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Joint committee looks to end receivership

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – At the joint committee of the city council and the school committee on Mar. 14, they discussed the district's steps on ending receivership.

In the fall of 2023, the school committee had decided they wanted to try to exit state receivership. Superintendent/Receiver Anthony Soto sent his letter of support to the Commissioner.

In response, the Commissioner sent back a letter saying that he wanted to have further conversation with the district on this matter.

Many on the school committee and the city council were frustrated by the lack of direct response from the Commissioner on what steps they need to take to exit receivership.

"It's very nebulous where the goal posts are at this point," City Councilor Kevin Jourdain said. "Where does this all go? Is this going to be a saga where some nice people are all going to be sitting in our chairs 12 years from now saying we've been in receivership for 20 years? Because I really feel like that's where this is going."

"I'm sick and tired of being where we are, I'm sure everybody is," School Committee Member Rosalee Tensley Williams said. "Tell us what to do to get out of receivership. All they're saying is we're not performing."

Soto promised that the district has made progress and that he sees a light at the end of the tunnel.

"I honestly believe it's going to happen," he said. "We've heard from people from the governor's office, we've heard from the commissioner himself that he is willing to come to the table and talk about a transition."

Soto in his letter of recommendation to end receivership had encouraged the district to work with the state to come up with a plan of transition out of receivership.

He wants to ensure the transition occurs smoothly, rather than the abrupt shift that happened when the district originally went into receivership.

"I didn't think that swooping in and ripping the bandaid off when it happened had a positive impact...the process was

See RECEIVERSHIP, page 8

Bright day, large crowd make for great parade day

HOLYOKE – The Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade was held last Sunday morning in front of a lively crowd and contingents from several surrounding communities and beyond took part in the event.

Holyoke's pride was also in full force as the Grand Colleen and her court, city officials, and performers from the Irish community made for another successful event.

See more photos on page 12



The Grand Colleen Elizabeth Gourde and court member Amelia George are all smiles traveling on their float. Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



JFK Award winner Mike Gorman waves to the crowd.



Parade Grand Marshal Mary Lynch leads the contingent down Beech St.



Aaron Vega and his family stop to pose for a photo.



Mayor Joshua Garcia makes his way down the parade route.

Former councilor flees the country

Wilmer Puello-Mota missed court appearance

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – Former Holyoke City Councilor Wilmer Puello-Mota failed to appear at his disposition hearing in Rhode Island and was later discovered to have boarded a flight to Istanbul, Türkiye.

Puello-Mota was facing charges of possession of child pornography and obstruction of the judicial system for forgery and counterfeiting.

He was supposed to plead for those cases on Jan. 5, but he requested an extension until Jan. 9. On Jan. 7 he is reported to have boarded Turkish Airlines flight 8 from Dulles, Washington, DC to Istanbul, Türkiye.

His current location is unknown, though he has been reported to be spotted in both Russia and Ukraine.

"The State has received photos and videos purporting to be the Defendant in Russia and Ukraine, where he is alleged to have joined the Russian military," states a filed motion by the Rhode Island Attorney General's office.

These sightings have not been confirmed by Rhode Island state.

Currently, Puello-Mota's Facebook page is claiming that he works at a facility named in Russian language that is interpreted as the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation. It also claims that he lives in Moscow, Russia.

There has been no confirmation as to the veracity of this information.

"While the State cannot verify the authenticity of the videos and photographs, if they are accurate the Defendant is well beyond the jurisdiction of this Court and, if false, the Defendant is engaged in an elaborate ruse to conceal his whereabouts," reads the motion.

Due to Puello-Mota's absence, the Rhode Island court has moved "to take the deposition of the minor witness."

They plan to take her testimony in order to "prevent a failure of justice" as she may be unavailable when they can finally proceed to trial with

See XXXXXXX, page 3

Holyoke Community College to host free legal clinic

HOLYOKE – Western Mass CORE at Holyoke Community College, in partnership with Western New England School of Law’s Center for Social Justice, MassHire Holyoke, and Enlace de Familias will host a criminal record expungement and sealing clinic and CORI-friendly job fair at HCC on Thursday, April 4.

The event will run from 12:30-4:30 p.m., with the job fair portion in the PeoplesBank Conference Room on the third floor of the Kittredge Center for Business and Workforce Development on the main HCC campus, 303 Homestead Ave. The legal clinic will take place in classrooms on the second floor or the Kittredge Center and in the adjoining HCC Campus Center.

The event is free and open to the public and will provide an opportunity for people with criminal records to get free legal advice, learn about the criminal record expungement and sealing process, obtain a free copy of their CORI report, and connect with potential employers and community and college resources.

The event coincides with the national recognition of April as “Second Chance Month,” a time to reaffirm the importance of helping people re-enter society after being incarcerated.

According to Nicole Hendricks, director of Western Mass CORE, a college pathways program for incarcerated and system-impacted individuals, around 77 million, or one in three adults in America, have a criminal record, subjecting them to countless obstacles to rebuilding their lives.

“A criminal record significantly impedes people’s ability to find work, housing, and education. This creates a vicious cycle of exclusion and marginalization, making the process of reintegrating into society even more challenging,” Hendricks said.

CORE was founded in 2019 by Hendricks, a professor of criminal justice at HCC, and Mary Orisich, professor of economics. CORE stands for “community, opportunity, resources, and education.”

“Data indicates that our region bears

the highest burden of jail and prison incarceration rates in the state,” Orisich said. “According to 2020 data from the Vera Institute of Justice, Hampden County had the highest combined jail and prison incarceration rate in Massachusetts. This tells us that many residents are affected by the criminal legal system. Events like this meet a significant need in our community.”

Western New England School of Law’s Center for Social Justice is sending about a dozen legal volunteers, including CSJ staff attorney Gladys Vila-Carreras, retired judge and interim CSJ Director Dina Fein, and attorney Crispin Birnbaum, an Access to Justice fellow focusing on clients with criminal records, who will supervise local attorneys and student volunteers from the law school.

MassHire anticipates that representatives from more than 25 area employers will attend the job fair along with 10 or so support service organizations.

The Center for Social Justice will be sending the Justice Bus, its free mobile legal clinic, which will be parked outside

the Kittredge Center during the event.

“We look forward to connecting with the community and bringing our free legal kiosks and other area resources to anyone in need of legal assistance,” said Fein.

Also attending will be representatives from the Hampden County Sheriff Department’s All Inclusive Support Service program (AISS), HCC’s Culinary Arts program, HCC’s Thrive Student Resource Center and Food Pantry, and El Centro, HCC’s support center for Hispanic and Latinx students.

There will also be free food and music

HCC will provide free transportation to campus from the Maple Street bus terminal in downtown Holyoke via La Guagua, the college’s community shuttle, and to the Kittredge Center from the bus circle in the middle of the campus.

Pre-registration for the event is recommended but not required. To register, please go to hcc.edu/CORI.

Please bring a Massachusetts photo ID.

Job fair scheduled for April 17

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Mall will host its spring job fair on Wednesday, April 17, from 2 to 5 p.m. on the lower level near Macy’s. The Get Hired Job Fair is a convenient opportunity for Western Mass employers to interview and hire workers, and to help job seekers connect with businesses who need their skills. Employers from a variety of industries will be in attendance looking for candidates at all skill levels. The event is free to attend for all job seekers. Employers that have already signed up to staff a table include Baystate Health, PeoplesBank,

Holyoke Community College, YMCA Greater Springfield, and more.

Last year, the September job fair drew more than 40 employers, representing over 10 industries, and nearly 400 candidates.

Employers interested in participating in the upcoming job fair should contact Jim Geraghty, Advertising Representative for Holyoke Mall, at 617-840-2998 or JamesGeraghty@pyramidmg.com. For full details regarding the Holyoke Mall Job Fair event, please visit <https://www.holyokemall.com/event/get-hired-job-fair-3/>.

History lecture to be held at library

HOLYOKE – Will Melton’s will be giving a history talk for Holyoke Public Library on Tuesday, March 26, at 5 p.m. in the Holyoke Public Library Community Room. Melton will tell the story of Henry Richardson and this his architectural commissions. Melton retired in 2015 after four decades in university and museum fund raising to devote time to gardening, his mandolin ensemble, and history studies and writing.

The topic will be the greatest American architect of the 19th century, Henry Hobson Richardson and his firm were commissioned to design more than two dozen railroad stations, many along

the east-west line of the Boston & Albany Railroad. Only one, his 1885 Holyoke Passenger Station, was completed in his lifetime on the north-south line between New York and Montreal (the Connecticut River Railroad). When rail passenger service to Holyoke was abandoned nearly 80 years later, the station was altered into automobile parts and machine shops.

