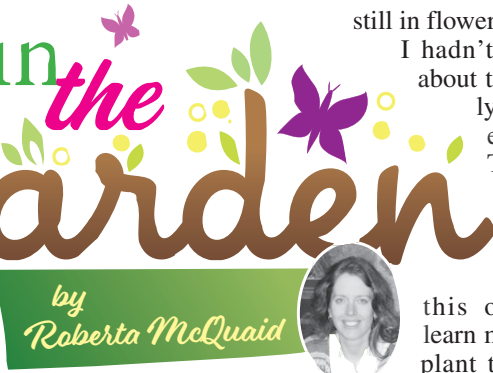


A fall blooming vine worthy of merit

On my drive home from work this morning, I happened to notice the flowers of a familiar vine climbing up a lamppost.

It brought me right back to my old house and landscape. It is easy to miss the simplicity of that time in my life and wonder the age-old question of "Where did time go?"

When we moved some years back we left behind numerous plants (the obvious outcome when you sell your house with two feet of snow on the ground). One of my



very favorites was the sweet autumn clematis.

Each year, right about now, the vine would explode into clouds of white blossoms. And because the vine grew up a trellis on the gable end of my house, it made a beautiful, tall backdrop for the annuals and perennials

still in flower.

I hadn't really thought about this plant recently, until my drive earlier today. The white blossoms were abundant and beautiful.

Let's take this opportunity to learn more about a fall plant that is used not nearly enough.

Clematis ternifolia (aka paniculata) is a fast-growing vine that if left to its own devices, can cover several yards in a single season. It does not climb by use of tendrils, rather it has long leaf petioles that bend around

See GARDEN page 5

E-wheels complicate back-to-school safety



your health



By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN
Guest Column

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

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

As someone who has spent a lot of time around emergency rooms, I urge parents to think twice before buying an e-bike, e-scooter or other motorized vehicle for their child. In some localities, like Douglas County in Colorado, parents can be held liable if their child is caught riding where

they shouldn't or, worse, causing an accident.

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

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

Most injuries are to the head and neck, and about 7% involve traumatic brain

injury, her research found. Fatalities typically involve a collision with a car or truck or crashing into a fixed object or curb.

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

Parents

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

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

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

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

Kids

Don't give your friends

rides or let them drive your e-bike or scooter.

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

And wear that helmet your parents are making you wear.

Localities and schools

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

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

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

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

The Holyoke Sun 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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SUPPORT COMMUNITY BUSINESSES

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Public invited to come celebrate Quabbin Days

BELCHERTOWN – Quabbin Days (www.QuabbinDays.org) returns for its second year over the October holiday weekend, Oct. 9 to 12, with a growing lineup of events and activities celebrating the communities, history, culture, businesses and natural beauty of the Quabbin Region.

Organized by the Friends of Quabbin, Quabbin Days is a regional celebration encompassing the 12 towns that make up the Quabbin Region. The goal is to encourage residents and visitors alike to explore the region, learn more about its history and natural resources, support local businesses and organizations, and experience the communities surrounding one of Massachusetts’ most important natural and cultural resources.

This year’s celebration is continuing to grow as businesses, libraries, historical organizations, museums,

community groups and state agencies come on board with special programs and activities.

Among the new partnerships this year, Dean’s Beans Organic Coffee Company in Orange will produce a special Quabbin Coffee blend for the month of October. The limited-edition coffee will be available only at participating stores within the Quabbin Region, providing another way for residents and visitors to support local businesses while celebrating the region.

Several libraries in the Quabbin Region will also participate in a Quabbin Photo Contest, open to residents of all 12 Quabbin Region towns. The contest will invite residents to share their own views of the landscapes, wildlife, communities and character that make the region distinctive.

Quabbin Days will also receive statewide recognition this year, with Governor

Maura Healey signing a resolution recognizing Quabbin Days and the importance of the Quabbin Region to Massachusetts.

Throughout the four-day weekend, visitors will find a wide variety of events spread across the region.

Historical societies will open their doors for special programs and open houses, providing opportunities to explore the stories of the communities that surround the Quabbin Reservoir as well as those that were transformed by its creation. On Sunday, October 11, the Swift River Valley Historical Society will host a presentation on the “Rabbit Railroad,” the historic rail line that once ran through the Swift River Valley and served communities that existed before the construction of the reservoir.

The weekend will also include established community events such as Stone Cow Brewery’s Harvest Fest

(Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 10 and 11), giving visitors another reason to make a day, or an entire weekend, of exploring the Quabbin Region during one of the most colorful times of the year.

Art and culture will be part of the celebration as well. The New Salem Museum of Fine Arts will offer free admission on Sunday during Quabbin Days, providing visitors an opportunity to explore the museum as part of their travels through the region.

For those who want to experience the landscape itself, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) will offer a series of guided walks at Quabbin Reservoir during the weekend. The programs will provide opportunities to learn more about the reservoir, watershed, wildlife, natural environment and history of the Quabbin.

These activities are just

part of a growing calendar of programs planned throughout the 12-town region. Additional events and participating organizations and businesses will continue to be added as Quabbin Days approaches.

Quabbin Days was launched in 2025 as a project of the Friends of Quabbin, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the natural, cultural and historical significance of the Quabbin Region. The inaugural celebration included more than a dozen events and participating organizations and was officially launched at the Quabbin Reservoir’s Les and Terry Campbell Visitor Center with members of the region’s state legislative delegation.

The concept behind Quabbin Days is intentionally regional. Rather than creating a single festival in one location, the Friends of Quabbin encourages towns, businesses, historical societies, museums,

libraries, conservation organizations, arts groups and other community organizations throughout the region to hold events and activities during the weekend. Those events are then brought together and promoted through a central Quabbin Days calendar.

