

the HOLYOKE Sun

Serving the city since 1995

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

October 2, 2026 ■ FREE

www.sun.turley.com

Suspects arrested after mall break-in

HOLYOKE – Two suspects have been arrested following a break-in at the Holyoke Mall early Tuesday morning, while two other suspects remain at large.

According to the Office of Chief Brian Keenan, at around 1:50 a.m. officers received an alarm call reporting a possible breaking and entering in progress at the Holyoke Mall. Police said surveillance video showed four suspects breaking into the mall. As officers arrived, the suspects fled the property.

Two of the suspects were captured and taken into custody outside the mall, while two others escaped and remain at large, according to police. The investigation continues to be conducted by the Holyoke Police Criminal Investigation Bureau.

Police have charged 19-year-old Micheal Rice of Rowe and 20-year-old Kobe Lococo of Greenfield with larceny from a building, breaking and entering into a building - nighttime for a felony and defacement of property.

Ireland mayor pays visit to Paper City

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

HOLYOKE – On Sept. 18, a bit of the Emerald Isle stopped by the Paper City when Mayor Mikey Sheehy of County Kerry, Ireland, toured Holyoke with Mayor Joshua Garcia to review local development projects and discuss ongoing community collaboration, building on a partnership in place since 2017.

Sheehy's visit followed Garcia's 2025 trip to Ireland, when the Holyoke mayor served as grand marshal of the Kerry St. Patrick's Day Parade alongside a coalition of Paper City dignitaries invited to take part in the festivities. Meaning it was only natural for Garcia to reciprocate the invitation to Sheehy, who expressed equal pride and excitement later in the afternoon at Brennan's Place, where he was greeted by a crowd including city councilors, state dignitaries, members of the Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade Committee, and representatives from the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

"First of all, I am truly blown away by the generosity shown by everyone



County Kerry, Ireland Mayor Mikey Sheehy with the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee.

Turley photo by Brendan Rooney

here, and I think it's quite special that our sister city relationship with Holyoke continues to grow," Sheehy said. "There are huge synergies between our communities, and I can confirm it's not just from a historical perspective. Even from this afternoon's discussions, looking at what our communities are trying to achieve

and what Holyoke is trying to achieve, there are huge opportunities present, and I'm really looking forward to fostering those links and moving the conversation on to the next level."

Sheehy added that another major topic of discussion was food science, highlighting potential avenues for collaboration

between the cities.

"One of the topics we discussed this afternoon was around the whole food science space, which I know UMass is right on your doorstep here. That's something that we're very proud of in Tralee and in County Kerry. One of the world's largest food ingredients companies, Kerry Group,

was founded just north of my town. I think that's one synergy, and that's certainly one really strong takeaway we want to work on and collaborate on. We want to see if there are opportunities for both Holyoke and Tralee," he said.

Earlier in the day,

See MAYOR page 10

Students preparing for early education, child care careers

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – Successful child care has often relied on the work of great students over the years learning how to take care of children under

the supervisor of an educator. The Holyoke Public Schools are no different and the creation of a Dean campus program geared at teaching proper child care has begun this school year. According to a press release from the Holyoke Public School, Early Education and Care is now a program available to students in the Holyoke Public Schools:

This fall, Holyoke High School's Dean campus welcomed its first-ever cohort of ninth-grade students who enrolled in the school's new Early Education & Care Program. Over the next four years, these students will immerse themselves in the science and psychology of caring for young children—while preparing for employment opportunities as soon as they graduate.

"Our community has a huge need for new early education teachers coming directly out of high school

who are really excited to be part of learning and growing our community," said Early Education and Care teacher Cathryn Moulton. "There are many, many job opportunities available for students after graduating from the Early Education & Care shop here at Dean Tech," including teaching positions working with infants, toddlers, and preschool children.

The Early Education & Care learning space at Dean looks just like a typical preschool classroom found throughout Holyoke Public Schools, Moulton said, including designated learning centers for math, science, dramatic play, housekeeping, library books, and more. It is in this space that students will learn how to physically and emotionally care for children while developing their

See CAREER, page 8

NEASC continues accreditation for three high school campuses

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – Last week, the Holyoke High School's North Campus, Dean Campus, and Opportunity Academy were recently awarded continued accreditation through the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).

According to the public schools, the voluntary accreditation process is designed to support school improvement through self-reflection, peer review visits, and continued professional growth. NEASC provides schools with a framework to identify strengths and areas for

improvement while supporting and maximizing high-quality teaching and learning.

"Congratulations to everyone on this tremendous accomplishment," said School Committee Chair Dr. Yadilette Rivera Colon. "This achievement reflects years of thoughtful planning, collaboration, and continuous improvement. It is truly something to celebrate, and a great testament to the collective commitment to providing our students with an excellent educational experience."

The three high school campuses have now completed the first two phases

See NEASC, page 8

PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT



MORE DOCTORS!

NADIA MILLERON

FOR CONGRESS

VOTE INDEPENDENT!

Join the movement at
NadiaforCongress.com

PAID FOR BY NADIA FOR CONGRESS

Submitted photo



City residents bringing Mt. Holyoke show to Florence

HOLYOKE – Local musician, Holyoke resident, and creator of Mount Holyoke College’s “The Big Broadcast,” Mark Gionfriddo will bring his “It’s The Wildest!” show back to Bombyx Center for Arts & Equity in Florence, Saturday, Nov. 7 at 3 p.m.

Gionfriddo and local singer Nikki Gorts will perform with a five-piece band, featuring the music of Louis Prima and Keely Smith. Gionfriddo describes “It’s The Wildest!” as an exciting, tune-filled tribute to the music of Prima and Smith. “The Wildest” was the title of a 1956 album by the two.

In the 1950s, Prima and Smith turned a



Singer Nikki Gorts and musician Mark Gionfriddo will perform with a five-piece band. Submitted photo

tiny Las Vegas lounge into the most swinging after-hours party with a mix of jazz, swing, novelty music, and rock ‘n roll. Gionfriddo,

Gorts and the band pay homage to this renowned duo featuring gems from the American Popular Songbook, including “Jump, Jive ‘N Wai

l,” “Just a Gigolo/I Ain’t Got Nobody,” “Buona Sera,” “Sentimental Journey,” “I Wish You Love,” and “That Old Black Magic.”

Gionfriddo has added a few numbers to the November show, including “I Can’t Give You Anything but Love,” “That Darn Cat,” from the Disney movie, and in a nod to the season, “Autumn Leaves.”

The band will also play a number penned by Gionfriddo. “I wanted to write a novelty song in the style of Louis Prima — and I was reminded of the 1996 film ‘Big Night,’ which revolved around an Italian restaurant busying itself for a visit from Prima and his band. I imagined them making all these exotic dishes for him when all he wanted was a simple plate of pasta, as in the song’s title, “A Side of Spaghetti & One Meatball”.

Gionfriddo, a faculty member at Mount Holyoke College, has been creator and producer of “The Big Broadcast,” the annual 1940’s variety show at the college for the last 20 years. He is also keyboardist and band director for the Young@Heart Chorus, as well as musical director of “Torch Song Tuesdays,” the monthly cabaret series at the Majestic Theater in West Springfield.

Gorts is a singer and theatre artist from Easthampton. She’s been performing throughout western Massachusetts for 25 years and recently joined the cast of “The Big Broadcast.” as a Foley artist.

Tickets are available at <https://bombyx.ludus.com>.

Sondra Peron honored for excellence in teaching

SPRINGFIELD – Two Springfield Technical Community College professors were recognized for their dedication to students, innovative teaching and contributions to campus life through the STCC Foundation’s Anthony M. Scibelli and Joseph J. Deliso, Sr. Endowed Chairs.

The STCC Foundation Board created the Endowed Chairs to recognize and foster faculty excellence with a cash award. This year’s recipients, professors Sondra Peron of Holyoke and Sharon Sheng of Longmeadow, were honored at an STCC faculty and staff event on Sept. 3 for the ways they inspire students and create opportunities that extend beyond the classroom.