It sat empty for decades until local businessman David White bought the building in 2021, “tired of listening to people complain ‘Someone should fix it before it falls down.’” His takeout restaurant and Choo Choo’s Ice Cream shop will open on the site this Spring.

United Congregational Church announces upcoming Easter schedule, events

HOLYOKE – Spring is right around the corner, and with it Palm Sunday and Easter. That means it’s time for the United Congregational Church of Holyoke to announce its annual events and services to observe the end of the Lenten Season.

The first event is a worship service to honor Palm Sunday, which falls on March 24. The service will begin at 10 a.m. (people are encouraged to arrive at 9:45 a.m. to hear music and hymns) and will feature messages of hope. All Are Welcome to attend.

Every Bunny is invited to join in the fun at our Easter Egg Hunt Eggstravaganza, which is March 30 from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. There will be scavenger hunts, crafts, games, pictures with the Easter Bunny and fun for the whole



family. Admission is free.

Easter Sunday is March 31, which will feature a special Worship Service beginning at 10 a.m. The service will feature a message of hope, songs of Christ’s resurrection, and will conclude with the sacrament of communion. Again, all are welcome to attend.

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

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Greenfield Savings Bank hosts 'Bed In'

NORTHAMPTON – Talking live from a bed at Greenfield Savings Bank (with bed and furnishings provided by Andy's Oak Shoppe) will be the beloved Tara Brewster, the vice president of Business Development and Director of Philanthropy at GSB. Last year's Bed In drew dozens of guests who climbed into bed with Tara to talk about their own cancer experiences, their family's or how cancer has impacted their community. "People have cried here today, people have laughed here today, people have told really true and honest stories," Brewster said. "That's what Cancer Connection is about."

The 2024 Bed In will take place on Friday, April 5 from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Greenfield Savings Bank's location at

325 King St. All day stop by Greenfield Savings Bank to visit with Tara, enjoy free food and drink donated by local restaurants, hear live music, meet local business owners, artists, writers and community leaders, hear inspiring stories, and show support for Cancer Connection. Donations placed online, in person, and by phone will fund crucial programs and services at Cancer Connection.

Thanks to the generosity of Greenfield Savings Bank and their \$15,000 Community Leadership Challenge Grant, and in partnerships with local radio stations, the Bed In will bring the community together for fun and to raise vital funds for Cancer Connection. Throughout the day there will be special guests, music, delicious

food, prizes and lots of fun surprises! The whole day will feature a live broadcast from WRSI 93.9 and a live-stream on YouTube Live.

Founded in 2000, Cancer Connection's mission is to provide a haven where people with cancer and their loved ones can learn how to navigate the complicated cancer journey through one-to-one guidance, education, peer support, integrative therapies, and creative programs. Cancer Connection is the only cancer support center in Hampshire and Franklin Counties and draws additional participants from Hampden County and beyond. All of Cancer Connection's services are provided free of charge. Donate Online: <https://www.cancer-connection.org/donate>

Gov. Healey proposes pardons

BOSTON – State Senator Adam Gomez (D-Springfield) joined Gov. Maura Healey and Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll at the State House for a major criminal justice reform announcement related to pardoning those convicted of simple possession of marijuana.

As Healey said in her address, the pardons will apply to all adult state-level misdemeanor possession convictions handed down before Wednesday, March 13, 2024, removing criminal records that have become a barrier for residents seeking jobs or housing throughout the years.

"I'm thankful to the Healey-Driscoll administration for answering President Biden's call and issuing pardons for those convicted of state marijuana offenses", said Gomez. "8 years ago, Massachusetts residents voted yes on Question 4 to legalize recreational marijuana. Today, we are finally beginning to address historic racial disparities for those affected by marijuana prohibition. As Chair of Cannabis Policy, I have worked closely with organizations and community members who've advocated for this type of reform, but I've also been directly affected when I was charged with a low-level marijuana crime as a teenager. I encourage the Governor's Council to vote favorably on the Governor's recommendation to make this a reality for tens of thousands of individuals across the state".

The proposal will still need the approval of the Governor's Council before taking effect. If approved the pardons would take effect immediately, although it may take several months for individual criminal records to be updated. For more information, please contact Senator Gomez's office at Adam.Gomez@MASenate.gov

HRA seeking development proposals

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Redevelopment Authority is seeking development proposals for land located on Race and Main Streets available for commercial and residential uses. The property consists of six adjacent parcels of land that collectively contain approximately .75 acres of land and is zoned General Industry.

For this property, the HRA is seeking a development that would add new commercial development potentially mixed with housing that would add to the vibrancy occurring nearby. The area around the property has seen notable developments over the past few years with more projects under construction or in the planning stage. Adjacent to the south of the property is the "Cubit"

building which is a mixed residential and commercial development while directly to the north is the Armour Building currently being converted to a restaurant and co-working space. Under construction one block away is WinnDevelopment's Appleton Mills Phase 1 creating 88 units of 55+ housing. Phase 2, which would bring an additional 75 units on-line, is in the planning stage. Additional activities are nearby at Open Square and in the Arts & Industry District with nightlife, shops and restaurants.

The proposal package is available for download via <https://www.holyoke.org/propertyfor-sale/>.

For more information, please contact the HRA oped@holyoke.org or call (413) 322-5655.



Pierogi Sale on March 23

HOLYOKE – On Saturday, March 23, Our Lady of the Cross Parish will be selling frozen pierogi. The food sale will take place in the vestibule of the church from 2 to 4 p.m. Cabbage, apple, blueberry and potato/cheese pierogi will be on sale for \$10.00 a dozen. The church is located on Holy Cross Ave. Please use the front doors. For more information, call the parish office at 413-532-5661.

Holyoke BikePed looking for volunteers

HOLYOKE – As the warm weather approaches, the Holyoke BikePed is looking for motivated individuals looking to participate in efforts to improve biking and walking within the city of Holyoke. The committee works closely on city infrastructure projects, Safe

routes to School initiatives, and fun events including the Bike Ride with the Mayor and Bike Night at the Armor Yard.

Join BikePed every first Monday of the month at 6 p.m. via zoom or in person in the City Hall Annex 4th floor.

FLEES, from page 1

this issue.

Puello-Mota was originally arrested on Sept. 2 2020 for possession of child pornography. He had supposedly met with a 17-year-old girl in a hotel in Providence, Rhode Island.

He met the girl in February of 2020 through an online website. In an interview with police detectives he claimed to have initially thought the girl was 22, only later learning she was 17.

Puello-Mota also sent the defendant money through Venmo for sexually explicit photos of herself.

He was then arrested on May 11, 2022 for forging email documents to

attempt to deceive his commanding officers at Barnes Air National Guard Base and Rhode Island authorities.

Puello-Mota served as the Ward 2 Councilor of the Holyoke City Council until December of 2023. While he had initially been removed from the council, a judge ruled he could not be kicked off the council until he was convicted of a crime.

He was also a former member of the Massachusetts National Air Guard and worked at the Barnes Air National Guard Base.

The Rhode Island Attorney General Office will continue to work on this case and release the information they are able to as it comes to them.

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Guest Column

in the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid

Thank goodness for the 'happy plant'

It was a bad night and the next day didn't start out much better. I had heard that the days prior to delivery can be a bit uneasy for a soon-to-be-mother (and therefore for her spouse!), now I know it to be true. Luckily, even before my husband came home from work, the smile he is accustomed to had returned to my face.

My grin grew even bigger, however, when I greeted him at the door and found he had a pot of gerber daisies in his hand. Years ago, I deemed this particular potted plant "the happy plant."

For me it is next to impossible to look at its brightly colored flowers and remain in a bad mood. If you feel the same way but have never had any luck growing the gerber daisy, read on to learn just what cultural requirements are necessary to keep it happy.

The gerber daisy was discovered by Robert Jameson in the early 1880s near the gold fields of Barberton, in the Transvaal region of South Africa. The most popular species, the one which we will concentrate on today, bears his name, *Gerbera jamesonii*.

The Barberton daisy, the Transvaal daisy, and the African daisy are all common names for the plant that relate back to its place of origin.

Not long after its discovery, breeding began on the gerber daisy in England, eventually resulting in improved quality and enhanced color variations. Today, the Netherlands and Columbia are the primary producers of gerbers in cut flower form.