The Oct. 9 to 12 weekend also coincides with what is traditionally one of the prime fall foliage periods in the Quabbin Region, making it an ideal time for visitors to explore its scenic roads, trails, small towns, historic sites, local businesses and cultural attractions.

Residents and visitors can find detailed information about Quabbin Days events, participating organizations and activities on the continually updated calendar at www.QuabbinDays.org. Businesses and organizations interested in participating in Quabbin Days can also find information through the website.

GARDEN, from page 4

neighboring objects for support.

Sturdy trellises are in order here; another option would be to let it sprawl over a fence or large rock.

Leaves are medium green in color; stems are green as well, but turn brown with age. New growth emerges in late spring.

Most experts recommend cutting autumn clematis back to a foot or so tall early in the season to rejuvenate the plant and initiate branching. Flowers buds form on the present season’s growth, so don’t worry that your pruning attempts will sacrifice flowers.

This rule is not absolute with all clematis species, though, so do your homework before tackling other varieties you may have.

Culture, however, is similar: Plant in a loca-

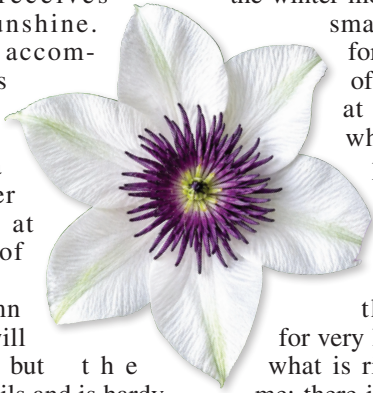
tion where the plant’s roots will stay cool but where top growth receives ample sunshine. You can accomplish this situation by providing a thick layer of mulch at the base of the vine.

Autumn clematis will tolerate all but the worst of soils and is hardy in zones 4-10.

Panicles of one inch flowers delight the eye and the nose for about six weeks beginning in late summer. Some liken the sweet fragrance to vanilla; others call it the smell of “springtime.”

After blooms have passed, silvery seed heads add another short season of interest to the garden before the leaves fall.

Admittedly, a brown



vine is not the most attractive thing to look at during the winter months, but it is a small price to pay for the abundance of flowers you get at a time of year when most other plants are winding down.

I enjoy reminiscing, but I can’t think about it for very long or I’ll miss what is right in front of me; there is plenty blooming here, too.

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.

Award-winning thrills at historic mansion

AGAWAM – Join bestselling author D.M. Pulley and Granby author Dana McSwain for an evening of literary thrills at the Revival Wheeler Mansion in Orange, Massachusetts on Oct. 27 at 6 p.m. Meet Me At the Mansion: D.M. Pulley in Conversation with Dana McSwain is sponsored by The Alchemist Society bookshop in Feeding Hills and celebrates the much-anticipated release of Pulley’s fifth novel, Stone Mad.

Pulley, winner of the 2014 Amazon Breakthrough

Novel Award, has penned five dark thrillers, including The Dead Key and Nobody’s Home. A former Professional Engineer by trade, Pulley rehabbed historic structures and conducted forensic investigations into building failures before becoming a full-time author. Her mysteries shine a light into the darker side of the abandoned buildings and buried past of the Midwest. Stone Mad, a Gothic thriller set in an infamous Gilded Age mansion, will be released Oct. 13.

Joining Pulley for this

special event is Granby author Dana McSwain, four-time award winning best-seller of the supernatural Gothic thriller, Roseneath, and 2025 Pushcart Prize nominee for her short story, The Perfect Stranger. A social hour and author signing will follow.

Meet Me at the Mansion, D.M. Pulley in Conversation with Dana McSwain is free and open to the public. For more information, please visit the event page at <https://revivalwheelermansion.com/calendar/stone-mad/>

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Egyptian bull god

5. A young canine

8. North Carolina university

11. “Oddbod” actor Tom

13. Midway between northeast and east

14. A place to shop

15. Mysterious “Severance” family

16. Single Lens Reflex

17. Malaria

18. Informal loan organizations

20. Twitching

21. Holm oak

22. Willing to consent

25. In an early way

30. Stuck it out

31. Language in Ghana

32. Obtain

33. Ancient Greek currency

38. One point east (clockwise) of due north

41. Popular baseball movie

43. Group of islands

45. Church building

47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea

49. Late AC/DC frontman Scott

50. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation

55. Thick piece of something

56. Breakfast food

57. One mole of solute per kilogram of solvent

59. Ancient Greek City

60. Bitterly regret

61. Don’t forget it

62. Dishonorable man

63. Affirmative

64. “_ and flows”

CLUES DOWN

1. Bridge-building degree

2. Expression of sorrow or pity

3. Lizard species

4. Turkish leader title

5. A way to bother

6. Blank

7. A fine, closely woven cotton fabric

8. Sports broadcaster lan

9. Popular whodunit board game

10. Alkali flats mineral

12. Large African antelope

14. It’s delivered most days

19. Satisfy

23. Water soaked soil

24. Of a past era

25. Chest muscle (slang)

26. Ribonucleic acid

27. Doctor of Education

28. Coffee receptacle

29. Where rockstars work

34. International airport in Connecticut

35. Russian river

36. It’s used to make cabins

37. OJ trial judge Lance

39. A means to persuade

40. Short poem

41. A way to begin hostilities with (abbr.)

44. Joints

45. Blatted

46. Swedish rock group

47. Millisecond

48. __ podrida: Spanish stew

51. Doctors’ group

52. Trunk of a tree

53. Tattle

54. Metrical foot

58. __ Angeles

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 8

Blessed Sacrament Parish
Rev. Duy Le
frduyle@blessedsacramentholyoke.org
1945 Northampton St., Holyoke
PARISH RECTORY: 413-532-0713
OFFICE HOURS:
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Friday 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
WEEKEND MASSES:
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Sunday 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
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Monday - Friday: MASS 6:45 a.m.
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Legal Holidays: MASS 8 a.m.
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First Baptist Church
Pastor Theresa Temple
1976 Northampton St., Holyoke
(413) 533-7728
firstbaptistchurchholyokey@comcast.net
Facebook: First Baptist Church of Holyoke, MA
HOURS: Sunday worship service (winter hours) at 10:30 a.m. (summer hours) at 10 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Studies, one at 11 a.m. and one at 5:30 p.m.