Mary Lou Vredenburg, Dean of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, introduced Peron as the recipient of the 2026 Joseph J. Deliso, Sr. Endowed Chair.

Peron joined STCC in 2011 as an adjunct professor before becoming director of the Amy H. Carberry Fine Arts Gallery. In 2018, she was appointed a full-time art professor and gallery director.

“At the core of Sondra’s work is a deep commitment to teaching,” Vredenburg said.

Peron’s courses include photography, art history, philosophy, and honors seminars. Vredenburg praised her ability to combine technical art instruction with historical and philosophical foundations, helping students develop both creative skills and a deeper understanding of the world around them.

“Her goal isn’t just teaching students how to make an image or appreciate artwork,” Vredenburg said. “It’s helping them discover their own voices and giving them the confidence to engage with the world around them.”

Under Peron’s leadership, the Carberry Gallery has become an extension of the classroom. Vredenburg noted that Peron has created more than 60 exhibitions and built a space where stu-

dents, staff, and community members can engage with art through artist roundtables and hands-on workshops.

Peron said after struggling during her first attempt at a four-year college, she enrolled at a community college in Connecticut, where she found the support and environment she needed to succeed.

“I really do believe in the community college system,” Peron said. “I think it can be so transformative to people’s lives.”

She understands that students often balance college with work, family responsibilities, and other demands, and that there is no single path to a degree. “I have a unique position in that perspective because I understand those challenges intimately,” she said. “I lived them.”

For Peron, the Deliso Endowed Chair is meaningful not simply because it recognizes her individual work, but because it represents appreciation from the college community.

“This is a very public display of appreciation,” she said. “I don’t feel like I’ve done any of this alone.”

Miah Dreger, Dean of the School of STEM, introduced Sheng as the recipient of the Anthony M. Scibelli Endowed Chair.

A longtime member of the STCC family and a professor in the Engineering and Physical Sciences Department, Sheng was recognized for her dedication to students, her passion for teaching and her willingness to turn ideas into meaningful opportunities for student engagement.

Sheng’s commitment to students extends beyond her courses in classical physics, engineering thermodynamics, mechanics, and computer applications in engineering. She supports the STCC Math Club, serves as an adviser to the STCC Society for Women Engineers affiliate, known as SWE, and is co-adviser of the newly formed Engineering Rocket Team.

“Through these activ-

ities, Professor Sheng creates meaningful opportunities for students to connect, get involved, and feel a true sense of belonging here on campus,” Dreger said. “Her passion for teaching, her generosity with her time and her unwavering dedication to her students are a few of her qualities that make her so deserving of this award.”

Sheng said she was honored to receive the recognition.

“It’s a great honor, and more importantly, it reminds me why I chose this career and encourages me to keep doing what I love,” Sheng said. “What continues to inspire me at STCC is our students. They come from different backgrounds and face different challenges, and it’s very rewarding to see them grow, gain confidence, and succeed.”

Each year, faculty are nominated by their colleagues and invited to apply. Honorees are ultimately selected by the STCC Foundation Executive Committee. The honor comes with a \$1,500 award for professional development and an additional \$1,500 for the recipient’s department to carry out a project that benefits students. In addition, recipients receive wooden chairs with plaques inscribed with their names.

The college established the Anthony M. Scibelli, Sr. Endowed Chair in 1992 to recognize and foster faculty excellence. As a member of the state House of Representatives, Scibelli sponsored and pushed through legislation approving funding and authorizing the transfer of 35 acres of Springfield Armory to the state, as a location for STCC.

In 1993, the Deliso family established the Joseph J. Deliso Sr. Endowed Chair at STCC in recognition of excellence in teaching. Appointed as the first chairman of the STCC Advisory Board, Deliso, an industrialist, served from 1967 to 1981. He then became first chairman of the STCC Board of Trustees, serving through 1985.

Darkened Hallways returning to Wistariahurst next month

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.

Doors will open in Holyoke once again

HOLYOKE – On Saturday, Oct. 17, Doors Open Holyoke will welcome local residents and visitors alike to a day filled with history, fun and exploration.

Now in its 6th year, Doors Open Holyoke gives the local community, history buffs and curiosity seekers a unique, behind-the-scenes perspective of the first planned industrial city in the United States. Modeled on similar events that started taking place in France in the early 1980’s as a way to inspire more interest in places of historical, cultural, and architectural significance, the upstart Holyoke initiative has been

growing steadily every season.

Enjoy a special day where all activities are free and open to everyone. Locations include tours of Holyoke City Hall’s Ballroom, Victory Theatre, an Open House at Holyoke Fire Department (High St location), Wistariahurst Museum, the Children’s Museum, Merry-Go-Round and the Volleyball Hall of Fame. Though scheduled activities take place between 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM, specific operating hours differ across participating sites. Please visit Explore Holyoke for complete information.

Doors Open is free to attend and is an all-ages

function.

“For residents as well as visitors, Doors Open is an opportunity to discover Holyoke’s hidden gems,” Mayor Joshua A. Garcia said, “and learn about our history, and connect with the institutions and places that shaped our city.”

Doors Open Holyoke is brought to you by the Office of Planning and Economic Development (OPED), the Tourism Advisory Committee and funded by the MA Gaming Community Mitigation Grant.

Please contact Development Specialist Heather Kies at kiesh@holyoke.org to learn more.

NOTICE

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

**Donovan's Irish Pub**

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

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

Friday, Oct. 2 Eagle Eyes 6-9pm	Saturday Oct. 3 The Healys	Friday Oct. 9 Jack & His Guitar	Saturday Oct. 10 Desmond Burke & Friends
---	---	--	---

17th of Every Month - Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinners



FIVE ISLANDS

Georgetown, Maine

2 Bedrooms, 2 Bathroom
Washer/Dryer, Fully Equipped

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



\$1200/week
207-607-9333

OPEN HOUSE

Join us to tour

17 Blandford Hill Rd.
October 3, 11am – 1pm

Presenting a distinguished 1873 Colonial offering 2,254 square feet of beautifully maintained living space. Don't miss the opportunity to own a piece of history.

\$299,900



Evamarie Best
413-241-1848
Eva.Best@comcast.net
142 Westfield Road
Russell, MA 01071



WOLCOTT REALTY

Guest Column

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor



Mom worries daughter making bad Social Security decision

Dear Rusty:

My question is not for me, but for my daughter who is 62 years old.

She does not want to take her Social Security now. Her husband was a doctor and passed away recently. She had been married to him for more than 10 years and, in the meantime, he married someone else.

I thought the President erased taxes on earned money so that people could collect what was due them no matter what they earned.

My daughter keeps telling me she has already earned too much this year and cannot collect her widow's benefits until next year. I don't understand what no tax on Social Security means then.

Also, she wants to wait until she is 67 before she collects her own money. She has been a nurse and believes her own benefits may be larger than her widow's benefits. Is she correct to wait for that long?

Signed: Worried Mom

Dear Worried Mom:

Your daughter is likely correct. There are two factors which come into play in your daughter's circumstance – one is the Annual Earnings Test (for those collecting early SS benefits), and the other relates to Federal income tax on SS benefits received. I'll try to clarify both of these for you:

If your daughter claims her widow's benefit at age 62, her benefit will be significantly reduced by approximately 20+% from what she would get at her SS full retirement age, and that would be a permanent reduction.

And, if she works, which you imply she does, she would also be subject to Social Security's Annual Earnings Test which limits how much she can earn by working prior to reaching her SS Full Retirement Age, which is age 67).

The earnings limit for 2026 is \$24,480 (changes yearly) and, if her annual 2026 earnings exceed that amount, Social Security will take away \$1 of benefits for every \$2 she is over the annual limit.