In the floral trade, it ranks an impressive

See GARDEN, page 5

Election letters to the editor welcome

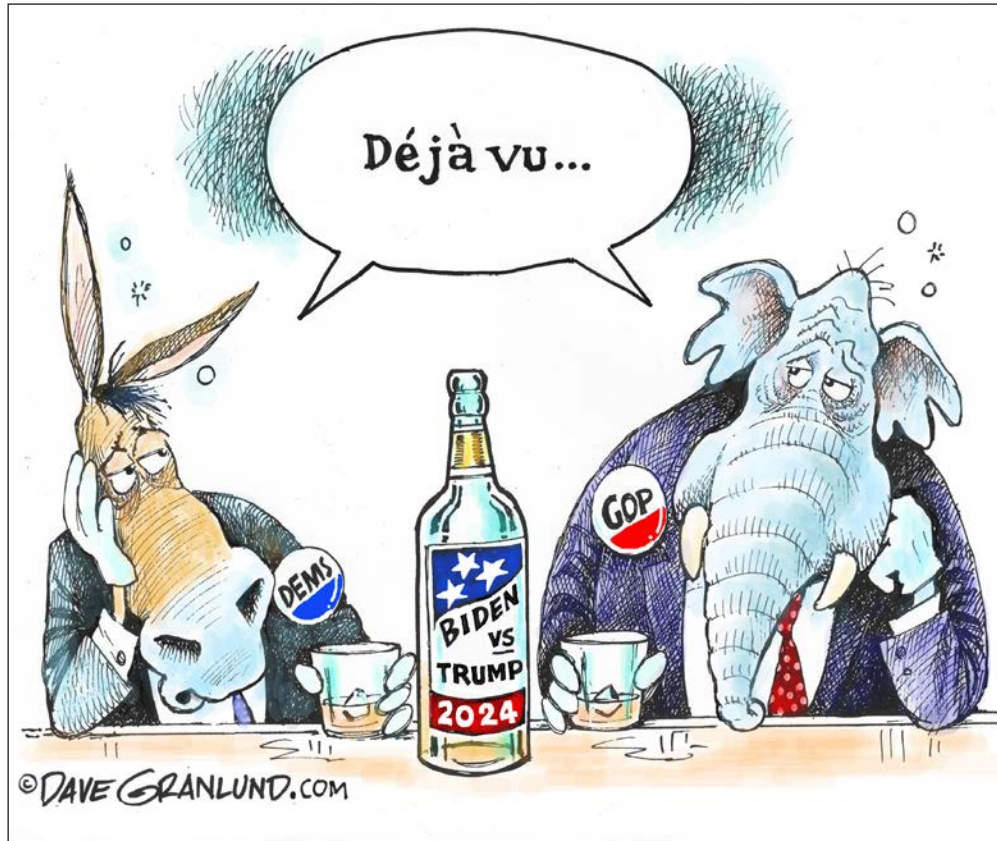
The Holyoke Sun welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Holyoke Sun, care of 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 newspaper 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.



Guest Column

How do survivor benefits work for a married couple?



Dear Rusty

How does Social Security handle the death of one spouse? Say, for example, the husband receives \$2,000 per month in Social Security and his wife receives \$1,000 per month. How is the death of either spouse handled?

Signed: Concerned spouse

Dear Concerned

Benefits to a deceased beneficiary stop as soon as Social Security is notified of the death (notification usually done by the funeral director who handles arrangements). Benefits are not paid for the month of death, only for the preceding month when the beneficiary was alive for the entire month.

A surviving spouse is entitled to the higher of two benefits, their own personally earned SS retirement benefit or an amount based on the deceased spouse's benefit at death. In the example you cite, and assuming the surviving spouse has reached Full Retirement Age: if the husband dies first the wife will receive the husband's \$2,000 monthly benefit instead of her previous \$1,000 amount.

But if the wife died first, the husband would continue receiving only his \$2,000 monthly amount because that is more than his deceased wife was receiving. Note in either case, the surviving spouse would be entitled to a one-time lump sum "death benefit" of \$255.

The surviving spouse would need to contact Social Security to claim the "death benefit" and unless the surviving spouse was previously receiving only a spousal benefit also to claim the higher monthly amount, if eligible. If the surviving spouse was previously receiving only a spousal benefit from the deceased and not entitled to SS retirement benefits on their own, then Social Security would automatically award their higher survivor amount when notified of the death.

If a surviving spouse has reached full retirement age somewhere between 66 and 67 depending on year of birth and is eligible for a survivor benefit, the amount of the survivor benefit will be 100% of the deceased spouse's benefit. But if the survivor claims the benefit before reaching FRA, the amount of the survivor benefit will be reduced by 4.75% for each full year earlier. The survivor's benefit reaches maximum at the survivor's full retirement age.

If a surviving spouse has not yet reached their FRA and if they are entitled to not necessarily collecting their own Social Security retirement benefit, the surviving spouse has the option to delay claiming the survivor benefit until it reaches maximum at their full retirement age. And if the survivor's personal SS retirement benefit will ever be more than their maximum survivor benefit, the surviving spouse also has the option to claim only the smaller survivor benefit first and allow their personal SS retirement benefit to grow to maximum at age 70 if desired.

With Social Security there is hardly ever a simple answer to a question but, in the example you use, if both are over their SS full retirement age:

If the husband dies first, the wife will get 100% of the amount (\$2,000) the husband was receiving, instead of the small amount (\$1,000) she was previously receiving.

If the wife dies first, the husband's monthly benefit will remain at \$2,000 and he will get no increase in his monthly amount. In either case, the surviving spouse will be entitled to a one-time lump sum death benefit of \$255.

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

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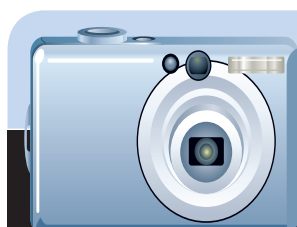
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Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

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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The woodcock has an extremely long bill, a short neck, a dark back and buff breast. Its feathers blend into the leaf litter. The long bill allows the bird to probe into the earth and it can open its beak below the surface to grab prey.

It can eat its weight in earthworms within 24 hours. It also eats insects and seeds. Woodcocks inhabit woods and thickets bordered by open areas.

Both sexes make a "peent" call. In spring, woodcocks display in open fields. The male rises in the air in wide circles. When he reaches about 50 feet about the ground his wings start to make a twittering sound. At about 200 to 300 feet the twittering stops. He gives a canary like flight song and begins a zig zag descent.

Several males may display in the same field. Woodcocks are polygamous. Females are attracted to the area and mate with the males. Males continue to display after mating and may mate with other females.

After mating, the females raise their brood alone. The nest is a scraped depression in the ground lined with twigs or grass and placed within 100 to 200 yards of the male's display ground. The female lays four buff eggs with brown splotches.

Canada geese

On Friday, March 1 I saw a large



Canada geese

flock of Canada geese in a field in Spencer. On Monday, March 4 I heard the honking of geese. I looked up and saw two large flocks of Canada geese fly overhead. The first flock flew lower and landed in my hayfield and the pond next to it. The second flock flew much higher and headed northward.

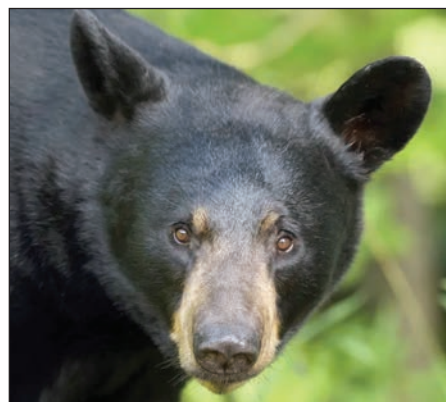
Belted kingfisher

On Feb. 29, a spotted pair of belted kingfishers at a small pond in Ware on my way back from the Ware River News/Barre Gazette office. I was surprised to see them this early.

Black bears and more

I received an email from a Wilbraham resident. He said, "It was March 1, when I woke to see the damage a bear did to our poles and feeders. This was the second time our poles and feeders were damaged by a bear, in the last few years. Shame on me, for not bringing the feeders in at dusk."

He said, "We have been casual bird watchers and feeders for over thirty years. It is relaxing and fun to see the local and migratory birds visit our feed-

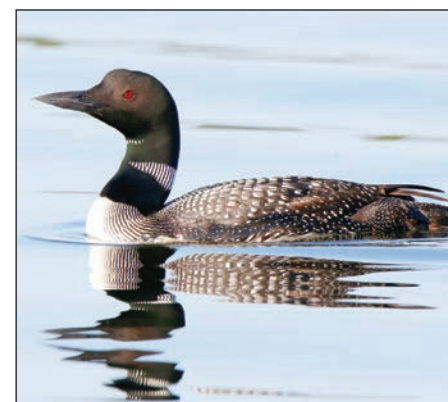


Black bear

ers. Unfortunately, we have to consider the risks associated with placing food sources in our back yards. It means we have to be aware and maybe take the feeders in at dusk, putting them back out in the morning." He also said, "However, that will not eliminate the chance for a bear/human encounter. Last year, a black bear was in our neighbors back yard, at 10:30 a.m. in the morning. The bear was attracted by the chickens in the coup. Fortunately, they have an electrified fence, surrounding the coup. After getting shocked, it ran across the street and into Cedar Swamp woods. It will be back, since a bear does remember where the food sources are located." He said he recently saw a male, pileated woodpecker.

