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School receivership set to end

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – Acting Commissioner Russell Johnston met with the Holyoke School Committee on Mar. 25 and they laid out a plan to begin the process to return the district to local control.

“We are officially entering the recognition process to return to local control,” Johnston said. “I think that we will develop a really solid plan that will pave the way for the future of Holyoke.”

This process has been a long time coming for Holyoke, and the school committee as well as Mayor Joshua Garcia are beyond excited that this process has begun.

“I just feel encouraged and that there’s a light at the end of the tunnel for the first time,” Vice Chair of the School Committee Erin Brunelle said. “We were all discouraged in early February when the commissioner didn’t make a decision...in hindsight it makes sense the way things went down but we already feel like the relationship with Mr. Johnston is there.”

“I’m very pleased and encouraged to report that Holyoke is now on a path designed to lead us out of receivership and back to local control,” Garcia wrote in a recent press release.

Johnston has promised the committee that he will be working in collaboration with them throughout this process, something Brunelle found highly encouraging.

“I’m excited about the willingness to collaborate, the willingness to meet, the willingness to work with us towards a path

See RECEIVERSHIP, page 5

Easter Egg Hunt enjoyed

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer



Iris Romero, Lourdez Martinez, Allison Wrobel and Trina Labonte from Holyoke Emergency Management helped with the craft table at the Parks and Recreation Easter egg hunt.

Turley photos by Quinn Suomala

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Heritage Park hosted Parks and Recreation’s annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Holyoke Merry-Go-Round.

“We host the Parks and Rec to come in and they do a wonderful job for the children of Holyoke and the community, giving out eggs rain or shine every year,” House Manager of the Holyoke Merry-Go-Round Lynn Betournay. “They make sure all the kids get some candy and prizes for different age groups.”

The event was a big hit, despite the rainy weather. People were packed in at the merry-go-round from the time the event started until it came to a close.

See HUNT, page 12



The Easter Bunny and a Chick paid a visit to Holyoke Heritage Park at the Merry-Go-Round for the Parks and Recreation annual Easter egg hunt.



Carol Houle and Nora Burns from Holyoke Parks and Recreation handed out eggs and prizes to children in attendance at the Easter egg hunt.

City preparing for state primary and presidential elections this year

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – Holyoke has two more elections ahead of them for this year; the state primary on Sept. 3 and the presidential election on Nov. 5.

The city will offer one week of early voting prior to the September election, going from Aug. 24 to Aug. 30. There will also be early voting for the November election, going from Oct. 26 to Nov. 1.

Holyoke already held the presidential primary election

on Mar. 5. City Clerk Brenna McGee reported a low turnout for that election.

“It was a pretty terrible turnout,” McGee said. “The majority of our votes came from mail, the poles were extremely quiet all day long and it definitely was a lower turnout than we normally see for a presidential primary.”

McGee expects that the September election will also have a fairly low turnout, though she anticipates larger numbers for the presidential election in November.

She would also like to

remind people that if they filled out the postcard sent by the Secretary of State’s office regarding mail in voting and checked off “all elections” they do not need to apply for mail in voting again.

Currently the city clerk’s office is hard at work preparing for the elections later this year. McGee reported that they are working on finding pole workers as well as temporary staff to work the election season.

“We have hired a couple of temporary seasonal people that will come in when the mail starts

in August that will help us process all of the ballots,” McGee said.

The office also recently had someone retire, so they are working to find the replacement for that position.

They also have to find police officers to staff the polling locations.

McGee said they are able to find at least one officer to serve at each polling location, though the police chief who assigns that work has reported it has been more difficult in recent years to find officers to sign up for that

position.

This season is a busy and costly time for the city and the clerk’s office.

The average election costs the city \$30,000-\$40,000, according to McGee. The expenses have increased in recent years due to the high demand for mail-in ballots.

“In a presidential election we would maybe mail out 700 ballots and then just for this presidential primary we had in March we mailed out

See ELECTIONS, page 6

Joint Committee discusses walking buses for schools

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The Joint Committee of the City Council and the School Committee discussed the walking buses in the Holyoke Public School District.

City Councilor Carmen Ocasio had filed an order to address this matter due to her concerns from her own time volunteering with the walking buses.

“When we walk the kids from High Street down Sargeant, the sidewalks are not leveled, branches from the trees are in our way...and down that strip I found two needles,” Ocasio said.

Ocasio was worried about the safety of the children on these walking buses especially when it pertains to the cleanliness of the pathways.