Our Lady of the Cross Catholic Parish
Pastor: Fr. Albert Scherer, OFM Conv.
Email: pastor@ourladyofthecross.com
Holy Cross Ave., Holyoke
Parish Offices are located at: 15 Maple Street, Holyoke (413) 532-5661
parish@ourladyofthecross.com
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WEEKEND MASSES:
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Sunday 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m. (Polish), and 10:30 a.m.
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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

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Pastor: revdebma@gmail.com
Website: www.stpetersholyokey.org
Social media: facebook.com/stpetersholyokey
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Instagram: [stpaulsepiscopalchurch_holyoke](https://instagram.com/stpaulsepiscopalchurch_holyoke)
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Days and Hours of Services:
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Sunday: 10 a.m.
Sunday: 5 p.m. (Spanish)

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

The Holyoke Sun • SEPTEMBER 18, 2026 • 5

Apple pies sought for contest

AGAWAM – Pie season is underway, and the Agawam Historical Association is seeking the apple variety for its annual contest, to be held as part of Old Home Day at the historic Thomas Smith House, 251 North West Street, Feeding Hills, on Saturday, Oct. 10.

The contest is open to the public and all (amateur) bakers are encouraged to enter. Whether you prefer Cortland, Macoun, or a secret mix of varieties, the association’s judges will have the final say. If you don’t have a secret family recipe, perhaps you could follow Janine Fisk’s “Blue Ribbon Apple Pie” recipe (First Place, 2018 Topsfield Fair) featured in the September/October 2026

issue of Yankee magazine and see how it fares in these parts.

This year’s judges are Agawam Historical Association Board Member Emeritus Don Anderson; Agawam Mayor Christopher Johnson; and 2025 AHA Apple Pie Contest First Place Winner Liz Johnson, who will judge entries on flavor, filling, crust & overall appearance, and creativity. In addition to bragging rights, the first place winner will receive a blue ribbon, an apron hand-sewn by AHA board member Charlotte Fields, and a place at next year’s apple pie contest judges’ table.

Participating bakers do need to adhere to some requirements: pies only (no tarts or crisps); must be

full top and bottom, double (rolled) crust; fresh apples only—no store-bought fillings or crusts; 9” or 10” disposable pie plates must be used; pie must be at room temperature at time of judging; and no identification is allowed on pie tin. The decision of the judges’s is final, and pies will not be returned.

Participants must register on or before Wednesday, Oct. 7 by texting (413) 297-4967 or emailing 1855@agawamhistory.org. Pies must be dropped off by 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 10 at: Thomas Smith House, 251 North West Street, Feeding Hills, Mass. Judging will begin at 1:30 p.m.

The ca. 1757 Thomas Smith House and 1920



Delmore Hawthorne Garage will be open for tours that afternoon. On display will be items to be included in a time capsule the association will seal later this year, not to be opened again for another century. Visitors are encouraged to provide letters to future Agawam residents describing 21st century life for inclusion in the time capsule. Brochures and

business cards from local businesses are also wanted.

Agawam history books, and new, hand-crafted Cats Meow Village keepsakes depicting the Thomas Smith House and the Agawam Historical & Fire House Museum will be available for sale to benefit the Agawam Historical Association. This event is free and open to the public.

Registration, volunteer for Run Stanley 5K

WESTFIELD – Stanley Park is excited to announce that registration is now open for the 14th Annual Run Stanley 5K, taking place on Sunday, Oct. 4, 2026. Participants and volunteers can sign up online at <https://runsignup.com/Race/MA/Westfield/RunStanley>.

Run Stanley is a beloved community tradition that brings together runners, walkers, families, students, and their four-legged companions for a morning of fitness, fun, and support for Stanley Park. The event welcomes participants of all ages and abilities through a variety of race divisions, including the 5K Trail Run/Walk, K9 Division, 1-Mile Stroll & Roll, and the ¼-Mile Munchkin Run for elementary school students.

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

As a private nonprofit organization, Stanley Park relies on the support of events like Run Stanley to help maintain its nearly 300 acres of gardens, trails, wildlife sanctuary, and recreational spaces. The park remains free and open to the public year-round.

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



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/.

COUNCIL, from page 1

[at McMahon],” Chief of Finance and Operations Anthony Soto said. “So we’re coming back to that.”

Additionally, Donahue’s old wing has previously undergone window and door replacements. However, at the time the new wing was not eligible for MSBA funding, so the city waited until it was to finish the replacements.

Both Soto and Director of Facilities and Maintenance Sean Sheedy advocated for this funding at the Aug. 12 finance committee meeting.

Both of these design studies and window and door replacements will be largely covered by the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

“They are 80% reimbursable, including the design costs,” Soto said.

This means that the project, which would cost the

city about \$200,000, will only cost about \$40,000.

The replacement of doors and windows is crucial for keeping the schools in good condition. Additionally, it allows the schools to be eligible for future MSBA energy funding.