For example, if she is \$25,000 over the limit, SS would take away benefits equal to \$12,500. That would mean she wouldn't get any SS benefits for the remainder of this year and likely some of next year also. And, if her earnings are significantly more than the annual limit, she may even be temporarily ineligible to receive a widow's benefit (until she either reaches her FRA or earns less money).

FYI, the Annual Earnings Test will go away when your daughter reaches age 67 but, until then, the AET will likely restrict her ability to receive Social

Security benefits if she continues to work full time.

The next factor to be aware of is the so-called "One Big Beautiful Bill," which the President claimed means "no tax on Social Security." This is an entirely different factor than the Annual Earnings Test described above.

The above AET discussion dealt with SS earnings limits while taking benefits before FRA, whereas the OBBB deals with income tax on Social Security benefits actually received.

The OBBB (enacted last year) provides an extra \$6,000 deduction per person on the tax return filed with the IRS for those 65 years of age or older. That extra IRS deduction is designed to offset either totally or partially any income tax which is levied on Social Security benefits received by those age 65 or older. It's also important to know that the OBBB only provides temporary income tax relief, because the law expires after the 2028 income tax year.

All of which leads me to conclude that your daughter's decision to wait longer to claim her widow's benefit from her deceased ex-husband is a prudent choice. As long as she is working and earning more than the annual earnings limit before age 67, the AET will restrict how much Social Security she is able to receive. If she later stops working or goes to part-time employment, she can revisit her decision at that time. And, depending on her own personally earned Social Security benefit amount at age 67 (vs. her widow's benefit), she can assess whether to claim her personal SS retirement benefit or to, instead, claim her benefit as her ex-husband's widow if that amount is larger than her own SS retirement. And, unless Congress later extends the OBBB prior to 2029, she will, at that time, likely need to pay income tax on the Social Security benefits she receives.

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



Guest Column

Garden scurrying

The forecast of a September nor'easter certainly had everyone scurrying about.

Instead of running to the grocery store for necessities, I headed straight to the garden to tidy up a few things. With visions of air-borne pots, soggy containers of compost and ruined produce dancing in my head I got right to work.

First to check off my list was digging up the potatoes. The stems had died down on two of my three rows over two weeks ago and I didn't want the spuds sitting in impending mud when they could be curing somewhere safe and sound.

Speaking of curing, it is important to be intentional with this step, so that your potatoes will be edible well into the winter months. Curing potatoes properly will help to prevent rot, premature sprouting, and toxic greening of the skin and flesh.

By waiting a week or more after the plant has died before digging up the tubers, the skins will thicken and be less prone to injury during harvest. Once they are dug, a week spent in a cool and totally dark space will further firm their skin and change sugars to starch, completing the ripening process.

Never wash potatoes prior to storage! Gently brush off dirt and store in a single layer in the darkness at 55-60 degrees.

Darkness will prevent greening, which renders potatoes inedible. Use any pitchforked or shovel-marked spuds first, as damage to the skin will invite rot.



By Julie Midura
Guest Columnist

I recently went on a solo backpacking trip. Not by choice. Not to face my



Once the potatoes were out of the ground, I applied a two-three inch layer of composted manure and lime to the plot, then worked it in to the soil.

I won't be planting potatoes there next year other wise I would have stayed away from both amendments.

After that, I got to task number two, planting a cover crop in the empty ground. I figured with rain coming over the course of three days it would be off to a great start. In the big garden, where I can use my tiller, I sow winter rye.

It will start growing now, hold the soil in place over the winter, then, as spring ensues, it will grow tall and go to seed. Typically you mow it down or incorporate it into the soil before it gets too big.

Winter rye adds so much organic matter to the garden. Be sure to give the grass time to break down before planting into it; chopping it up/in about three weeks to a month before planting is a good plan.

Another thing that occurred to me while I was sowing the rye was seed saving. I purposely left what was left of my first sowing of green beans to go to seed.

I harvested all of the dried pods and will shuck them later, once I am sure that they are fully dry.

Finally, a bit of house-keeping to finish out my scurrying around. I collected my black plastic mulch, row covers and insects netting. I will hose off the black plastic, cinch up holes in the netting, and assess what I can salvage of my aging row covers.

I've smartened up and finally labeled what I use for what crop. For example, my number of cantaloupe/watermelon hills will likely remain the same, so reusing the same plastic mulch in that spot next year is a good plan.

With the storm behind us now, I can go back to a less frantic approach to garden clean up. Enjoy the fall foliage as you embark on your own work.

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.

Guest Column

Reclaiming peace in the forest

fears or challenge my courage.

Rather, because my favorite hiking partner is temporarily sidelined due to a torn rotator cuff. And with several grandchildren going through significant health challenges, the worry, helplessness, and endless stream of uncertainty was beginning to feel heavier than my heart could carry.

I found myself needing the quiet that only an overnight stay in the forest can provide. I needed the fresh air. The company of trees. The steady rhythm of my feet hitting dirt.

So in spite of my hesitation at spending a night alone in the woods, I packed up the

gear that Tom and I would normally split between the two of us, and I drove to the Berkshires.

When I arrived at the trailhead on the Appalachian Trail, I shouldered my heavy backpack and began walking.

For seven hours I moved with purpose. With the urgency of someone trying to outrun something.

And perhaps I was.

Each step was taking me further from the noise of the world and inviting me into a place where harmony reigns.

A place where the air feels lighter and the earth feels softer. A place where nature holds me as surely as

See HIKING, page 5

the HOLYOKE Sun

We Want to Hear From You

EDITOR/SPORTS

Greg Scibelli
thesun@turley.com
sports@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES

Wendy Delcamp
wdelcamp@turley.com

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



WEB
sun.turley.com



PHONE
(413) 283-8393



ADDRESS
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069

Turley Publications, Inc.

www.turley.com

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

Letters to the Editor Policy

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

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

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

Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

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

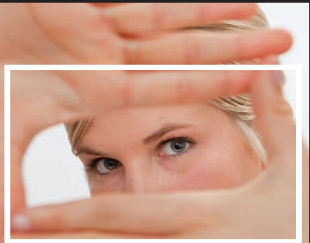
\$12.50 Each



Digital Photos

TURLEY PUBLICATIONS, INC.

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



think OUTSIDE of the BIG BOX SUPPORT COMMUNITY BUSINESSES

The Holyoke Sun welcomes election letters to the editor

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

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

For more information, call 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspa-

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

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

City launches mini-grant program for open space

HOLYOKE – The City of Holyoke is pleased to announce the launch of the MVP 2.0 Open Space Activation Mini-Grant Program, a new funding opportunity made possible through the City’s Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) 2.0 grant award.

The mini-grant program invites community-based nonprofit organizations and their fiscal sponsors to apply for funding to design and implement creative, commu-

nity-centered projects that increase meaningful and sustainable use of open spaces in Holyoke’s Environmental Justice neighborhoods.

Open space activation projects may include, but are not limited to, community programming and events, physical improvements, cultural installations, community engagement initiatives, and other activities that bring residents together and breathe new life into underutilized open spaces.

This funding opportunity is being made available as the result of Holyoke’s Municipal Vulnerability 2.0 (MVP 2.0) planning process, funded by the MA Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. Through interviews, focus groups, and surveys that gathered input from over 250 residents representing the populations most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, the city established a set of resilience priorities that will guide Holyoke’s

Department of Conservation and Sustainability for years to come.

The outreach was conducted largely by five community liaisons who made up part of the MVP 2.0 Core Team, and who significantly shaped this mini grant opportunity to address all eight of the resilience priorities identified.

A total of \$40,000 is available through this program, which will be distributed through an indeterminate

number of awards of up to \$9,999 each. Awards are one-time grants for projects to be implemented between Dec. 1, 2026 and June 30, 2027.

Through this program, the City is seeking partners with demonstrated experience actively collaborating with Environmental Justice communities in Holyoke and a commitment to creating welcoming, accessible, and sustainable opportunities for community members to connect with and enjoy local

open spaces.