“It’s a dangerous situation for them, they’re little ones,” Ocasio said.

Councilor Kevin Jourdain asked if there was anyone from the school department who would go down the walking bus route in order to ensure it was safe

for children.

“Can somebody use a broom or pick up so nobody is walking over needles and debris on the street?” Jourdain asked

Superintendent/Receiver Anthony Soto clarified that that would be up to the DPW or city services to come and clean. Schools and Holyoke residents are welcome to reach out if they see an issue.

Soto also mentioned that schools often organize community cleanups with other organizations, such as One Holyoke, in order to try to keep areas surrounding schools clean.

He also mentioned that there is a security guard hired at Lawrence School to try to help with the area around the school.

“The main reason we hired a security guard at Lawrence is...in the surrounding neighborhood you do see drug paraphernalia, you see people sleeping by the library, so we hired them to patrol the school and if they see anything like that, to get the right people to pick it up,” Soto said.

Both Jourdain and Ocasio hoped to see more efforts put into keeping these walking bus routes clean.

Other councilors and members of the school committee agreed that the situation needed to improve, though there was some discussion on how to best proceed.

“I agree with you, Carmen, the route has to be safe,” Councilor Israel Rivera said. “I think some of that falls on us as a city in collaboration with the school department to make sure the routes are safe because there’s only so much they can do.”

One example Rivera used was the issue with tree branches blocking the path that Ocasio described. Only the DPW is allowed to cut down or trim those branches, so the city would need to step in and assist with that matter.

School Committee member Mildred Lefebvre also brought up that school staff are hired to take care of the schools and may not have time to clean up paths nor the knowledge of what paths to clean.

Lefebvre emphasized that the issue

also falls on Holyoke residents who are the ones leaving their trash on the streets.

“It’s the responsibility of ourselves as residents,” Lefebvre said. “You know and holding people accountable for throwing their trash out and picking it up. Half the time I’m walking around I see people throwing stuff out the window of the car. Are we saying it’s the job of the people at the school? How are they supposed to know that somebody drove by last night and started throwing trash out?”

She mentioned that if people see needles on the streets they can call Tapestry to have them come and pick it up, as they have the proper training and equipment.

Councilor Howard Greaney mentioned that the city has some ARPA or ESSER funds remaining and suggested that they try to use some of those funds in order to help with this issue.

The committee came to no final decision on this matter at this meeting, but they hope to continue discussing it in the future.

COLLEGE NOTES

Shawn Hall starts college early

GREAT BARRINGTON – It’s not every day that students start college early, but this Holyoke, resident is no ordinary student. This year, Shawn Hall joined the spring 2024 class at Bard College at Simon’s Rock in Great Barrington, the nation’s first early college.

Hall’s academic and personal achievements stood out, securing Shawn a spot at Simon’s Rock this spring. The college is home to about 400 students who engage in a rigorous liberal arts and sciences curriculum and graduate from college one or two years ahead of their peers.

Lifeguard classes available

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Parks and Recreation Department is offering a lifeguard Red Cross certification training course at the Holyoke Boys and Girls Club, 70 Nick Cosmos Way. Session 1 will take place April 20 and 21 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Session 2 will take place May 4 and 5 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Participants only need to attend one weekend session. Applicants must be 16 years of age. Strong swimmers are encouraged to apply. Participants must pass a pre-skills test at the start of class. \$175.00 for Holyoke residents and \$275.00 for non-residents.

Lifeguard Re-Certification Classes will also be offered on April 21 and May 5. Participants only need to attend one class. Classes will run from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Holyoke

Boys and Girls Club. Update your skills while also extending your certification for another two years. \$125.00 for Holyoke residents and \$225.00 for non-residents.

Please register at the Holyoke Parks and Recreation Department, 413-322-5620.

Participants must register and be paid in full before attending the class. Limited space available.



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.

UCCH announces Easter schedule

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.

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.

United Congregational Church holds traditional Puerto Rican meal

HOLYOKE – There’s nothing quite like a traditional Puerto Rican meal. The good news is that’s what United Congregational Church of Holyoke is serving for the monthly Community Meal on April 12 at 5 p.m. Bring the whole family; a Family Movie will immediately follow dinner at 6 p.m.

The Community Meal is hosted on the second Friday evening of each month at the church at 300 Appleton St.

All Are Welcome to attend, and the meal is completely free of charge. The menu changes monthly; past meals have featured corned beef and cabbage,

breakfast for dinner, steak sandwiches, and more. Parents must accompany their children.