For example, following the replacement of the doors and windows at Donahue (as well as prior work on the roof), the school will be eligible for a new HVAC

system through the MSBA, which will also be 80% reimbursable.

“The schools qualify as long as we get the windows, doors and roof newer than 20 years old,” Sheedy said.

With the new doors and windows the schools can get energy efficient boilers and transition to electric forms of energy.

“It’s the step that is needed to get to those wider questions of getting us off

of natural gas and getting us onto electric energy, which works really well for our city, because we know our energy is 94% renewable,” Magrath-Smith said. “This is a great step in that direction.”

This is an ongoing project in Holyoke. Already H.B. Lawrence, Lt. Clayre P. Sullivan and Marcella R. Kelly schools have had their windows and doors fully replaced, so the city council was happy

to continue this work.

With this in mind, the council voted unanimously to approve these projects.

Both schools will undergo the schematic design process over the next few months as the city works with the MSBA to determine the best steps for each school.

From there, the actual work will begin and the schools will see the new changes implemented.

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TOWN OF HARDWICK HIGHWAY WORKING FOREMAN
Seeking qualified applicants for FT HIGHWAY WORKING FOREMAN. Provided direct in-field supervision of employees working on all phases of Highway Department construction, maintenance, repair operations and performance of other related work as required. Reporting hourly supervisor and large trucks is essential to the position. Responsible for maintaining & improving upon the efficiency and effectiveness of all areas under his/her control as delegated by the Highway Superintendent. Send resume of application to: Highway@townofhardwick.com, P.O. Box 570, Gibertville, MA 01031-0570. For full job description see www.townofhardwick-ma.gov.

TOWN OF HARDWICK HELP WANTED
The town of Hardwick is seeking qualified candidates to perform high-level secretarial, clerical, and administrative work assisting the Town Administrator and select Board. This is a part-time 18 hours per week position. For full job description, go to www.townofhardwick-ma.gov. Qualified applicants should send cover letter and resume to admin@townofhardwick.com or send to P.O. Box 570 Gibertville, MA 01031.

TOWN OF HARDWICK YOUTH CENTER JOB DESCRIPTION
Hardwick Youth Center is looking for a volunteer person 18 and over to provide support and be a role model to young people. We would need the person for about 2 hours per week and the program runs September to June.
Job Responsibilities
Supervise children from ages 5-18. Monitor discipline, behavior and working in a manner that would provide discipline and guidance just through the day.
Job Skills & Qualification
Applicants should be able to provide a positive role model and have excellent communication skills. Must have a clean background and no criminal record.
Preferred Experience
Experience with large groups of kids. If you are interested please email hardwickyouthcenter@gmail.com or call 413-453-6201.

Health Director Full-Time
The Town of Ware is seeking applications to the position of Health Director. The position is a full-time position and requires a minimum of 10 years of experience in a similar position. The position is a full-time position and requires a minimum of 10 years of experience in a similar position. The position is a full-time position and requires a minimum of 10 years of experience in a similar position.

DRIVE FOR THE QUABOAG CONNECTOR
The Quabog Connector 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 18 hours per week position. For full job description, go to www.townofhardwick-ma.gov. Qualified applicants should send cover letter and resume to admin@townofhardwick.com or send to P.O. Box 570 Gibertville, MA 01031.

PARAS, from page 1

an assault by a student.

The current proposed amount of assault leave is 60 days, and many argue that paras deserve an equal amount of assault leave to teachers, who receive 90 days.

“Paras are the first and sometimes only adults supporting students when unsafe behavior begins,” Special Education Teacher Brandi Bellacicco said. “There is absolutely no reason not to give paras the same assault leave that teachers have.”

Additionally, fellow educators advocated for paras to receive a pay raise. English Teacher Peter Duffy explained that under the current contract, a para with 30 years of experience would only receive \$27 an hour.

“Someone who shows up every day, goes above and beyond, who is the safe person for their students, someone who can take a student with disabilities and make sure they have the same access to learning as all the other students,” he said. “That person is worth more than \$27

an hour.”

According to Sue McCarthy, many paras currently working in HPS have to work two or more jobs in order to make ends meet.

“That is not the way anyone deserves to live, especially not people who dedicate themselves to our children,” McCarthy said.

All community members highlighted the key roles paras play in the daily lives of students at HPS.

“Our para professionals do skilled work,” Duffy said. “They do highly qualified, important work. They are indispensable.”

One parent, Sarah Colby, emphasized how crucial paras have been for her son, Chase Colby.

“They have seen on the days where he was struggling,” Colby said. “As his mother, I need you to understand something. These people didn’t just help my son learn, they helped him to survive.”

Chase Colby himself, a current fifth grader at Donahue, also spoke up. He discussed how the paras have made his life so much better

and that he wouldn’t be in the position he is without them.

“You didn’t just see my disability, you saw me,” Chase Colby said. “When I struggled, you stayed and when I didn’t believe in myself, you believed for me.”

Paraprofessionals act as supports for teachers and are often required in students’ Individualized Education Plans.

The people speaking in favor of the paras felt that to continue forward without improving their pay would be a disservice to the paras and the school community as a whole.

“We can’t go forward if we’re leaving the paras behind,” Duffy said. “When we leave our paras behind, we leave our most vulnerable students behind.”

This conversation is part of the collective bargaining between paras and HPS. These negotiations have been ongoing since contracts ended July 1, 2025.

To learn more about the history of negotiations, go to <https://www.hps.holyoke.ma.us/page/hta-negotiations-history>.

SUPT., from page 1

follow, the athletes provided clear and direct guidance:

- Be respectful.
- Focus on communication.
- Create a judgment-free zone.
- See the team as family.
- Be kind to everyone.