Completed applications must be submitted by: Friday, Oct. 9 at 5 p.m. Application materials, eligibility requirements, funding guidelines, and submission instructions are available in the MVP2 Open Space Activation Application & Funding Guidelines document at:

<https://www.holyoke.org/mvp-2-0-open-space-activation-mini-grant-program/>.

South Hadley Chorale to begin rehearsals

SOUTH HADLEY – The South Hadley Chorale will begin rehearsals for its 41st season on Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2026, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at All Saints’ Episcopal Church, 7 Woodbridge Street IN South Hadley.

Subsequent rehearsals will be held on Wednesday evenings. They will con-

tinue through Nov. 18 and will resume on Jan. 6, 2027 until the concert on March 21, 2027. The concert will be dedicated to Barbara (“Bobbie”) Ayers who served as president of the SHC board of directors since its founding in 1985. Ms. Ayers passed away in July at the age of 91.

The South Hadley

Chorale is made up of 70 singers from 17 communities. All interested singers are invited to join. There are no auditions. Most singers, however, have had some choral experience.

For more information, please visit www.southhadleychorale.org or send an email to mail@southhadleychorale.org.

OneHolyoke opens lottery applications for apartments

H O L Y O K E – OneHolyoke CDC is accepting applications for a lottery for the Crafts Block Apartments, eight newly-renovated units located at 145 High Street in Downtown Holyoke. The historic mixed-use property features eight one- and two-bedroom units on the second and third floors of the building, with retail space on the ground level.

Lottery applicants will be assigned a unique number, to be drawn on Oct. 26. Each successful lottery applicant whose number is drawn will then receive a rental application following the lottery drawing.

The Crafts Block building consists of four one-bedroom and four two-bedroom units, and are affordable apartments for households earning at or below 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI), adjusted for family size. One-bedroom units

range from 620-786 square feet and cost \$1,384 per month; and two-bedroom units are 875-975 square feet, and are \$1,734 per month. More detailed information is available on the lottery application.

Online and downloadable applications are available online at OneHolyoke.org/the-crafts-block or at OneHolyoke CDC, 70 Lyman Street, Holyoke. Applications are due on October 26 and can be submitted via the online form; dropped off or mailed to OneHolyoke’s offices at 70 Lyman Street, Holyoke, MA 01040, or emailed to georgianna.brown@oneholyyoke.org.

The Crafts Block units feature ultra high efficient heating and cooling systems; a washer and dryer in each unit; hardwood floors, slate tiles and large windows. The property is situated in a walkable and transit-friendly area

with access to local dining and entertainment. Access to the apartments is only available by stairs; there is no elevator in the building.

OneHolyoke CDC is managing the lottery process on behalf of Crafts Block, LLC, who owns the property, and Urbanist Development, property developer. The Crafts Block project is made possible by funding from TruNorth Bank and MassHousing.

OneHolyoke CDC is the only certified Community Development Corporation based in the City of Holyoke. Founded in 1971, OneHolyoke CDC has created over 160 new homes in the Flats, Churchill and South Holyoke neighborhoods, rehabilitated hundreds of apartments and provided thousands of home improvement grants to homeowners through the Neighborhood Improvement Program.

HIKING, from page 6

the heavens hold the sun in its rightful place in the sky.

I chose to do this trip solo not to feel strong or capable. Rather, to give myself space to breathe... and maybe even to heal some of the parts of me that feel broken.

For the short time I am here, I will allow nature to carry the things I can no longer bear.

At 5:30 p.m. – after hiking 12 miles – I stopped and pitched my tent. Filtered water. Sat beneath the trees with my feet immersed in a cold stream and watched the water curl around my toes.

I ducked into my tent just as the skies opened up in a deluge. I read a book while droplets of water exploded on the rain fly.

When darkness settled in, I prayed for my family. I wept. Then I fell asleep from exhaustion.

It’s now 6:30 a.m. I’m lying on my back in my orange two-person tent. A crow is screeching overhead.

Morning light is filtering through the swaying canopy of trees above me, causing leaf-shaped shadows to dance on the fabric of my tent.

I lie still in the warmth of my bright green, down sleeping bag. Outside of my tent, the forest is alive and breathing.

Unhurried. Unworried. Simply existing.

For a moment, I close my eyes and allow myself the freedom to do the same.

I know that my wet and muddy tent will be heavier on the hike out. But my heart already feels lighter.

Sometimes being strong for everyone else means recognizing when you need to step away for a little while and take care of your own heart, too. Because you

can’t pour from an empty cup.

I’ve taken these days for myself not because I don’t care, but because I care so deeply that I needed somewhere to put all of these emotions for a little while.

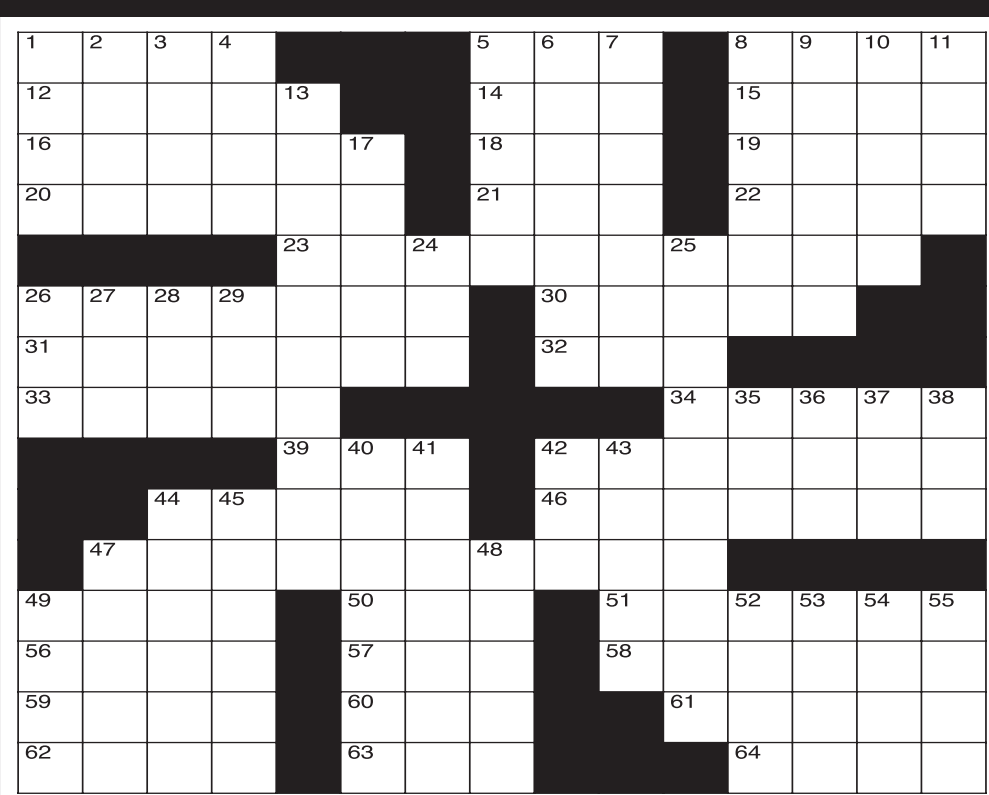
Be assured, going into the woods doesn’t erase every burden. But it does reframe them.

I will most assuredly come home with the same circumstances I left with. But perhaps I will carry them differently.

Perhaps my thoughts will be clearer and a bit less crowded.

At the very least, maybe I will return home with a little more peace, a little more strength, and a heart that feels somewhat more prepared to face whatever comes next. Onward!

Follow Tom and Julie’s hiking adventures on Instagram @morethanthe-mountain.