The United Congregational Church of Holyoke is an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ. We welcome all individuals, regardless of where they are on their journey.

If you’d like to learn more about UCCH, please visit our website at www.uccholyoke.org, find us on Facebook or Instagram, or call our office at 413-532-1483 Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Ad club scholarship now available

HOLYOKE – The Advertising club of Western Massachusetts Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce applications are now available for a \$1,000 scholarship to be awarded to a deserving western Massachusetts high school graduate pursuing higher education in the communication arts in 2024. Guidelines and application form can be found at www.adclubwm.org/scholarships or by contacting David Cecchi, Scholarship Committee chairman at cecco@davidcecci.com or (413) 786-3236.

Completed scholarship applications and all support materials must be submitted to the Ad Club, postmarked by April 15. Scholarship decisions are made by the Scholarship Committee of The Advertising Club of Western Massachusetts and are considered final. The scholarship will be awarded in May.

High school seniors who plan to attend an accredited college or technical school to study advertising, communications, marketing, or graphic design and will be attending school in September 2024 are encouraged to apply. The scholarship must be applied against tuition and fees at the school. Candidates will be judged on academic performance, extracurricular activities, community service and/or work experience, a demonstrated interest in advertising, communications, marketing or graphic design, personal recommendations, and a letter of introduction outlining future plans.

The Advertising Club promotes a tradition of excellence, and with this annual scholarship, looks forward to making an important contribution to future generations of communications professionals.

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.

Experiencing a solar eclipse with Richard Sanderson

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer

People across the country are excitedly awaiting the upcoming total solar eclipse on Monday, April 8 which will cross over New England.

Richard Sanderson, Adjunct Curator of Physical Science at the Springfield Museum, gave a slideshow presentation about eclipses at the Young Men's Library Association on Monday evening.

Unlike lunar eclipses, which are able to be seen by more people, solar eclipses are rare. They occur when the moon travels between the earth and the sun, effectively blocking it.

"To us, the moon and sun look the same size because of the distance and sizes of them," Sanderson explained. "The amount the moon covers the sun during an eclipse can 'change' depending on how close or far away the moon is relative to the earth as it passes in front of the sun."

There are two types of eclipses: total and annular. A total eclipse is when the moon is closer to the earth and completely covers the sun, only with a small ring of light, called a diamond ring effect.

An annular eclipse is when more of the sun is present in a ring around the moon, which is farther away from the earth on its axis.

When it comes to the best spot to view the eclipse just two weeks away, it is within the path of totality, or the path the eclipse will be able to be seen most clearly.

"On April 8, if you're in the right place, you'll be able to see the moon completely cover the sun," Sanderson

said of the upcoming total eclipse. "The farther you are from the path of totality, the smaller the 'bite' out of the sun will be."

This "bite" is the part of the sun that is blocked by the moon. While those who go to Vermont or northern Maine along the path of totality will see the full eclipse, those in Massachusetts may only see a partial eclipse, or only part of the sun blocked out.

While a solar eclipse is very rare, for the first time in centuries, we have had the opportunity to witness three just within a single lifetime.

Sanderson was able to see his first on June 30, 1973, which became known as the "Eclipse of the Century" because it lasted a whopping seven minutes, the second longest recorded eclipse we have ever recorded in human history.

Sanderson viewed the 1973 total eclipse with his father and a group of researchers in the Kaisut Desert in Northern Kenya.

"When you are in an eclipse, sometimes that shadow only lasts two or three minutes," Sanderson explained. "It was a really encompassing experience. About 30 seconds before totality, it was like the sky had a dimmer effect as the sky went dark and the stars came out."

The second eclipse Sanderson experienced was on Aug. 21, 2017. This became known as the "Great American Eclipse" because its path of totality ran through the direct center of the country, cutting it in half.

"There's something about eclipses that triggers a deep and emotional connection in people," Sanderson said. "Fear and excitement as the sky goes dark when it shouldn't be."

The upcoming total eclipse on April 8 has left people with a mix of fear, speculation, and excitement as people plan to take off work to see this once-in-a-lifetime event.

However, one should take into consideration the safety concerns of eclipse-viewing. During an eclipse, the sun is covered, yes, but that means its heat and light are far more concentrated.

"Think of a magnifying glass reflecting light from the sun onto a leaf, which in turn makes it burn. That can happen to your retinas if you look directly at an eclipse," Sanderson warned.