Loon fact

The Loon Preservation Committee in Moultonborough New Hampshire included these interesting loon facts in their newsletter. Loons are physiologically adapted for life in the water, so much so that they struggle to walk on land as a result. Their dense, thick walled bones help to weigh them down in the water.



Loon

The extreme rear-placement of their legs and feet allows them to maximize the propulsive force that they can exert with each kick.

Many studies documented the duration of observed loon dives. Most of these studies have reported that average loon dives last somewhere between 33 and 52 seconds, regardless of season or location. Loons diving to deeper depths tend to spend more time underwater than those diving in more shallow areas.

In a study of loons using Lake Michigan as a stopover site during fall migration, Kenow et al. (2018) found that loons diving to depths of 40 m (131 feet) were spending, on average, 139 seconds (over 2 minutes) underwater per dive. In contrast, loons diving to depths of just 20 meters (65 feet) in that study were spending less time under water per dive (87 seconds, on average).

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.



American woodcock



Belted kingfisher

GARDEN, from page 4

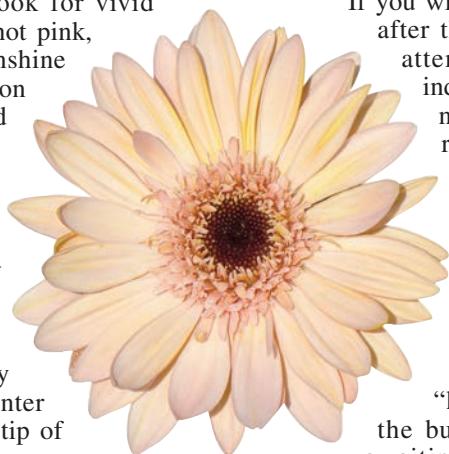
fifth in popularity, behind the rose, carnation, chrysanthemum and tulip.

According to floral lore, the meaning behind the gerber flower is one I would wholeheartedly agree with: cheerfulness, probably due to the wide palette of colors it is available in – nearly every one except blue. Look for vivid orange, cool coral, hot pink, crimson red and sunshine yellow, not to mention bubblegum pink and creamy white!

Unfortunately, the gerber daisy is not hardy in our area; it prefers a much warmer location in which to grow. On the eastern seaboard, the only place it will overwinter is the southernmost tip of Florida, in hardiness zones 9 and 10.

Here in New England, it is best enjoyed on the windowsill during the winter months. As long as the plant is provided with normal room temperatures, bright light and sufficient but not excess moisture it should bloom prolifically.

Remember to remove spent flowers to keep up the gerber's good looks as well as to encourage future blooms.



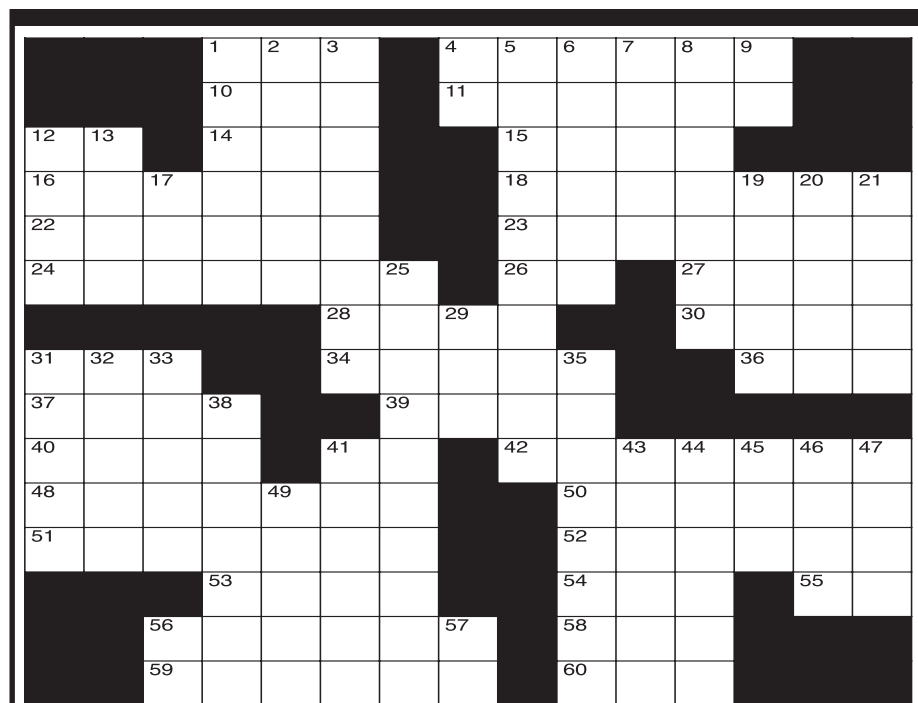
Once the danger of frost has passed, it is also safe to plant the gerber daisy outdoors, just as you would any other summer annual. More and more consumers are doing this each year and with success!

The best type of soil for it is one that is organically rich and well-drained. Full sun is a must for flower production.

If you wish to dig up the plant after the season wanes and attempt to overwinter it indoors, be extra careful not to disturb its deep root system or death may incur. Some gardeners who plan on overwintering their gerbers sink the pot and all at planting time to avoid any potential risk later on.

Right now, the "happy plant" sits on the bureau in the nursery, awaiting the arrival of our little girl, just as we are. There is indeed so much to be happy about!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Small Eurasian deer
- 4. Irish county
- 10. A major division of geological time
- 11. Broadway actor Lane
- 12. Canadian province (abbr.)
- 14. Human gene
- 15. Two
- 16. A famous one is blue
- 18. Utter repeatedly
- 22. Ring-shaped objects
- 23. Spoils
- 24. Occurs
- 26. Commercial
- 27. Near
- 28. Products you may need
- 30. Pledge thrown down as a challenge

CLUES DOWN

- 31. TV network
- 34. Silk or cotton garments
- 36. Soviet Socialist Republics
- 37. Retired American football coach Dean
- 39. Hot dish
- 40. A type of gin
- 41. Atomic #84
- 42. Sawhorse
- 48. About ground
- 50. Medicine man
- 51. Seedless raisin
- 52. Capital of Albania
- 53. Appendage
- 54. OJ trial judge
- 55. By the way (abbr.)
- 56. Bicycle parts
- 58. Barbie's friend
- 59. Moved one's neck to see
- 60. Commercials

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Make up for
- 2. Baltimore ballplayer
- 3. Salary
- 4. Influential world body
- 5. Engravers
- 6. Declared as fact
- 7. One who steals
- 8. Jewelry
- 9. Hospital employee (abbr.)
- 12. Nonsense (slang)
- 13. Town in Galilee
- 17. Value
- 19. A fake name
- 20. Sheep in their second year
- 21. Town in Surrey, England
- 25. Appropriate for a particular time of year

CLUES DOWN

- 29. Creative works
- 31. Recesses
- 32. W. Pacific island group
- 33. Tolkien character
- 35. Ancient symbol co-opted by the Nazi party
- 38. Pioneer
- 41. Scribe
- 43. Painted a bright color
- 44. Lowest members of British nobility
- 45. Actress Thurman
- 46. Type of sugar
- 47. Crest of a hill
- 49. N. American people of British Columbia
- 56. Device
- 57. The Mount Rushmore State

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 9



Sensory-friendly egg hunt at Wistariahurst

HOLYOKE – Join Wistariahurst Museum and hop in for a sensory-friendly egg hunt that focuses on gentle exploration and enjoyment. Designed for families with sensory sensitivities, this egg-ceptional event is tailored so every bunny feels comfortable and welcome. Weather permitting, the egg-stravaganza will take place in the gardens but will be relocated indoors in the event of inclement weather. Each child will be able to gather six eggs and choose from a selection of prizes ranging from candy to fidget toys. This event is the first of its kind at Wistariahurst, and staff members are

ready to crack open the fun.