CLUES ACROSS

- “Wicker Man” actor Nic
- Protection
- Cloth worn over a shoulder
- Ceramic jars
- Midway between northeast and east
- South American hummingbird
- Platforms
- Taxi
- Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
- A citizen of Yemen
- Military mailbox
- Nuclear near reach weapon
- Clears
- Broken
- Actress Lathan
- Avid fan

- One and only
- Proceeding
- River in Portugal and Spain
- Doctor of Education
- Defeat handily
- Less complicated
- Handyman tools
- Written works
- Castle dweller’s safety net
- Honorable title (Turkish)
- Greatest
- Can do
- A place to sleep on the road
- Member of U.S. Navy
- 24-hour units of time
- Actor Horsley
- In a way, sounds off
- Formerly (archaic)

CLUES DOWN

- William ___, Buffalo Bill
- Wings
- Candle or lantern
- Freedom from difficulty
- A type of pie
- Metrical foot
- ___ Kerr, actress
- Nap
- Popular singer Bocelli
- Immune responses
- “Mad Men” leading man
- A citizen of Senegal
- Philly basketball player
- Not even
- Measures wind speed
- Insecticide
- Jordan glided through it
- Bird-like dinosaur genus

- Expression of satisfaction
- Big Blue
- One point east (clockwise) of due north
- Of she
- Oral rehydration solution
- Knocks off course
- Popular cop show of yesteryear
- Zhou dynasty state
- Genus of gulls
- Onion flatbreads
- Declare as true
- Of a lobe
- Missouri county
- Produced
- Volcanic crater
- Off-Broadway theater award
- KU hoops coach Bill
- Check for

Blessed Sacrament Parish

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

First Baptist Church

Pastor Theresa Temple
1976 Northampton St., Holyoke
(413) 533-7728
firstbaptistchurchholyyoke@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 Parish

Very Rev. Michael Pierz
Email: pastor@ourladyofthecross.com
Holy Cross Ave., Holyoke
WEEKEND MASS:
Saturday: 4 p.m.
Sunday: 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m. (Polish), and 10:30 a.m.
DAILY MASS:
Monday - Saturday: 8:30 a.m. (9 a.m. on legal holidays)
Reconciliation
Monday-Saturday: 8 a.m.
Saturday: 3:15 p.m.
Anytime by Appointment
DEVOTIONS:
Monday - Saturday
Divine Mercy Chaplet: 7:50 a.m.
Rosary: 8:05 a.m.
Parish Offices are located at:
15 Maple St., Holyoke
Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
(413) 532-5661
parish@ourladyofthecross.com

CHURCH DIRECTORY



Your Community Church

St. Peter’s Lutheran Church

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

St. Paul’s Episcopal Church

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

First Lutheran Church

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

SPORTS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

OUR SUBMISSIONS

www.sports.turley.com

Strong second half lifts Holyoke football

HOLYOKE – Last Thursday evening, a pair of touchdowns in the second half led Holyoke High School football to a 14-6 win over the Agawam Brownies. Holyoke allowed an early touchdown to the Brownies, but their defense pitched a shutout after that. The Knights grabbed touchdowns in the third and fourth to

get the win. Eladio Pacheco had five completions for 117 yards and one touchdown pass. Georlee Aponte had 62 yards rushing and a touchdown. Agawam faces Amherst on Saturday morning, Oct. 3 at 10:30 a.m. on the road. Conference play gets underway this week with Holyoke hosting Lee on Friday, Oct. 2 at 7 p.m.



Georlee Aponte heads into traffic.



Darel Sierra-Feliciano heads on a run.



Josiah Rodriguez takes down an Agawam ball carrier.



Parker Brunelle attempts to get a tackle.

The Holyoke defense tries to make a stop.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Eladio Pacheco makes a lateral pass.

Ladies collect third straight shutout

HOLYOKE – Women's soccer hosted non-NJ-CAA opponent Bay Bath University on Friday afternoon, earning their third straight victory and shutout. The Lady Cougars controlled much of the play, but solid Lady Wildcats' defending and goalkeeping kept the game very tight. Holyoke found the back of the net once, proving to be enough on the way to a 1-0 win.

Emma Allyn (Holyoke, MA / Hampshire Regional HS) scored the lone tally and game-winner for the Cougars, her team-leading tenth goal of the season. Samantha Lowe (Ware, MA / Pathfinder Regional HS) recorded the assist on the goal and, along with Abigail Rockwal (West Springfield, MA / West Springfield HS), was one of Holyoke's strongest defenders in the contest. Annastacia Dixon (Keene, MA / Keene HS) and Cadince Wells-Robinson (Conway, MA / Frontier Regional HS) shared the goalkeeping duties, combining for four saves and a shutout for the second straight game. The shutout is the team's fourth overall and third straight.

Women's soccer has a 4-2-0 overall record and a 3-0-0 regional record.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Jennysis Collado makes a hit from the back line.



Tatiana Gonzalez hits a backwards bump over the net.



Addison Rodriguez goes low for a hit.

Volleyball falls at home

HOLYOKE – Last Thursday afternoon, Holyoke High School girls volleyball suffered a setback against Chicopee Comprehensive 3-0. The loss followed a win against Commerce 3-1 last Monday on the road. Holyoke had won two of three games before the Comp loss. The Knights are now 2-5 on the year with a matchup at SICS coming up on Friday, Oct. 2 at 6 p.m.

Left, Kelcy Brunelle serves the ball away.



Jadhe Cortes gets a hit near the net.

Six champions crowned in season finale at Monadnock

WINCHESTER, NH – On Saturday, Sept. 19, six champions were crowned at Monadnock Speedway as the 2026 racing season came to an exciting conclusion.

Two of the closest championship battles entering the season finale belonged to the Brattleboro Towing & Recovery Pure Stocks and the All States Materials Group 604 Modifieds, with both titles coming down to the final race of the season.

In the Brattleboro Towing & Recovery Pure Stocks, a full field of cars packed the 1/4-mile high-banked facility for the finale. Jimmy Zellmann entered the night holding just a five-point advantage over rookie Joshua Brigham.

The championship battle took a dramatic turn on lap one when a scuffle sent both contenders spinning, forcing Zellmann and Brigham to restart from the rear of the field. With the title on the line, both drivers began working their way back through traffic.

At the checkered flag,

Brigham completed an impressive charge through the field to capture the feature victory, with Zellmann finishing second. Zellmann’s runner-up finish proved to be just enough to secure the 2026 Brattleboro Towing & Recovery Pure Stock Championship.

The All States Materials Group 604 Modified championship battle was just as intense.

Andrew Brousseau entered the night holding a narrow two-point advantage over Tyler Leary. From the drop of the green flag, the two championship contenders remained close, each waiting for an opportunity to make the move that could decide the title.

Leary eventually slipped ahead of Brousseau and moved into second place. Eddie Gomarlo, competing in Brian Robie’s borrowed #25NH, ran between the two championship contenders in third.

Brousseau repeatedly attempted to work underneath Gomarlo, knowing

that gaining just one more position could make the difference in the championship standings. Despite several attempts, Brousseau was unable to make the pass.

When the checkered flag waved, Leary held onto second place with Gomarlo finishing third and Brousseau behind him. The finishing order left Brousseau just two points short of earning his first championship, allowing Tyler Leary to capture the 2026 All States Materials Group 604 Modified Championship.

In the Twin State Truck Services Limited Late Models, JD Stockwell entered the final event with a more comfortable advantage. The number of cars competing in the finale worked in Stockwell’s favor over championship challenger Robert Hagar.

Stockwell capped off an impressive season by securing his first Twin State Truck Services Limited Late Model Championship.

The Keene Towing & Recovery Mini Stock cham-

pionship also entered the finale with Tim Paquette holding a comfortable advantage in the standings. Craig Chaffee remained mathematically in the hunt but needed a larger field of cars to improve his chances of overcoming the points deficit.

Paquette finished his season in style with his first of the season feature victory and was crowned the 2026 Keene Towing & Recovery Mini Stock Champion.