- Be loyal to yourself and your teammates.
- Be considerate of everyone around you.

The new video series Glasheen hopes will give the school community an opportunity to learn new things and the superintendent hopes it will inspire students and the community to take the

chance to watch the videos and learn various lessons.

Glasheen focused on teamwork with the girls soccer team, which recently started the regular season on the turf of Roberts Sports Complex. Glasheen has not said what other areas of the school district she will target for videos in her series.

Knights edge Colts with single touchdown

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

CHICOPEE — Holyoke High School football coach David Guzman wasn't very happy with how his squad performed in a home scrimmage against West Springfield High School on September 5.

Guzman was feeling a little bit better after the Purple Knights opened the 2026 regular season with a 6-0 non-league victory over the Chicopee Comp Colts in front of a large crowd at historic Szot Park, last Saturday.

"We scrimmaged West Springfield last week and we weren't very sharp in

any phase of the game," Guzman said. "The players watched the film during the week and fixed their mistakes. I thought we were the more physical team in today's game. We made some mistakes, but the kids responded very well. It was a solid win for us and I couldn't be happier."

The season opener took place on the Szot Park grass field because of ongoing track improvements at Mitchell S. Kuzdal Field.

The Colts are scheduled to play three consecutive road games before facing Wahconah Regional on their turf field on Oct. 9.

See KNIGHTS, page 8



Bradley Richard chases after an opponent.



Michael Letellier turns to go after the ball.



Isaiah Frazer goes for the header.



Goalie Rikendy Jean sends a punt away.

Knights soccer team falls at SRS

HOLYOKE — Last Friday evening, Holyoke High School boys soccer fell on the road at Southwick Regional. The offense was too much for the Knights in the 7-3 defeat. Holyoke fell to 0-2 on the regular season. Holyoke next travels north to Mohawk on Monday, Sept. 21 at 7 p.m.

Holyoke girls volleyball outlasted by Chicopee

CHICOPEE — Last Tuesday evening, Chicopee High School came back to win the fifth deciding set in a 3-2 win over Holyoke.

Chicopee had taken the first two sets 25-18 and 25-13 before closely losing sets three and four.

The Pacers were able to

come back and grab a 15-13 win to finish the match off. Chicopee is 2-3 on the season while Holyoke is out to an 0-3 start

Isabella Lachat sends a serve away.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Jennysis Collado sets the ball toward the net.



Jadhe Cortas attempts a block.



Kelcy Brunelle throws the ball up for a serve.



The Knights go for a block.



Tatiana Gonzalez makes the backwards set.

WSU Owls football falls in season opener

WESTFIELD – Bridgewater State first-year QB Jayden Barber (Harwich, Mass./Dennis-Yarmouth) threw for 208 yards and three TD’s and ran for 97 more yards to lead the Bears to a 34-28 win over Westfield State in the Owls home opener and the MASCAC opener for both schools at Alumni Field on Saturday afternoon.

Bridgewater improves to 2-0 on the season and 1-0 in the MASCAC, while Westfield is now 0-2 and 0-1 in the league.

Barber’s big day offset a strong performance from Westfield State first-year WR Malachi Hymes (Hartford, Conn/East Hartford) who caught three passes for 72 yards and a pair of TD’s, ran the ball twice for 52 yards, and returned three kickoffs for a total of 103 yards.

The two teams traded scores in the first half, with Barber throwing a pair of TD passes (36 and 20 yards) to Jay Comeau. Westfield

responded with a 1-yard run from Manny Mengata (Tewksbury, Mass.) that tied the game 7-7, then Owls QB Quinn Sumner (Dayville, Conn./Killingly) lofted a 33-yard scoring strike to Hymes to tie the game 14-all after Andrew Currier’s (Attleboro, Mass./Foxboro) point after kick with 1:12 left in the first half.

The Bears snatched the lead back from the Owls with a quick scoring drive, boosted by a pass interference penalty. Barber found Emanuel Pope (S. Berwick, Me./Portsmouth) with a 39-yard TD toss with 24 seconds left in the half to lead 21-14 at the break. Bridgewater doubled up on the lead with a 2-yard TD plunge from Oscar Weah (East Providence, RI) midway through the third quarter to lead 27-14 after Cooper Harvey’s (Schenectady, NY/ Niskayuna) PAT try was wide.

Westfield got a short field to work with late in the

third quarter after a Bears fumble was recovered by Westfield LB Nick Gauger (Westfield, Mass.) at the BSU 35-yard line. Sumner capped the 5-play drive with a 5-yard TD run after a fake handoff that fooled everyone in the stadium, allowing him to scamper into the endzone on the right side.

Bridgewater boosted the lead back to 13 on their first drive of the fourth quarter, cashing in on an inside handoff to Andrew Cloutman (Hanson, Mass./Whitman Hanson) for a four-yard TD run off the left end, and led 34-21 after Harvey’s kick.

The two teams traded series before Westfield answered with a nine-play, 99-yard scoring drive, with Sumner hitting Hymes over the middle with Hymes darting into the endzone at the left pylon to trim the lead back to 34-28 with 2:59 left, but the Bears were able to grind out the clock to end the game.

Sumner finished 7-18

passing for 149 yards and two TD’s for the Owls. Mengata led the Owls ground game with 61 yards rushing. Andrew Lovell (Barnstable, Mass.) made 15 tackles to lead Westfield, with Aydan Verba (Albany, NY/Colonie Central) making 14 stops, and Josh Marino (Ludlow, Mass.) 11. Tedi Hunt (Littleton, Mass.) had four tackles and an interception.