“We saw an opportunity for the museum to offer this city tradition to kids who may not thrive at the large-scale egg hunt downtown. We wanted to be a space that could offer some more inclusion for this fun event,” Megan Seiller, museum director, enthuses. “And we are thankful for the support from Holyoke’s Parks and Recreation Department on this event.”

Families can sign up for ten minute time slots between 10 and 11:30 a.m., and will be limited to two at a time. The egg hunt will continue until noon to allow children to explore at their

own pace and enjoy a stress free experience. Stay and search as long as the child wants, time slots are only meant to ensure a calm and seamless check-in process. If families would like to explore the museum and/or gardens ahead of the event, open hours are on Mondays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Tuesdays from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. and the gardens are open every day from dawn until dusk.

Please visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sensory-friendly-egg-hunt-at-wistariahurst-museum-tickets-840159588947?aff=ebdsoporgprofile> to learn more about this event.

Easter egg hunt set for March 23

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Parks and Recreation cordially invites the community to Holyoke’s annual Spring Celebration and Easter Egg Hunt. This community event will take place on Saturday, March 23, from 10 am to noon at Holyoke Heritage State Park.

Enjoy unlimited free rides at the Holyoke Merry Go Round and take pictures with the Easter Bunny.

Music, spring crafts, pony rides and balloons will also be available.

Easter Egg Hunt Times: 10 a.m. - Toddlers; 10:30 a.m. - 4-6-year-olds; 11

a.m. - 7-9-year-olds and 11:30 a.m. - 10 - 12-year-olds.

This event is free of charge and will occur rain or shine. In the event of rain, all activities will be moved inside the Holyoke Merry Go Round.

The Holyoke Children’s Museum will also be open. Children are encouraged to bring their own baskets for egg collecting.

For more information visit our web site at www.holyoke.org or call the Parks & Recreation Department at (413) 322-5620.



Easter Bunny arrives at mall

HOLYOKE – Western Massachusetts is hopping over to Holyoke Mall on March 1 to welcome the Easter Bunny back for the spring season.

Mr. Cottontail returns to his holiday home March 1 through March 30 on the lower level in JCPenney Court to bring in the new season with holiday photos and themed events.

This March, hundreds of families will celebrate their favorite Easter tradition at Holyoke Mall. Reservations are recommended and can be made by visiting whereisbunny.com. Guests who pre-book will receive a complimentary gift valued at \$20.

Easter Bunny Photo Hours:

Monday to Friday: 2 to 7 p.m., extends to 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on March 18

Saturday: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., extends to 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on March 23

Sunday: noon to 6 p.m., extends to 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on March 18

Capture the magic all season long



at one of the center’s Easter Bunny events:

Hoppin’ Into Spring: March 9 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sensory-Friendly Event: March 10 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Pet Nights: March 18 and 19 from 5 to 7 p.m.

All events will take place on the lower level outside of JCPenney.

Send Us Your Photos!

Email: thesun@turley.com

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<p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN PORK LOIN ROAST RIB END or LOIN END \$2.09 lb</p> <p>EASTER HAMS</p> <p>USDA INSP. HATFIELD OLD TIME HARDWOOD SMOKED SKINLESS & SHANKLESS WHOLE HAM \$2.44 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. BONELESS KAYEM BUDDABALL WHOLE SMOKED PIT HAM..... \$3.69 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. BONELESS HONEY HAM 3 LB AVERAGE \$1.99 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN HAM PORTION BUTT or SHANK 1 LB..... 99c lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN 1/2 SPIRAL HAM..... \$1.29 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. BLUE SEAL KIELBASA FOR EASTER \$4.99 lb</p>	<p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF RIBEYE \$8.29 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS TRAY PAK..... 49c lb</p> <p>Denten Specials</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH AMERICAN LEG OF LAMB \$4.99 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TOP SIRLOIN SPOON ROAST \$5.55 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS HOLIDAY PORK ROAST STUFFED W/ HAM CHEESE, PEPPER, BACON, OLIVES \$4.49 lb</p>	<p>USDA INSP. FROZEN KINGFISH STEAKS w/ HEAD OR TAIL..... \$4.99 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN AT SEA HADDOCK FILLETS \$5.99 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN WILD CAUGHT SALMON FILLETS 1 LB BAG..... \$5.99 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN CLEANED CONCH MEAT 5 LB BOX..... \$49.99 ea</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN COOKED SHRIMP 16/20 COUNT 1 LB BAG..... \$7.99 ea</p>
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Friday Night
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Trivia Night
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5-7pm
Baked Stuffed Fish Dinner
\$10/pp
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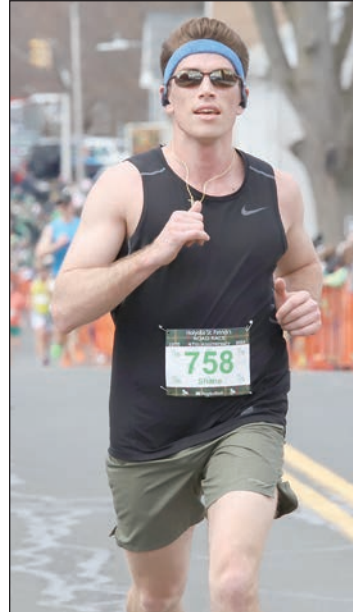
Michael Brouillette comes in at 36:02. He was Holyoke's top finisher.



Elijah Quinn, of Holyoke heads for the finish.



Mia McDonald nears the finish line.



Shane Hall finishes at 39:41. HolyokeRaceE



Kevin Pfefferle races to the finish line.

More than 6,000 brighten great day at Road Race

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – After some dreary, cold, or rainy weather during the past few years, the people attending the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Road Race drew a winner yesterday.

On a sun-splashed afternoon with comfortable temperatures, the 47th running of the popular 10K Road Race took place.

With more than 6,000 harriers competing, and many more taking part in the Fun Run or walking events, the first part of St. Patrick's weekend was definitely a success.

Louis Serafini was the

See ROAD RACE, page 8



The runners are off in the 2024 Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Road Race.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Laniyah Ramos gets ready to attempt a three-pointer.



Isabelle Lopez passes on the run.
Turley photos by David Henry
www.sweetdogphotos.com

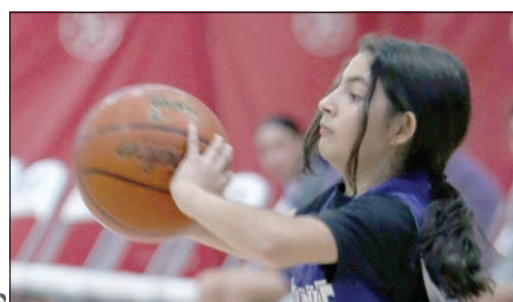
Holyoke begins Szlats tournament

CHICOPEE – Last weekend, the Szlats tournament, an annual girls basketball tournament at the middle school level, took place

in Chicopee. The tournament included multiple division and the Holyoke 5-6 girls participated in three match-ups prior to the playoffs.



Milah Perez fights to get a shot.



Jarielys Negron passes away as pressure comes.



Sophia Fonseca is fouled as she drives to the hoop.

Locals named to High School Senior All-Star Game

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced the team rosters for the 2024 Western Massachusetts Senior High School All-Star Games. On Thursday, March 21, the Hall of Fame hosted the 2024 All-Star event on the Jerry Colangelo Court of Dreams at the Hall of Fame. A total of 60 players were selected from different divisions within the region to participate in three games that will showcase the top seniors in their final high school contest.

“The Basketball Hall of Fame is honored to host the top high school basketball players from Western

Massachusetts at our 13th annual All-Star celebration,” said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. “We encourage the residents of Western Mass. to join us as we celebrate these outstanding seniors in the final game of their high school careers.”

A committee of local coaches and media members who represent each division on the boys’ and girls’ sides selected the teams. Using the designated classes for the PVIAC Tournament, the players will be divided into six teams: two girls’ teams, two boys’ teams of

Class A and B players, and two boys’ teams of Class C and D players. Only graduating seniors are eligible for the All-Star Games. Rosters can be found on the next page.

For the 13th year, the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame will recognize one boy and one girl as the Western Massachusetts Players of the Year. A special presentation will be made for the recipients during halftime of one of the participating games. A panel of local media members selects the award winners, who are recognized for their achievements on the court, in addition

to their sportsmanship and character off the court.

The three All-Star Games were held on Thursday, March 21. There were two boys games and a girls game on the slate.

Among the all-stars named were Granby’s Colin Murdock, Monson’s Colin Beaupre, Ware’s Jack McKeever and Emily McGrail, Palmer’s Andrew Menard, Minnechaug’s Lylah Jeannotte, South Hadley’s Drew Alley, Holyoke’s Amilyan Treadwell-Mercedes and Shawn Rivera, Chicopee Comprehensive’s Alyssa Caney and Tineus McCluster, and Agawam’s Colin Smith.