Rob Richardi entered the final event of the season with little pressure in the LaValley Building Supply Pro 4 Modified championship battle. Holding more than a 50-point advantage going into the feature, Richardi had already put himself in a commanding position.

Although Richardi did not earn the victory in the season finale, his strong season was more than enough to secure the 2026 LaValley Building Supply Pro 4 Modified Championship.

The Beck’s Automotive Pro V8 Sportsman Series championship was another

close battle, with only 16 points separating the top three drivers entering the finale.

Aaron Thompson held the points lead, with Chris Kingsley and Stephen Dubois close behind and still in championship contention.

During practice, Kingsley suffered a mechanical failure that ended his championship hopes, leaving Dubois as the remaining challenger attempting to chase down Thompson.

Thompson delivered when it mattered most, finishing second in the feature and earning enough points to secure the 2026 Beck’s Automotive Pro V8 Sportsman Series Championship.

In the Doug’s Auto Body Young Gun Divisions, the field does not compete for points. Staiti topped the season with 15 victories. It was great season for the Young competitors with each sharing podium finishes. We can’t wait for these up-and-coming races to

be back next season along with quite of few fresh faces joining the Young Gun Division. Great job Dylan Staiti, Maeve Barry, Masoon Bezio and Eli Elliot.

After a season filled with close racing, memorable victories and championship battles that came down to the final laps, six drivers left Monadnock Speedway as 2026 champions.

Congratulations to the 2026 Monadnock Speedway Champions:

All States Materials Group 604 Modifieds
Tyler Leary
Twin State Truck Services Limited Late Models
JD Stockwell
Keene Towing & Recovery Mini Stocks
Tim Paquette
LaValley Building Supply Pro 4 Modifieds
Rob Richardi
Brattleboro Towing & Recovery Pure Stocks
Jimmy Zellmann
Beck’s Automotive Pro V8 Sportsman Series
Aaron Thompson

Owls edge rival Worcester State

WESTFIELD — Westfield State controlled the ball with the ground game and got several key defensive stands as the Owls rallied, then held on for a 24-21 over Worcester State to wash out the Lancers’ homecoming in inclement weather at Coughlin Field in Worcester on Saturday.

Westfield fell behind 14-0 midway through the second quarter, as the Lancers scored their second TD of the day with a short drive after the Worcester’s Gio Roman scooped up a fumble and returned it 41 yards to the Westfield 5-yard line, with Gavin Hatfield carrying it in from a yard out three plays later.

The Lancers had a golden opportunity when the Owls fumbled again on the next play from scrimmage, setting Worcester up 1st and 10 at the Westfield 24-yard line. But the Westfield State defense promptly forced a 4-and out scenario,

with Chase Goldberg sacking Worcester State’s MJ Bakaysa to end the threat.

Buoyed by the defensive stop, Westfield’s offense marched 73 yards on 13 plays. Quinn Sumner completed a 25-yard pass to Malachi Hymes on third down to keep the drive alive, and Manny Mengata battered his way into the end-zone from two yards out to cap the drive and trim the lead to 14-7 after Andrew Currier’s extra point, and the teams went to the half with that score.

Worcester received the ball to start the second half, but the Owls defense forced a three and out inside the Lancers’ own 10-yard line, and a short punt gave the Owls the ball on the Worcester State 19-yard line. Four plays later, Mengata again scored from two yards out and tied the game at 14-all.

Westfield grabbed a 21-14 lead before the third

quarter was out, using a 12-play, 67-yard drive over 6:18 that Mengata capped with an 8-yard touchdown run.

The Owls added a 21-yard field goal from Currier midway through the fourth quarter that would prove valuable insurance.

Worcester immediately answered with a 67-yard TD toss from Bakaysa to Jack Poirer, finding Poirer wide open deep down the left sideline for the score, trimming the lead back to 24-21.

Westfield’s defense needed one more stand late, as the Lancers got to the Owls 33-yard line in the final minute, but three straight incompletions included passes broken up by Westfield’s Tedi Hunt on second down and then Tom Cascio on the final hail mary to seal the win for Westfield, which improves to 2-2 on the season and 2-1 in MASCAC play. Worcester slips to 1-3 overall and 1-1 in the

MASCAC.

Westfield was led by 125 yards rushing and three TD’s from Mengata on 25 carries, with Cole Ingham adding 57 yards on the ground. Sumner completed 4-10 passes for 65 yards on a tough passing day, as a nor’easter rolled through southern New England with alternately heavy winds and rain. Westfield controlled the time of possession battle with nearly 36 minutes to Worcester’s 24.

Nick Gauger led the Owls with eight tackles, with Mark Wright-Woodhouse adding seven. Goldberg and Preston Jacoski each had a sack.

Worcester was led by 95 yards on the ground from Gavin Hatfield. Bakaysa finished 15-30 passing for 204 yards.

Westfield will have its bye weekend next, before returning to action with a non-conference game against Mass Maritime on Oct. 10 at Alumni Field.

Thunderbirds drop preseason finale

PROVIDENCE, R.I. - The Springfield Thunderbirds dropped a 4-1 decision to the Providence Bruins on Saturday night in the back half of a two-game exhibition set.

Will Cranley drew the net for Springfield for the exhibition finale and proved to be busy in the opening period, denying all 10 Bruins shots. Providence would open the scoring just 21 seconds into the second as Robert Cronin tallied his second goal in as many nights to make it 1-0 Bruins.

Not to be outdone, Springfield captain Chris Wagner also tallied his second goal in two nights in

the period’s final minute, picking up a shorthanded tally at 19:52 and sending a 1-1 tie into the third period.

However, the Bruins would regain the lead when Wyatt Bongiovanni beat Cranley at 6:58 of the third, making it a 2-1 game. Springfield would not get any closer, with Loke Johansson and Ben Allison adding empty-netters with less than two minutes remaining to ice the game.

Springfield begins the 2026-27 regular season in Wilkes-Barre for a rematch of the Atlantic Division Finals against the Penguins. The puck drops at 6:05 p.m. on Saturday, October 3.



Job Connection

HELPING YOU FIND HELP

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Town of Hardwick
Seeking qualified applicants for the position of **Highway Department Foreman**.
The Town of Hardwick is seeking qualified candidates to perform high-level professional, 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.hardwick-ma.gov.
Qualified applicants should send cover letter and resume to admin@townofhardwick.com or send to PO Box 575, Gilbertville, MA 01031.

Town of Hardwick
Seeking qualified applicants for the position of **Health Director**.
The Town of Hardwick is seeking qualified candidates to perform high-level professional, 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.hardwick-ma.gov.
Qualified applicants should send cover letter and resume to admin@townofhardwick.com or send to PO Box 575, Gilbertville, MA 01031.

Town of Hardwick
Seeking qualified applicants for the position of **Driver for the Quabog Connector**.
The Town of Hardwick is seeking qualified candidates to perform high-level professional, 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.hardwick-ma.gov.
Qualified applicants should send cover letter and resume to admin@townofhardwick.com or send to PO Box 575, Gilbertville, MA 01031.

► In The News

NEASC, from page 1

of the accreditation process: self-reflection and 10-year renewal accreditation. The next steps will focus on continued growth and improvement as the schools begin to implement their growth and improvement plans based on priority areas identified through the accreditation process, which began in 2022.

Following a recent visit to the schools, NEASC representatives recognized “the wide range of interventions and strategies to support student learning and achievement, the multilingual support strategies in academic content areas, and the commitment of school leaders to develop programs, interventions, and strategies” among the standout areas and strengths

CAREER, from page 1

own skills to become effective educators who recognize the importance of culture, identity, family partnerships, and inclusion.

Throughout their four years in the program, participants will develop the necessary skills to:

- Understand child growth and development,
- Create safe and supportive learning environments

within the three schools.