Barber led the Bears rushing game, with Poe snaring five catches for 85 yards and a TD. Jorge Aquino (Bergenfield, NJ) led Bridgewater with 12 tackles, with Mathew Piper (Townsend, Mass./N. Middlesex) adding eight.

Bridgewater outgained Westfield, 497-317 on the afternoon. Westfield stays home to host Dean College next Saturday, Sept. 19 with a 2 p.m. kickoff as part of Family and Champions Weekend. The Bears travel to Plymouth State the same day for a noon start.

Railers announce new signings ahead of season

WORCESTER – The Worcester Railers Hockey Club proud ECHL affiliate of the St. Louis Blues, and Head Coach/ General Manager Nick Tuzzolino, announced the club has signed forwards Cole Donhauser and JC Campagna to contracts for the 2026-27 season.

Donhauser, 26, comes to Worcester for his third professional season. The Railers first signed Donhauser to his first full rookie season in 2024-25 following 21 games split between the Idaho Steelheads and Greenville Swamp Rabbits of the ECHL, and Coventry Blaze of the EIHL in 2023-24.

During the 2025-26 season with the Railers, Donhauser recorded 27 points in 68 games played, finishing tied for third in games played for the team. As a rookie during the 2024-25 campaign, the 6’0”, 190lb

forward played in 71 games, which was tied for third-most on the team. He had 29 points (10G, 19A) in the 2024-25 season along with a -6 rating and 92 penalty minutes. Donhauser led all rookies in shorthanded points with five (2G, 3A). His three assists were first among rookies as well.

Campagna, 33, signs in Worcester for his 10th professional season. The Dallas, TX native appeared at Railers training camp ahead of the 2025-26 season before playing in three games for the Utah Grizzlies, where he recorded one assist.

The 6’4”, 205lb forward played in 214 games in the ECHL across nine seasons with ten different teams, notching 147 points (77G, 70A) along with 151 penalty minutes. Campagna spent parts of the past two seasons in Europe, playing for HC Presov of Slovakia, EHC Freiburg of DEL2, and HC 19 Humenné of Slovakia2.

KNIGHTS, from page 7

Holyoke, who’s a member of the Suburban North Division, finished with a 3-8 overall record a year ago. They were able to beat Comp on the gridiron for the first time since squeaking out an 18-13 win at the Roberts Sports Complex on October 6,2023. The last time that the Purple Knights celebrated a season opening victory was in 2022 when they posted a 35-0 shutout over Putnam Voc/Tech High School, which was held at Berte Field located on the Springfield Central campus.

Chicopee Comp, who’s a member of the Suburban South Division, had outscored Holyoke, 66-20, during their previous two meetings.

The Colts went 8-0 during the 2025 regular season and qualified for the Division 3 state tournament. They lost to top-seeded King Phillip Regional in a round of 16 road contest before losing to Minnechaug Regional in the inaugural Western Mass. Class A Bowl. They did beat cross-town rival Chicopee High School, 41-12, in the annual Sword Game held at Szot Park last Thanksgiving morning.

Prior to last season, the Holyoke and Chicopee Comp football teams were both members of the AA League.

In their only meeting of this season, Comp was forced to punt on the game’s first series.

Holyoke junior Georlee Aponte carried the ball five times before the visiting team turned the ball over on downs.

The Purple Knights got the ball right back following an interception by freshman Jayden Velez with 1:55 remaining in the opening quarter.

Aponte carried the ball on the first three plays of the series before an incomplete pass on fourth down gave the ball back to Comp at the start of the second quarter.

Starting at midfield, the duo of sophomore Brayden Klett and junior Jacob Cedeno took turns carrying the ball for the home team. The Comp offense, which is led by senior QB Chris Chagnon, reached the Purple Knights 24-yard line before Aponte picked off a pass.

The contest was still scoreless at halftime.

“We knew it was going to be a grind out type of a game,” Guzman said. “We were feeling very good at halftime.”

Holyoke, who received the second half kickoff, managed to put together an eight-play scoring drive, which covered 77 yards.

Junior Jostyn Reyes Cruz, who didn’t have any rushing yards during the first half, entered the game for the first time during the opening drive of the second half. He picked up seven yards on his first carry before gaining 14 more yards on the next play. Then Cruz capped off the drive with a 34-yard touchdown run with 6:43 remaining in the third quarter.

“Jostyn came in during our first drive of the second and was the difference maker,” Guzman said. “He always runs very hard and has outstanding vision.”

There was a bad snap on the extra point try and Holyoke junior William Ramirez, who was the holder, was tackled by several Colts players. It gave the Purple Knights a 6-0 advantage.

After both teams exchanged a couple of punts, the Colts had one final scoring chance.

Starting from their own 28-yard line, Klett took a direct snap from center and carried the ball on the next eight plays, which moved the ball to the Purple Knights 28. Following an illegal formation penalty on Comp, Chagnon reentered the game. He threw an incomplete pass on third down. Another pass attempt on fourth down was broken up in the end zone by junior Darel Sierra-



Joziah Rodriguez makes a block.



Turley photos by David Henry
www.sweetdogphotos.com
Derek Nunez goes for a sack.

Feliciano, who was also Holyoke’s starting QB.

A couple of the Purple Knights’ other key defensive players are senior Parker Brunelle and junior Janiel Diaz.

Then Sierra-Feliciano, who started his first varsity game, took a knee on the final three plays before he and his teammates took a team picture.

“We’re a very young team this year, as we start mostly sophomores and freshmen,” Guzman added. “Hopefully, this win gives us a lot of confidence.”

Holyoke will be looking to celebrate another road victory against Northampton on Friday night.

Comp will be making a longer bus ride on Friday night to Hopkinton High School.