Male top finisher and first overall Louis Serafini, of Cambridge, finishes the race at 30:12.



Anna Steinmen, of Springfield, was the top female finisher at 37:00.



The wave of runners head down the first stretch of the 6.2-mile course.



The pace truck makes its way across the finish line followed by state police, which escorts the first set of runners.

ROAD RACE from page 7

big winner of the main event. He completed the very hilly, 6.2-mile course in 30:12. Serafini is from Cambridge.

The top female was a local runner from Western Massachusetts. Anna Steinmen, of Springfield, came across the finish line at 37:00.

Ryan Davis, of South Hadley, was one of the top local finishers at 34:36. He was 20th overall.

This year’s race would feature runners from all over the region, the state, and surrounding states as many are preparing for the Boston Marathon, set to take place in just under a month on Monday, April 15. Many runners over the years have enjoyed using the St. Patrick’s Day Road Race as practice for the marathon because of the challenging hills throughout the streets of Holyoke that runners must navigate through.

Of the more than 6,000 runners who were registered, 4,442 finished the 10K course this year. Race officials have said the participation level in the event is still

rebounding from the pandemic. Prior to the pandemic in 2019, race participants totaled about 7,000. The race was not held in 2020 and 2021 before it returned in 2022 with around 5,000 participants. More made their way out to the race last year, but that number was surpassed this year.

Because of that, the start of the race featured multiple waves, though 4RUN3 ran the bibs and electronic results kept accurate results for all those involved.

A number of this year’s participants were featured in the usual celebratory costumes and outfits for St. Patrick’s Day, while many others opted for cartoon and other fictional characters, such as Spider-Man. Several local running clubs also made their way to the race, as did the youth of the region. Youth participants in the race were as young as seven-years-old.

Security was in full force at the event with plenty of presence from the Massachusetts State Police, Holyoke Police, and Hampden County Sheriff’s Department, and the event went off without any incidents.

RECEIVERSHIP, from page 1

really disruptive for families and I think we should’ve learned something from that,” Soto said.

Mayor Joshua Garcia agrees that it is time for HPS to regain control of their schools.

“We got our stuff together now, we appreciate your help, we can take it from here,” he said.

He thinks the biggest priority as they prepare to try to exit receivership is to ensure that the school committee is ready to handle full control.

“Our board hasn’t been in practice of what it means to be in control,” Garcia said. “So I think when we’re talking about what does that look like...it all depends on how ready our school board is.”

The school committee did a retreat in order to discuss their priorities for the next year. Additionally, many members are receiving training on all

of the duties they will need to complete once the board does regain local control.

In order to try to figure out a plan of transition, Garcia and Vice Chair of the School Committee Erin Brunelle had a meeting following the Mar. 14 school committee meeting with the interim commissioner and his team to discuss their options.

Brunelle reported that the meeting went well and that the interim commissioner will be present at the next school committee meeting on Monday, Mar. 25 in order to go over his plans.

“I feel encouraged and that there’s actually light at the end of the tunnel for the first time,” she said. “We already feel like the working relationship with Mr. Johnston is there.”

She stated that he did give an outline of what he wants from the district as they work to end receivership. He will more fully explain all of the details of this plan to the whole school committee at the Mar. 25 meeting.

Thunderbirds get much-needed win over Charlotte

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Springfield Thunderbirds (27-27-3-2) answered a Charlotte comeback the day before with one of their own en route to a 6-4 win over the Checkers (31-23-6-0) on Sunday afternoon at Bojangles' Coliseum.

It did not take long for the Checkers to score their fourth consecutive goal of the weekend, as captain Zac Dalpe worked a 2-on-1, give-and-go rush to perfection with Cam Morrison, snapping a shot over Colten Ellis to make it 1-0 Charlotte just 2:56 into the first.

Springfield answered in kind on its first power play chance of the day, as Will Bitten hit a crashing Ryan Suzuki in the crease for a redirection past Magnus Hellberg at 5:22, making it a 1-1 game.

Charlotte continued having penalty troubles, giving the T-Birds two additional man-up situations in the period. However, the Checkers' PK answered the bell, and on their third kill of the afternoon, Rasmus Asplund added offense with a shorthanded shot past Ellis on the blocker at 14:32, finishing off another 2-on-1 and giving the home side the 2-1 lead at intermission.

It took Adam Gaudette just 19 seconds to restore a tie score when he stole a breakout pass and slapped a blistering shot over Hellberg's shoulder to even the game, 2-2. It brought him back into a tie for the AHL goal-scoring lead with Ontario's Samuel Fagemo.

The 2-2 tie only lasted 50 seconds, though, as Wilmer Skoog answered back on a jam shot from the right circle to give Charlotte the 3-2 advantage during a delayed Springfield penalty.

Charlotte's third power play

proved to be a charm when Gerry Mayhew gave the Checkers a two-goal lead when he poked a loose puck under Ellis at 8:32 to make it a 4-2 game.

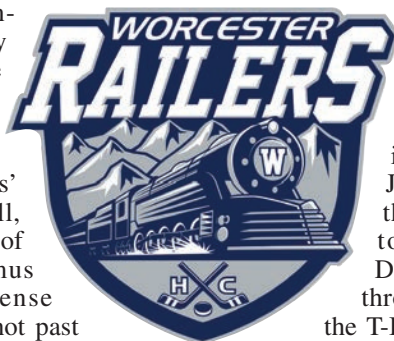
With much of the momentum seemingly on Charlotte's side, the T-Birds got a wonderful stroke of luck at the 10:25 mark when a Skyler Brind'Amour pass caromed off Uvis Balinskis' skate and squeaked under Hellberg's legs. Suzuki was given credit for his second of the game, and the Charlotte lead suddenly slipped to 4-3.

With their power play beaming with confidence, the T-Birds tied the game when Will Bitten deflected a Calle Rosen shot in behind Hellberg, tying the score, 4-4, with just 3:01 remaining in the middle period.

Early in the third, the Springfield power play again made a huge impact following a double-minor on Mayhew. With just two seconds remaining on the first minor, Jakub Vrana played the role of the deflector, as he guided a Dylan Coghlan snapshot through Hellberg, giving the T-Birds their first lead at the 2:30 mark of the third, 5-4.

After both teams committed minors just 51 seconds apart to set up 4-on-4 play, Coghlan added to the T-Birds lead on a 2-on-1, picking a spot over Hellberg's stick-side arm to make it a 6-4 lead for the visitors at 9:26 of the final period. Coghlan finished the two-game set with three goals and five points, and his goal put him atop the AHL leaderboard for goals by defensemen with 16.

From that point onward, Ellis and the T-Birds' defense stiffened, blocking countless Charlotte attempts en route to the win. Ellis, in picking up his third straight win over Charlotte, made 42 stops.



Worcester Railers fall to Adirondack Thunder

WORCESTER – Worcester was beaten, 5-1, by the Adirondack Thunder even though it outshot the visitors by 40-26.

The Railers have scored exactly one goal in four straight games on a total of 148 shots on goal. This is the third time in franchise history a Worcester team has scored one or fewer goals four straight times, the first time since Feb. 27 through March 3, 2022.

The Railers had two goals in that stretch. "I'm sure that's part of it," coach Jordan Smotherman said of the confidence factor. "Any time you put together (148) shots over four games and score four goals, guys start gripping the sticks and there's definitely a letdown every time you have that big chance and it doesn't go in."

Jake Pivonka had the Railers goal. Grant Jozefek, Andre Ghantous, Ryan Smith, Shane Harper and Mike Gillespie scored for the Thunder. Gillespie hit an empty net.

For the first time this season Smotherman changed goalies not because of injury. John Muse allowed four goals on 16 shots and was replaced by Cole Ceci at 17:09 of the second period.

"We've asked a lot of him," Smotherman said of Muse. "Especially seeing that he's 35 years old. I couldn't imagine doing that. He wanted to play tonight. He wanted to fight to give us a chance to win. We know that the next time he's in there he's gonna be the giant we've come to know."

With the defeat, the Railers have dropped into sixth place in the North Division, at least in terms of winning percentage. In terms of points, though, Worcester is remarkably tied with three other teams for the final playoff spot.

The Railers, Reading, Maine and Trois-Rivieres all have 57. Maine and Trois-Rivieres have winning percentages of .491. Reading is at .475.

Newfoundland is in third place with a .517 winning percentage, so the Growlers are in the playoff scrum, too.