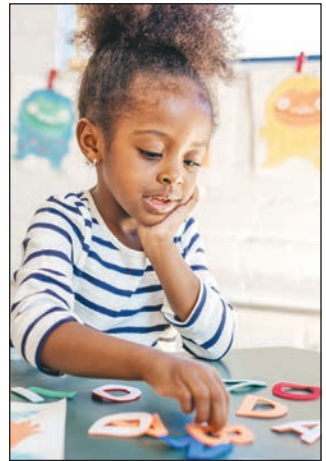
The renewal of Holyoke’s accreditation is the first since the public schools exited receivership. Holyoke’s schools entered receivership in 2015 and remained in state control for a decade before working with the state to exit receivership last summer.

Since exiting receivership in June 2025, the school district is in its second year back under local control. The school committee has re-established its power running the district and a new permanent Superintendent of Schools has begun this school year as Jackie Glasheen took the helm from Anthony Soto.

Soto, who was technically an appointee of the state-controlled receivership, was the only local receiver/superintendent that had been

appointed. Dr. Stephen Zrike guide the schools through the first five years of the receivership, authoring a turnaround plan. Soto was appointed after Zrike’s first successor, did not make it through a school year. Soto remained on for one more year after local control was restored, opting not to be placed in the running to be the permanent superintendent of schools.

Holyoke’s renewed accreditation for the high schools shows the continued path forward the school district has been taking since existing the receivership. The district has consistently been making gains in academic achievement, higher graduation rates, and better overall school attendance. All of these areas were a part of the school district’s turnaround plan.



Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

FOR SALE

REMOTE CONTROL RECLINER FOR SALE — BROWN — Leg lift, back goes back straight, lumbar with heat, cup holders. purchased March 2025 - Ramour & Flanagan - asking \$500.00. Excellent condition, no delivery available; text/call **413-246-8301**.

ESTATE SALE

MOVING/ESTATE SALE
Everything Must go.
**9 North Blandford Road,
Blandford
OCT 2-4TH. 9AM-5PM**

FIREWOOD

FIREWOOD
Fresh cut & split \$240.00
Seasoned cut & split \$375.00
All hardwood.
Tree length available
*Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap). Quality & volumes **guaranteed!!** New England Forest Products **(413)477-0083**

MORE HEAT LESS WOOD. Central Boiler Classic Edge HDX Outdoor Wood Furnace. EPA Certified. Titanium Stainless Steel. \$2K Tax Credit. Call **(508)882-0178**

SEASONED FIREWOOD, (1.5- 2 YRS) Stored inside off the ground. Cut, split, free delivery within 10 miles. \$350 per cord. Call **413-218-3918**.

WANTED

WANTED!

CASH for:

- Machinist tools, power tools & Snap on.
 - Electronics & Audio Equipment.
 - Sports Cards.
 - 70s/80s/90s Toys.
 - Antiques & Collectibles.
- Much, much more!

Call/Text Sam
413-531-5381

WANTED TO BUY

ALL ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.

BUYING Bottles, Crocks, Jugs, Pottery, Costume Jewelry, Toys, Games, coins, sterling, Glassware, Silver-plated items, watches, Musical instruments, typewriters, sewing machines, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, lamps, kitchenware, cookware, knives, military, automotive, fire department, masonic, license plates, beer cans, barware, books, oil cans, advertising tins, hunting, fishing, signs, and more.

Donald Roy
(860) 874-8396

WANTED

ALWAYS BUYING ALL ANTIQUES:

Musical instruments, guitars, horns, keyboards, vintage electronics, jewelry, coins, watches, military cameras, sports memorabilia, art, sterling, signs, automotive, hunting, advertising, radios, ham radio equipment, audio equipment, toys, one item or entire estate.

Call Paul **413-206-8688**

JUNK REMOVAL

A Call We Haul FAST REMOVAL

Junk, Appliance, Cleanouts.
We load it & take it.
413-531-1936
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

ARA JUNK FURNITURE REMOVAL

Full house cleanouts, attics, basements, garages, pools, hot tubs, sheds, decks. Same day service. 8am-9pm. Credit cards accepted. Free estimates on phone.
Fully insured.
Call Pete **413-433-0356**.

SERVICES



A B Hauling and Removal Service

2*****A & B HOUSEHOLD REMOVAL SERVICE*****

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

DRYWALL, PAINTING AND CEILINGS, plaster repair. Drywall hanging. Taping & complete finishing. All ceiling textures. Fully insured. Jason at Great Walls. **(413)563-0487**

ELECTRICIAN

PJ's Electrical MASTER ELECTRICIAN

• Licensed & Insured •

Providing safe, reliable electrical services for residential and commercial projects.

NOW OFFERING FREE CONSULTATIONS.

Call today to schedule your appointment.
(413) 366-1703
(Lic. #24046-A)

SERVICES

DANNY'S ELECTRICAL SERVICES LLC

I offer good quality electrical work, no project too small, free estimates, service upgrades, pools, budget friendly, committed to satisfaction, dependable & insured. Master Lic. #20773-A, Business Lic. #9310-A1. Text or call Daniel at **413-218-3301** or visit my website at **dannyselectricllc.com** to fill an online work request

GAGNON ELECTRIC

All types of electrical work. Fully insured. All work fully guaranteed. Free estimates. Lic. #14960A. **413-533-8867**

HOME IMPROVEMENT

HOME IMPROVEMENT SPECIALIST

Haley Remodeling offering financing. Windows, siding, granite counters, heat & ac mini splits, composite & pressure treated decks. **413-563-2229, Tim.**

CHAMELEON PAINTING & REMODELING

INTERIOR/EXTERIOR
Remodeling & Deck Specialists
Residential/Commercial
Fully Insured • Free Estimates
413-351-1147

HOME IMPROVEMENTS. REMODELING Kitchens, baths. Ceramic tile, windows, painting, wallpapering, siding, decks. Insurance work. Fully insured. Free estimates. **(413)246-2783 Ron.**

LANDSCAPING

****ALL SEASON**** Specializing in shrub trimming, pruning, design, deliveries, loader, backhoe, insured. Professional. Please call Bob **(413)537-5789**.

SERVICES

A+ ROZELL'S LANDSCAPING & BOBCAT SERVICE

Excavator Services
Overgrown property?
Extreme Brush Cutting!
Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal!
Lawn/Arborvite Installed
Loam, Stone, Mulch, Sand
Storm Clean-up
Small Demolition/ Junk Removal
Insured
Josh Rozell 413-636-5957

LAND CLEARING

HENRY'S TREE SERVICE LLC

Clearing and forestry mulching for lot clearing, perimeter clearing, 1-5+ acres & stumping. Certified & Fully Insured. Free Estimates. Over 30 Years Experience. Offering Senior Citizen & Military Discounts
Call 413-279-1050

LAWN & GARDEN

HEADS UP LAWN SPRINKLERS LLC.

Need sprinkler repairs or complete system check? We fix leaks, replace heads, troubleshoot problems, and add zones/ upgrade existing systems. Fast reliable service without big company prices.

Call **413-279-4122** to set up an appointment.

MASONRY

STOP WET BASEMENTS

ABC MASONRY & BASEMENT WATERPROOFING

All brick, block, stone, concrete. Hatchway doors, basement windows, chimneys rebuilt & repaired, foundations repaired, basement waterproofing systems, sump pumps. BBB+ rating. Free estimates. Lic #14790. Call **(413)569-1611, (413)374-5377**

SERVICES

RUBBISH REMOVAL

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

TREE WORK

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

AFFORDABLE STUMP GRINDING Fast, dependable service. Free estimates. Fully insured. Call Joe Sablack **413-436-9821, Cell 413-537-7994**

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

HENRY'S TREE SERVICE LLC

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

STUMP GRINDING

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

Henry's Tree Service LLC

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

AUTO

CAMPERS

2011 KEYSTONE MONTANA MOUNTAINEER MODEL RKD LENGTH 33', 2 SLIDE-OUTS, REAR KITCHEN, SLEEPS 4, LOTS OF STORAGE. \$7000. BRIMFIELD **(413)374-1880**

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

FRIDAY AT NOON

PETS

GERMAN SHEPHERD PUPS. Champion Czech and Belgian bloodlines, 2M, 1F, 30 years experience. Available 9/25/2026. \$1,200. Taking deposits now. **413-218-2321**

HELP WANTED

We seek an energetic, enthusiastic, and well-organized person for the position of **OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR/ CLERICAL PART-TIME.**

This is a part-time position of 20 to 25 hours per week at \$680, depending on Workload. Need to be detail-oriented, possess good customer service skills, some cash & items handling skills. Apply Email: **www.hunn@outlook.com**

REAL ESTATE

FOR SALE Duplex for sale at 812/814 East Street Ludlow.