► 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. HD26P1943EA
Estate of:
Scott David Nims
Date of Death: 12/17/2025
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 Pamela J-N Jacobson of Averill Park, NY requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that Pamela J-N Jacobson of Averill Park, NY 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 10/09/2026. 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 10, 2026
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
09/18/2026

The Holyoke Sun

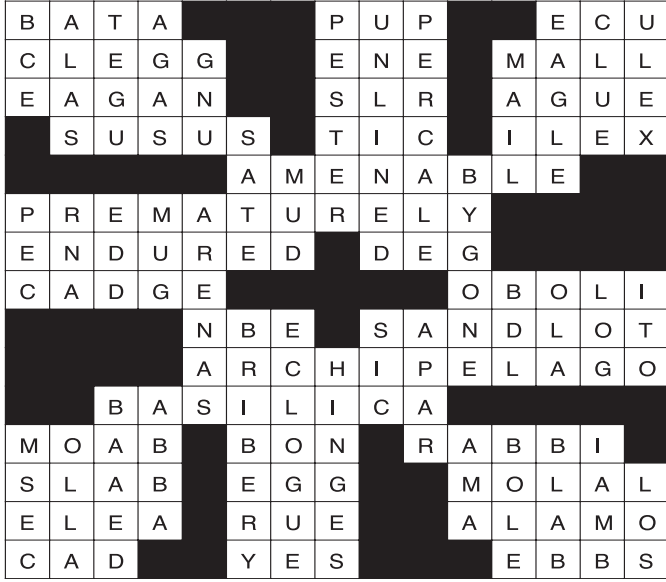
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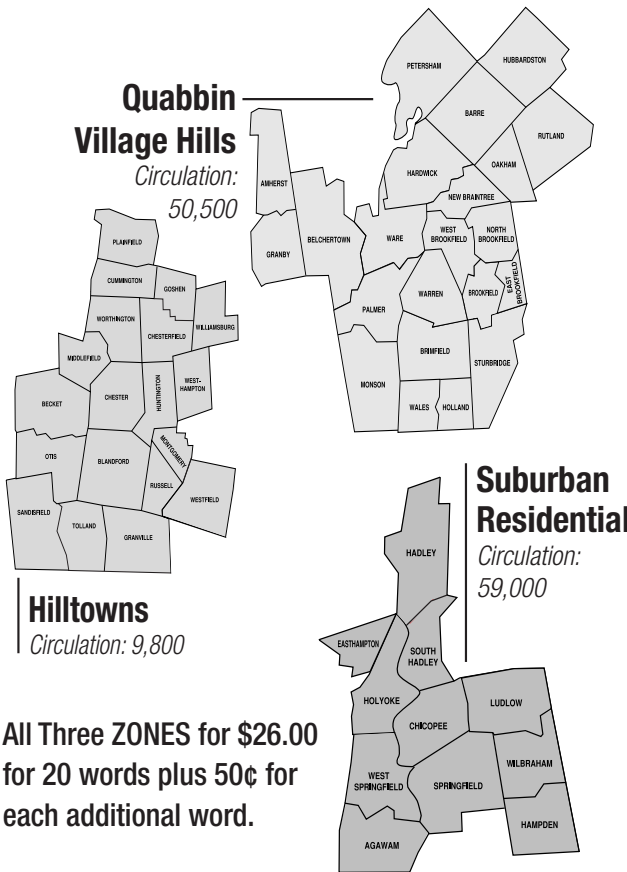
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HCC to celebrate 80th year during welcome back event

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College celebrated its 80th anniversary during the college’s annual fall Welcome Back Barbecue on, Sept. 16.

The barbecue, with free food, games, music, and giveaways, begins at 11 a.m. in the HCC Courtyard.

President George Timmons and the HCC Board of Trustees marked the college’s 80th year with short remarks and the cutting of an anniversary cake prepared by the Koffee Kup Bakery in Chicopee, followed by the distribution of slices – and anniversary cupcakes – to students, faculty, and staff.

Holyoke Community College was founded in September 1946 as Holyoke Graduate School, with classes conducted in the evenings at the old Holyoke High School

on Sargeant Street. The name was changed to Holyoke Junior College in 1947 and to Holyoke Community College in 1964 when it joined the Massachusetts community college system.

In 1968, a fire destroyed the main college building downtown. HCC opened in its new location on Homestead Avenue in 1974.

The 1946-1947 academic year was the college’s first. The 2026-2027 academic year officially began on Sept. 8.

At 80, HCC is the oldest community college in Massachusetts.

The Welcome Back Barbecue also marks the beginning of HCC’s recognition of Latinx Heritage Month, which is celebrated nationally as Hispanic Heritage Month and runs from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15.



Students enjoy the day at HCC’s Welcome Back Barbecue in September 2025. Submitted photo