"I told our guys — we're in a 13-game push. There are four teams with 57 points, one with 62 that's played a couple more games. We play all of them, so it's up to us. The ball's in our court."

The winning goaltender was Vinnie Purpura. He was the last man the Railers wanted to see as they battle an offensive slump. The triumph improved his record against Worcester this season to 5-0-1 with a 1.91 goals against average and .935 saves percentage.

Worcester outshot the Thunder, 9-1, through the game's first seven minutes and dominated play, but had nothing to show for it. Thus, Adirondack scored the first goal and took a 1-0 lead at 16:09.

Jozefek, a former Railer, snapped one home from the right circle.

Pivonka tied it late in the period as he converted a pass from Ashton Calder at 18:21. That could have translated into some momentum for Worcester heading into the second period, but did not.

Ghantous, newly signed out of Northern Michigan, got his first pro goal at 3:15. He put one under the crossbar from 20 feet. Smith scored similarly at 4:33 on a power play, then Harper beat Muse from the top of the left circle at 17:09 to end the veteran's night.

The Railers' next four games are on the road. They play at Adirondack Wednesday night, then do a three-in-three weekend in Reading. The next game at the DCU Center is March 27 versus Newfoundland.



More players needed to fill Quabbin Valley League rosters

With April looming, the Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League is looking for more players to fill its open roster spots.

There are more than 15 open roster spots as the league heads for its open practice and tryout date and teams are looking to fill their 14-player rosters for a 2024 season that will see the league get back to its normal schedule.

The league is very enthusiastic to welcome new members to the league to fill these roster spots so all teams have the full depth they need. To register, go to: www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org and click on the Registration tab.

Following heavy turnover between 2022 and 2023, the league had to downsize to five teams and ran a modified schedule that included scheduled doubleheaders and bye weeks for teams in order to complete a 15-game schedule. Rain also hampered the league's schedule as well last year.

On March 3, the league's board voted to bring in a new team, bringing the league back up to six teams and creating an even schedule with every team playing on 15 Sunday morning starting on Sunday, April 21 through late August with playoffs to follow.

The league is also voted to play a segment of its schedule using wood bats only.

The middle five games of the schedule will be played that way while the rest of schedule is played with either metal or wood bats.

The league will be holding an open practice for all league players and especially players who are new to the league on Sunday, April 7 at 10 a.m. at Beachgrounds Park in South Hadley.

Prior to that, the next meeting is scheduled for Sunday March 24 at 12 noon at the Hangar Pub & Grill in South Hadley. All are welcome to attend the meeting, ask questions and express interest in joining. The league's board will be discussing final preparations for

the 2024 season.

The Quabbin Valley league is an all-abilities league and all are welcome to join. Eligibility is players who are age 28 and over. You must be 30 to be eligible to pitch in the league. Your age for eligibility is whatever age you will turn in 2024. The league is also able to entertaining taking in an entire group as a team to add to the league. Please email the league board for to inquire about entering a team.

Games are typically held in the Easthampton and South Hadley area with some expansion to Chicopee, West Springfield, Agawam, and Granby being considered.

The Holyoke Sun OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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



PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

[visit www.publicnotices.turley.com](http://www.publicnotices.turley.com)

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FIREWOOD

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All hardwood.

Tree length available

*Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap). Quality & volumes **guaranteed!!** New England Forest Products **(413)477-0083**

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4 YEAR OLD MYERS PLOW. 3 sets of tires with rims 15". Call **413-967-7118** or **413-658-8513**.

FREE REFRIGERATOR

21 cubic foot Amana refrigerator with ice maker. Ivory, good condition. Come and get it. Free. Clean photos on request. **508-344-4879**, West Brookfield.

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MILITARY ITEMS

USA. German. Japanese Collections & Small Items
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WANTED

WANTED TO BUY

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**

JUNK REMOVAL

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.
Call Pete 413-433-0356.

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We load it & take it.
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CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

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CHAIR SEAT WEAVING & refinishing - cane, fiber rush & splint - Classroom instructor, 20+ years experience. Call Walt at **(413)289-6670** for estimate.

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.**

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NEED AN ELECTRICIAN? Look no further! **PJ's Electrical** offers fast and reliable electrical services for your home or business. Call now for a FREE estimate! **(413) 366-1703**

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A & M TUNE-UPS

Push Lawnmowers, Riding Mowers and Small Engine Repair.
Work done at your home.

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Call Mike (413) 348-7967

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Overgrown property?
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Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal
Lawn/Arborvitae Installed
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Josh Rozell 413-636-5957

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Lawn mowing, Spring thru Fall clean-ups, mulching, pruning. Holyoke, South Hadley, Chicopee, Hadley and Amherst. Call **413-536-3697**.

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Now scheduling spring cleanup
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PAUL DOWD MASONRY

Design, build, restore, repair. All types of stone, brick, concrete, masonry. Free estimate. Call **978-257-8237**. **Pauldowd51@gmail.com**

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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**

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Attics, Cellars, Garages cleaned, Pools/Hot Tubs Removed. Family owned/operated since 1950 **(413)537-5090**

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Let me save you money. Tree removal, hazard tree removal, cordwood, stump grinding. We're fully insured and **workmen's comp.** for your protection. Free estimates. Mon-Sun Call Jason **(413)283-6374**

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Chain saw work, climb, trim or cut. Rooted in excellence. Fully insured. Call Jacob LaDue for free estimate, **413-544-2898**.

H & H TREE SERVICE

All phases of tree care. Call Dave **413-668-6560** day/night.

STUMP GRINDING

DL & G STUMP GRINDING

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AUTO PARTS

4 YEAR OLD MYERS PLOW, 3 sets of tires with rims 15". Call **413-967-7118** or **413-658-8513**.

HELP WANTED

CLASS A DRIVER. Triaxle dump trailer work. Local deliveries, minimum 40 hours, rate based on experience. **RB Enterprises, Ludlow, MA. 413-583-8393.**

HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANIC. Construction equipment and trucks. Experience required, full time. **RB Enterprises, Ludlow, MA. 413-583-8393.**

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

The Town of Brookfield is seeking an experienced full-time Highway Superintendent. Full job description at **brookfieldma.us**. Please submit resume and cover letter to selectmen@brookfieldma.us. Application review will begin after March 28th. Resumes accepted until position is filled. Brookfield is an equal opportunity employer.

SQUIER & CO. is looking to hire an oil truck driver. \$40,000-\$60,000 full time. Squire will provide CDL school for the right candidate! Email: **squiereoil@verizon.net. Call 413-267-3184** or visit us at 5 Squier Ave., Monson, MA. Monday-Friday.

The Town of Huntington is seeking a part-time **HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** for 16 hours per week. Applicants must be proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, and Outlook. Hours are flexible, but must be worked during the regular highway department hours of Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to assist the Highway Superintendent. Application and complete job description are available online at **www.huntingtonma.us** or by emailing **admin@huntingtonma.us**. Position is open until filled. Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

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

DEADLINES: **MONDAY 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: _____

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**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD24P0562GD**

**In the interests of
Elineyska Moux
of Holyoke, MA
Minor**

**NOTICE AND ORDER:
Petition for Appointment
of Guardian of a Minor
NOTICE TO ALL
INTERESTED PARTIES**

1. Hearing Date/Time:
A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on 03/14/2024 by Elizabeth Figueroa of Holyoke, MA will be held **04/12/2024 08:30 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing.** Located: Hampden Probate and Family Court, 50 State Street, Springfield, MA 01103.

2. Response to Petition:
You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to:

File the original with the Court; and

Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

3. Counsel for the Minor: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

4. Counsel for Parents:
If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request

for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.

5. Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.
Date: March 14, 2024

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
03/22/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD24P0561GD**

**In the interests of
Jeyshka Moux
of Holyoke, MA
Minor**

**NOTICE AND ORDER:
Petition for Appointment
of Guardian of a Minor
NOTICE TO ALL
INTERESTED PARTIES**

1. Hearing Date/Time:
A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on 03/14/2024 by Elizabeth Figueroa of Holyoke, MA will be held **04/12/2024 08:30 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing.** Located: Hampden Probate and Family Court, 50 State Street, Springfield, MA 01103.