Built in 1974, each unit has 2 bedrooms, 1 ½ baths, private basements, gas heat and central air on 0.23 acres of land. Great rental potential, good location with nearby schools and close access to the highway. The house needs cosmetic updates. Property is being sold strictly in AS-IS condition. Priced accordingly \$425,000.
Call **617- 877- 3455** if interested.

FOR RENT



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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

ROOM FOR RENT

Short Term Room Rental. Enjoy a peaceful, comfortable stay at Paradise Lake sanctuary in Monson. Fully furnished room available for short term rental. Available Oct. 1st.

- All utilities included
- Full kitchen access
- Laundry access
- Pets welcome
- Quiet, welcoming setting
- Ideal for traveling professionals or temporary stays.

For rates, availability and more information call Teri, 413-381-7950

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
or call: 413-283-8393

DEADLINES: FRIDAY AT NOON

CATEGORY:

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

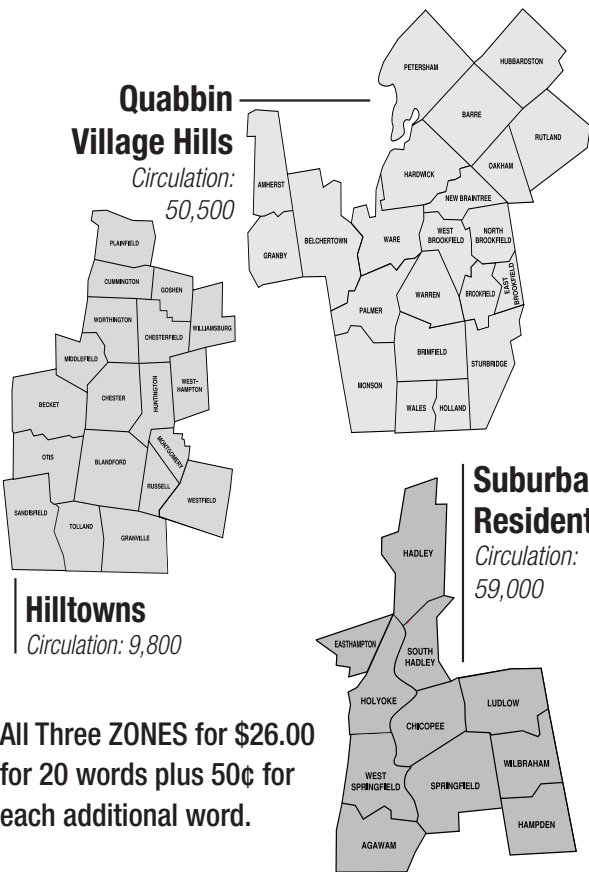
Number of Weeks: _____ X per week rate = \$ _____

Credit Card: ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA ☐ Discover ☐ Cash ☐ Check# _____

Card #: _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____

Amount of charge: _____ Date: _____

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!



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

GREAT VALUE!

ALL 3 ZONES NOW FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!

Make checks payable to Turley Publications

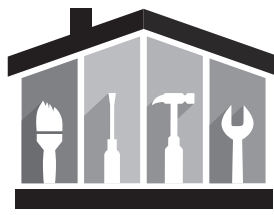
FOR RENT



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.

Advertise your **HOME IMPROVEMENT SERVICES** in our classifieds.
WE GET RESULTS!
Call **413-283-8393**



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

MAYOR, *from page 1*

Sheehy received a grand tour of the city, stopping at Holyoke Gas & Electric, where he was amazed by the blend of industrial precision and the living preservation of Irish history carried forth in modern operations.

“It’s an incredible project that has lasted for a century and a half, which is impressive to say the least, and the impact that’s having on your community and the opportunities it’s affording is something that I’m going to be taking back to Kerry,” Sheehy said of the dam. “It was really—it was a bit emotional, to be honest, to see the photos of the original dam as being made and the Irishmen, you know, whose hands laid the bricks and blocks and mortar and created that space over 170 years ago.”

Sheehy also praised Holyoke’s diversity, noting how the community continues to live and thrive together in harmony—an effort he credited to Garcia’s leadership.

“Just in terms of the diversity of Holyoke, I’m blown away by it,” Sheehy said. “And I suppose from an Irish perspective, we’re in a very unique space in terms of the European Union, because while the rest of Europe over several centuries were all colonizers, we were a colony. So I think it puts us in a very different headspace from other countries in terms of how we welcome and how we know our population traveled the world- not just to the UK and Europe, or across the waters here to Holyoke and to the wider United States. It’s truly special to hear all the work that you’re doing in terms of diversity here in Holyoke, and I look forward to strengthening this connection.”



The attendees of the visit from County Kerry, Ireland Mayor Mikey Sheehy to Holyoke held on Sept. 18.

Turley photos by Brendan Rooney

Echoing similar sentiments was Garcia.

“I just hope that whatever we do today, moving forward, we continue to embrace each other’s cultures and do what we can to support each other as neighbors and human beings, while also celebrating the backgrounds and traditions that are right in front of us,” the mayor said. “And so let it be known that we are very fortunate to have you here, and we look to extending this partnership and offering a place in our community with open arms and a shared sense of success.”

Adding to the festive atmosphere, the visit conveniently coincided with the annual “Halfway to St. Patrick’s Day” milestone—highlighted by Saturday’s “Mingle with Dingle” event at the Big E, which Sheehy previewed—anchoring the cross-cultural celebration in the spirit of the upcoming parade season.

“Look, I’m a very proud Kerry man, I’m a very proud Irishman. St. Patrick’s Day is the focal point of our year, because we look at celebrating what it is to be Irish. But there’s also a really important aspect of that: we’re also very cognizant of all of the

huge population of Irish diaspora that is scattered throughout the world. And Holyoke is a real microcosm of Ireland,” Sheehy said.

The gathering concluded with a handful of gifts and celebratory remarks from local leaders, including 2027 Holyoke St. Patrick’s Day Parade President Stephanie Joyce and Ancient Order of Hibernians President Joe O’Connor, among many others.

As of this moment, the 50th Holyoke St. Patrick’s Road Race is set to kick off on Saturday, March 20, 2027, and closing out the holiday weekend will be the 74th Holyoke St. Patrick’s Parade on Sunday, March 21, 2027, which is set to step off at 11:10 AM from the K-Mart Plaza in the Paper City.



2027 Holyoke St. Patrick’s Day Parade President Stephanie Joyce with Mikey Sheehy.



Ancient Order of Hibernians President Joe O’Connor offering a gift bag to County Kerry, Ireland Mayor Mikey Sheehy.



Holyoke Police Chief Brian Keenan talking to County Kerry, Ireland Mayor Mikey Sheehy, as Holyoke Mayor Joshua Garcia and Ward 6 City Councillor Juan Anderson-Burgos look on.



- Tree Removal
- Structural Pruning
- Crane Service
- Storm Damage
- Stump Grinding
- Lot Clearing



Give us a call today for your free estimate and tree evaluation by a ISA certified arborist

413-478-4212
 dlandgtree.com

DL&G TREE

INSURED AND CERTIFIED

