

## Sewage in Conn. River of concern

Outdated Holyoke, Mass., plant dumping millions of gallons in heavy rain

By JACK LAKOWSKY  
Day Staff Writer

State and federal officials say the city of Holyoke, Mass., has an overwhelmed and outdated wastewater collection system that

recently dumped 14 million gallons of sewage into the Connecticut River in four days.

"When these discharges occur, you can actually see some of the solid waste from untreated sewage floating down with the current," two state lawmakers wrote in a letter to the Environmental Protection Agency's New England headquarters. "The contamination directly affects Connecticut's water

resources, recreational activities and public health." The river flows south into Long Island Sound at Old Lyme and Old Saybrook.

The letter, written by state Rep. Devin Carney, R-Old Lyme, and state Rep. Tami Zawistowski, R-East Granby, said a 7 million-gallon dump on July 27 is just one of many discharges by the plant.

Four days later, on July 31, reports

by Holyoke say more than 588,000 gallons were dumped into the river. The city discharged an estimated 6.50 million gallons into the river on Aug. 1.

Responding to the letter, Holyoke's interim Director of Public Works Mary Monahan said Tuesday her city should meet with Connecticut and work

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## Resignation means no school board primary in New London

By JOHN PENNEY  
Day Staff Writer

New London — The sudden resignation of a school board member means the board president's name will automatically be placed on the general election ballot without her having to engage in a primary contest.

Blanca Alexis-Sylvain resigned her Board of Education position effective Wednesday, about a month after the Democratic Town Committee endorsed her reelection run and opted not to endorse board President Elaine Maynard-Adams.

Maynard-Adams successfully petitioned for a primary election, as did City Councilor Jeffrey Hart, who also failed to secure his party's endorsement.

But Alexis-Sylvain's departure — she said in an Aug. 21 letter she was focusing on her career and family — came too late for the DTC to select an alternate candidate ahead of the start of early primary voting on Tuesday.

"We now only have seven candidates for seven (school board) spots," Democratic Registrar of Voters Richard Martin said Wednesday. "So, all those seven candidates will all automatically be placed on the general election ballot."

In addition to Alexis-Sylvain, the DTC last month endorsed incumbents Karen Bergin and Susan Hambey, as well as Martin, who was tapped this year to fill a board vacancy. Newcomers Becky Amanti, Nanci DeRobbio and Scott Garbini were selected to round out the rest of the board election slate.

Martin said several absentee ballots with Alexis-Sylvain's name were sent out last week. Martin said new ballots can be requested and if incorrect ones are received on Sept. 9 — Election Day — they will be hand-counted to only include City Council results.

The DTC endorsed incumbents Efrain Dominguez Jr., Reena Dyess, Akil Peck and John Satti as their preferred council candidates, along with Victoria Mueller, who was selected earlier this year to fill a council vacancy. The committee chose Chris Clouet and Shinelka Farees to run for the remaining seats on the seven-member council. Current Councilor Jocelyn Rosario has chosen not to seek re-election.

Both the council and the school board comprise solely Democrats.

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DANA JENSEN/THE DAY

New Principal Stephanie Sawyer, right, and Michael Gore, paraprofessional for grades 4 and 5, greet students as they arrive on the first day of school at Charles Barnum Magnet School in Groton on Wednesday.

## New principal wants to create 'community of learners'

Sawyer takes over at Charles Barnum Magnet School in Groton

By KIMBERLY DELICHE  
Day Staff Writer

Groton — Stephanie Sawyer, the new principal at Charles Barnum Magnet School, didn't plan to pursue a career in education until a college professor inspired her.

When Sawyer saw the community of learners he built in the classroom, she realized she wanted to become an educator to create the same experience for his students.

She said her plan is to create a similar community of learners at Charles Barnum, a close-knit elementary school of approximately 300 students, about half of whom are from military families.

"I'm very closely tied to this

community. Groton is my home. This is where I'm going to raise my child," said Sawyer, 38, who lives in Groton with her husband, Matthew, and 2-year-old son, George.

Sawyer, a Preston native whose mother is a Robert E. Fitch High School graduate, said both of her grandfathers served in the military: one in the Navy and one in the Air Force.

"It's honestly an honor for me to serve the people that serve our country," said Sawyer, adding that everyone at Charles Barnum has been so welcoming and wants to do what's best for the children.

Sawyer joined Groton last month after recently serving as assistant principal at the Charles H. Barrows STEM Academy in Windham. She

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Ship sponsor Kelly Geurts welds with Electric Boat welder Robert Ray Jr. on Wednesday at EB's Quonset Point facility in North Kingstown, R.I.  
COURTESY OF EB



### WEATHER

Today, partly sunny and comfortable. High 75. Friday, partly sunny with showers. High 76. BB

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### THE UNITED THROWS 50TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY FOR 'JAWS'

Westerly — The United will celebrate the rerelease of "Jaws" on its 50th anniversary on Saturday at 6:30 p.m.

The free event at the downtown theater will feature the hard-to-get retro cans of Narragansett Beer seen in the movie while author Christopher Myers Shaw, nephew of "Jaws" actor Robert Shaw, who portrayed Captain Quint, will be signing his new book, titled "Robert Shaw." Limited copies will be available for purchase courtesy of Martin House Books.

Shark historian Keith Cowley will be on hand, and those who attend can snap photos with iconic "Jaws" visuals in a photo booth. The cafe will present a special Jaws-themed menu.

"Jaws," which will be shown Saturday at noon, 4 and 7:15 p.m., and will continue through Sept. 4. Tickets and more information are available at unitedtheatre.org.

### CDC DIRECTOR BEING OUSTED REFUSES TO RESIGN

The Trump administration moved Wednesday to oust Susan Monarez as director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention after she faced pressure to change vaccine policy, sparking the resignation of her senior CDC officials and a showdown over whether she could be removed.

Hours after the Department of Health and Human Services announced Monarez was no longer the director, her lawyers responded with a fiery statement saying she has not resigned or been fired. They accused HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. of "weaponizing public health for political gain" and "putting millions of American lives at risk."

— The Washington Post

### Tomato love



ALBERTO SAIZ/AP PHOTO

A couple kisses over a puddle of tomatoes during the annual "Tomatina" tomato fight fiesta, in the village of Bunol near Valencia, Spain, on Wednesday.

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