2. Response to Petition:
You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to:

File the original with the Court; and

Mail a copy to all inter-

ested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

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4. Counsel for Parents:
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5. Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.
Date: March 14, 2024

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
03/22/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD24P0427GD**

**In the interests of
Evangelise Denise King
of Holyoke, MA
Minor**

**NOTICE AND ORDER:
Petition for Appointment
of Guardian of a Minor
NOTICE TO ALL
INTERESTED PARTIES**

1. Hearing Date/Time:
A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on 02/27/2024

by **Sandra Luna Rodriguez** of Holyoke, MA will be held **04/01/2024 08:30 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing - In-Person.** Located: **Hampden Family & Probate Court, 50 State Street, 4th Floor, Springfield, MA 01103.**

2. Response to Petition:
You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to:

File the original with the Court; and

Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

3. Counsel for the Minor: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

4. Counsel for Parents:
If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.

5. Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.
Date: February 27, 2024

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
03/22/2024

**City of Holyoke
Notice of Public Hearing**

The Ordinance Committee of the Holyoke City Council will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday April 10, 2024 at 6:30 pm** to hear a Speed Hump Petition for Laurel Street between Northampton Street and Brown Avenue. Meeting will take place at Holyoke City Hall 536 Dwight St and can be accessed remotely via www.zoom.us Meeting ID 833

1188 0913 Meeting Passcode 113597 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 with same Meeting ID and Passcode. For a copy of the petition or to provide written public comment for this hearing, please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org or by phone 413-322-5525.

Ordinance Chair
Israel Rivera
03/22, 03/29/2024

**PURCHASING
REQUEST FOR
PROPOSALS
2024-390PED
COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT MURAL**

The City is requesting proposals from qualified vendors to create a community engagement mural in South Holyoke, working with community partners including Nueva Esperanza, Mass in Motion, and the City to create a community engagement mural within the South Holyoke neighborhood. The Term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year.

Documents will be available from the City of Holyoke's Purchasing Office, 536 Dwight Street, Room 3, Holyoke, MA 01040 beginning at 10:00AM on Wednesday March 20, 2024. Bid documents may be requested via email to sweeney@holyoke.org or in person at the City of Holyoke's Purchasing Office. The deadline to submit bid proposals is April 10, 2024, by 2:00PM, at which time all bids received will be publicly opened in compliance with Chapter 30B and the City of Holyoke's Ordinances. No electronic Submissions will be accepted. **THE CITY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS.**
03/22/2024

**City of Holyoke
Notice of Public Hearing**

The Ordinance Committee of the Holyoke City Council will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday April 10, 2024 at 6:30 pm** to hear a Speed Hump Petition for Laurel Street between Northampton Street and Brown Avenue. Meeting will take place at Holyoke City Hall 536 Dwight St and can be accessed remotely via www.zoom.us Meeting ID 833

1188 0913 Meeting Passcode 113597 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 with same Meeting ID and Passcode. For a copy of the petition or to provide written public comment for this hearing, please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org or by phone 413-322-5525.

Ordinance Chair
Israel Rivera
03/22, 03/29/2024

**LEGAL NOTICE
CITY OF HOLYOKE
GAS & ELECTRIC
DEPARTMENT
ELECTRIC
UNDERGROUND CABLE
- 500MCM EPR CU
CONDUCTOR**

Sealed bids for the above-named contract will be received by Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept. until **2:00 p.m. April 2, 2024**, at the Office of the Manager, 99 Suffolk St., Holyoke, MA 01040, at which time proposals will be publicly opened and read.

Additional information may be obtained from:

Chi Wong
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept.
99 Suffolk St.
Holyoke, MA 01040
cwong@hged.com
(413) 536-9308

The right is hereby reserved to reject any or all proposals, or to accept any proposal that in the opinion of the Manager may be in the best interest of the City of Holyoke.

Please mark sealed envelopes "**Bid for Electric Underground Cable - 500MCM EPR CU Conductor**" and address them to:

James M. Lavelle, Manager
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept.
99 Suffolk St.
Holyoke, MA 01040
03/22/2024

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

The Town of Brookfield is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Town Administrator. Responsibilities include professional, administrative, supervisory, and technical work. See job description at brookfieldma.us. Salary commensurate with experience. Current appropriation \$89,989.00 Please submit a resume and cover letter to Selectmen@brookfieldma.us. Open until filled. Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

TOWN OF WILBRAHAM

**ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN/
FIELD INSPECTOR
HEAVY EQUIPMENT
OPERATOR 1
P/T EMERGENCY DISPATCHER
P/T PUBLIC TV PROGRAM
COORDINATOR**

The Town of Wilbraham is looking to fill several vacancies. For application and more information please visit www.wilbraham-ma.gov. Open until filled. EOE

**TOWN OF WORTHINGTON
POSITION OPENING**

The Town of Worthington is seeking to fill the position of Assistant Treasurer/Tax Collector: 7-10 Hours a week, the position consists of assisting in the collection and posting of real estate, personal property and motor vehicle excise taxes. Assist in mailings and general office duties. Special requirement: Must meet the requirements to be bonded. Proficient in communicating with the public, computer skills, record keeping, and clerical skills. Please send a cover letter and resume to **Town of Worthington, Tax Collector's Office, P.O. Box 213, Worthington, MA 01098** by: April 11, 2024.

The Town of Worthington is an equal opportunity employer

REAL ESTATE

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.

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FOR RENT.**

3,000 ft2 plus garage for rent in Gilbertville. Two lifts, compressor, office, bathroom/washroom. Large 10 ft overhead electric garage door. Oil heat, 3 phase electric. Room for 5 vehicles plus inside and outside parking. Located right on Rt 32. Perfect for a business or? \$1,500/month. Call Don @ (413) 758-3039.



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For Full Accounting & Tax Service
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413-967-8364 Call For An Appointment
IRS e-file PROVIDER

The IRS does not endorse any particular individual tax return preparer. For more information on tax preparers go to irs.gov.

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TAX PREPARATION SERVICE
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Great day for Holyoke



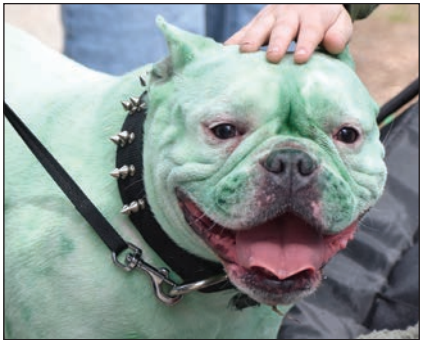
Parade Committee President Haley Dunn is all smiles and waves.



The 2024 Grand Colleen and Court pose before the parade begins.



Gallivan winner Susie Howard makes her way down the route.



It's not easy being green and this cute.



The mummies are always a fan favorite.



Some local children get to ride in the Curran truck.



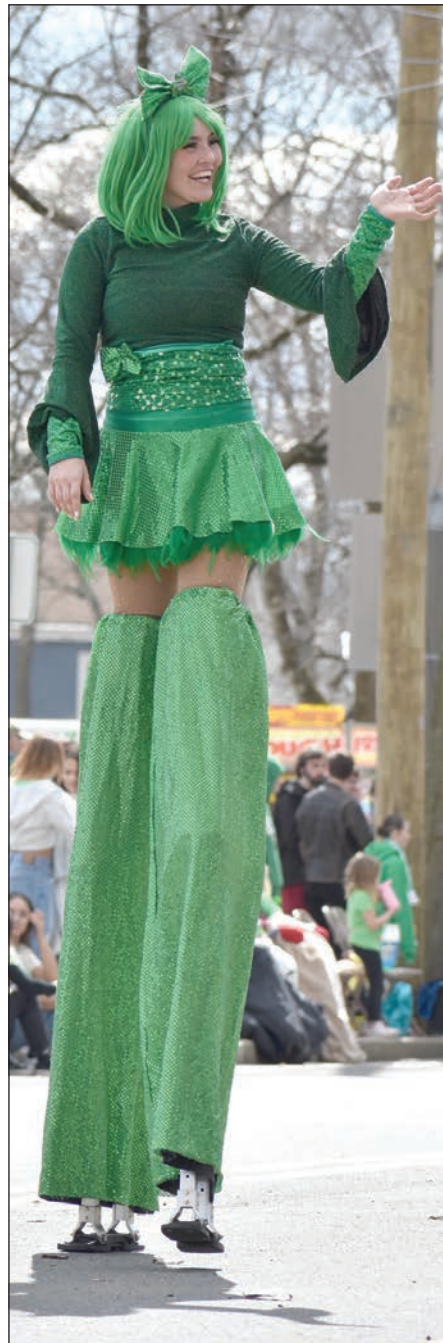
Past parade grand marshals march in the event and are recognized.



A member of the My Fair Lady production gets the crowd pumped up.



The Holyoke High School band performs.



Parade day excitement is a tall order.



The Victory Theater is represented at the parade.



Police retirees are transported in the parade.



This parade participant shows her enthusiasm.



Members of the fire department march in the parade. *Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com*