Holyoke Community College art gallery presents ‘Retro Active’ exhibit

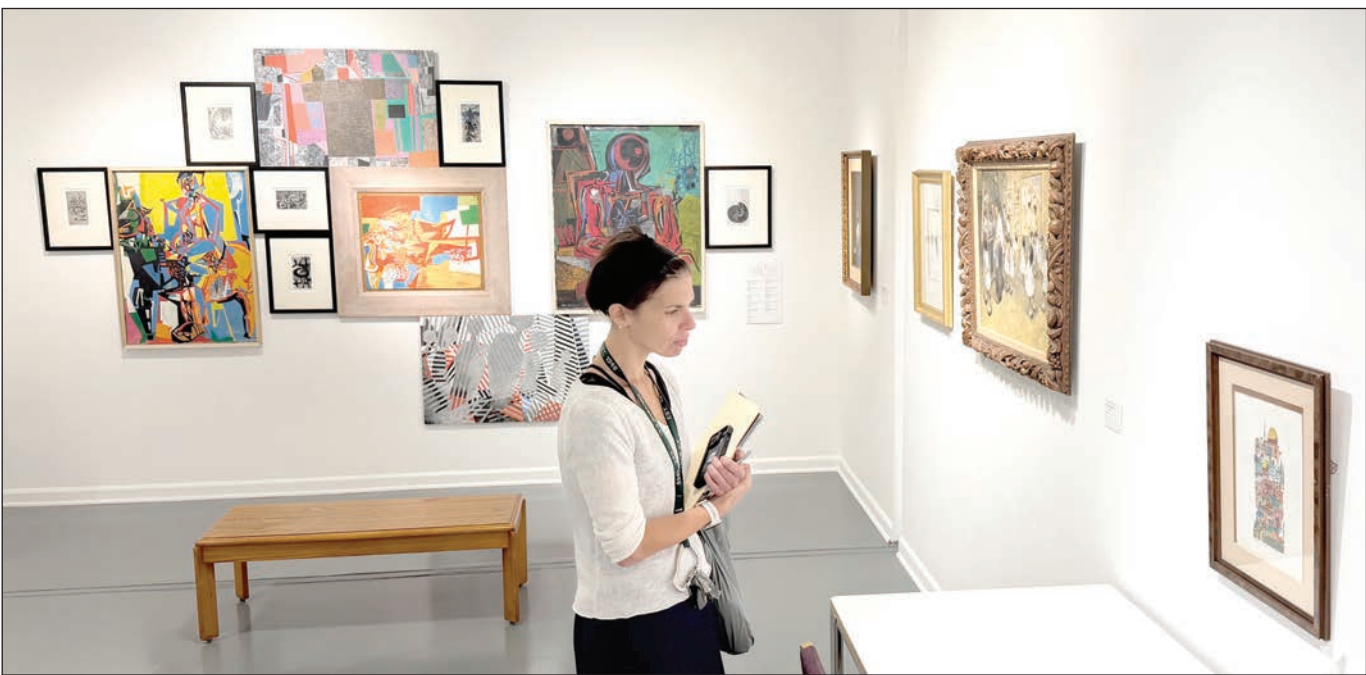
HOLYOKE – The Taber Art Gallery at Holyoke Community College is presenting “Retro Active,” an interactive retrospective of works from the HCC Permanent Collection, now through October 22.

The exhibit includes 26 pieces from the more than 300 the college owns and has been collecting since the 1960s, said Rachel Rushing, the Taber Art Gallery director.

“What’s on display is a combination of contemporary art, pieces from artists living and working in their day, and historical pieces that were either donated or purchased by the college,” she said.

That’s the “Retro” part of the show.

Also included among the paintings, lithographs, prints, and other pieces are four stations where gallery visitors can offer their own interpretations and comments on individual works of art. Each of the four stations has a different theme: Critique, Curate, Connect, and Create.



A visitor explores the “Retro Active” exhibit in the Taber Art Gallery. Submitted photo

That’s the “Active” part of the show.

“I call the show a ‘collaborative review’ because I’m asking visitors to sit with each of these stations and really think about the collection

itself,” Rushing said. “I’ve got prompts. They can write up their comments and pin them up to a bulletin board. It’s a way to get feedback.”

For instance, the “Create” station features a desk with an

antique Underwood manual typewriter focused on a woodcut by late American artist Fred Becker and asks visitors to offer a description of the piece or write a poem.

“Critique” invites people

to offer their comments about two specific pieces some might find “contentious.” One is a color etching called “Jerusalem” by Amram Ebgi, who was born in Morocco in 1939 to Orthodox Jewish

parents; the other is “Lindy Hop,” a 1937 black and white etching by Fred Becker that depicts dancers at a Harlem jazz club in the early 20th century.

The show includes five pieces from the Taber Collection, which was donated to the college by the gallery’s namesake, the late Holyoke businessman Donald Taber. One of the pieces is a lithograph by Salvador Dali, signed by the artist.

Two of the larger pieces are holdovers from a summer exhibit featuring work by HCC alumni artists. One wall contains 19 paintings and etchings by Becker and his wife, artist Jean Morrison Becker, who both taught at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

The Taber Art Gallery, located off the lobby of the HCC Library on the second floor of the HCC Donahue Building, is free and open to the public Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. during regular school sessions.

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‘Graduates of the Last Decade’ invited to free fall celebration

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College is inviting graduates from the last decade to attend a free evening of fun and food at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute.

HCC’s second-annual “Fall Back Together: Graduates of the Last Decade,” or “GOLD,” event will be held on Thursday, Sept. 24, from 5 to 7 p.m. All HCC graduates from class years 2016 through 2026 are invited.

The culinary arts institute is located at 164 Race St. on the corner of Appleton Street.

In addition to complimentary gourmet appetizers and desserts prepared by faculty and students from HCC’s culinary arts program, “GOLD” event attendees will be able to pick up free HCC swag, reconnect with their favorite HCC professors and advisers, listen to live music, win raffle prizes, network with other alumni, get a free professional headshot, and learn about HCC’s alumni podcast, The Green Thread, volunteer opportunities and other alumni events.

“We’re excited to celebrate the second year of GOLD — our graduates of the last decade,” said Natalia Castagno, HCC assistant director for alumni relations. “When alumni join us for this event, we want them to feel their HCC community again: to celebrate their time here and reconnect with the campus that shaped them.”

Space is limited, so pre-registration is requested. To register, please go to hcc.edu/gold

Questions? Contact the Alumni Association at alumni@hcc.edu or 413-552-2576.

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