As such, special glasses with dark filters (not sunglasses) must be worn to look at an eclipse, but take care you only glance at the sun, not stare for long periods.

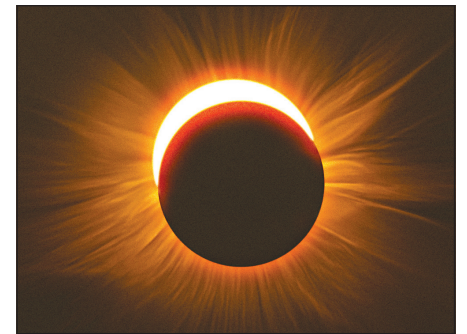
The upcoming eclipse, for those not travelling to get into the path of totality, can be best seen in the Greater Springfield area at specific times.

A partial eclipse will become visible at 2:14 p.m., the maximum eclipse that we in Massachusetts can see will be at 3:28 p.m., and it will wane off to a partial eclipse by 4:38 p.m.

The eclipse is said to only be visible for a total of four minutes, but again, that all depends on where you are.

"It's a really rare opportunity to be able to see an eclipse," Sanderson said. "Bring your kids and special glasses because this experience will last a lifetime."

The Museum of Springfield will be open specially on the day of the eclipse and will have two planetarium teachers available with a special telescope to view the eclipse. Arrive early for parking and enjoy the sight.



The Total Solar Eclipse in April

HOLYOKE – The U.S. is lucky that this April we will be able to view a Total Eclipse of the Sun. It will not be near the path of a total eclipse again until 2044.

In Holyoke and surroundings, we should start to see it around 2:15 p.m. with a maximum coverage at 3:27 p.m. and the end around 4:27 p.m..

To see these safely, the Holyoke Public Library with the support of the Space Science Institute, and the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation is offering free solar viewing glasses.

Come to the library lobby any time the library is open from today until Saturday April 6 to get your free Solar glasses. There is a limited supply, one pair per person or maximum two per family. Glasses may run out but it is easy to share.

If it's partly cloudy, remember that the total eclipse lasts over two hours, so glimpses of the Sun may be possible as the cloud cover changes. If the Sun seems to have no chance of peeking through, don't despair. Watch a live feed from NASA eclipse viewing locations on the NASA TV Channel at <https://www.nasa.gov/nasatv/>.

Holyoke Community College to inaugurate George Timmons fifth president

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College will mark a new chapter on Friday, April 19, with the inauguration of George Timmons as its fifth president.

The investiture ceremony will begin at 11 a.m. in the Leslie Phillips Theater on the second floor of the HCC Fine & Performing Arts building.

Timmons, who lives in Amherst, started working at HCC in July. He is the fifth president in the 78-year history of the college and the first African-American man to serve in that position.

The ceremony will start in the theater lobby of HCC's Fine & Performing Arts building with a procession of



George Timmons

faculty, staff, and distinguished guests, including presidents from many other Massachusetts community colleges and four-year colleges and universities in the region.

Also attending and offering brief remarks during the ceremony will be: State Sen. John Velis; State Rep. Patricia Duffy; Holyoke Mayor Joshua Garcia; Patrick Tutwiler, Ph.D., Massachusetts secretary of education; Robert Awkward, Ph.D., assistant commissioner of academic effectiveness at the Mass. Dept. of Higher Education; Carlee Drummer, Ph.D., president of Columbia-Greene Community College; Quintin Bullock,

DDS, president of the Community College of Allegheny County; and Briana Beaver-Timmons, President Timmons' eldest daughter (accompanied by her two younger siblings).

Barney Garcia of Northampton, the student representative on the HCC Board of Trustees, will offer remarks. The event will also feature performances by several HCC students: Ally Carnes of Westfield will sing the national anthem; William Rodriguez-Otero of Belchertown will give a spoken word performance; and Chestina Thrower of Springfield will give a musical performance.

Vanessa Smith, interim chair of the HCC Board of Trustees, will present the presidential medallion to President Timmons, who will give a

special address.

A community reception will immediately follow the inauguration ceremony in the HCC Campus Center. For those interested in attending, please visit hcc.edu/inauguration24 and follow the link to RSVP.

Before coming to HCC, Timmons served as the provost and vice president of Academic Affairs and Student Affairs at Columbia-Greene Community College in Hudson, N.Y. He holds a Ph.D. in higher education administration from Bowling Green State University, a master's degree in higher education from Old Dominion University, and a bachelor's degree in financial management from Norfolk State University. He succeeded President Christina Royal, who retired in July 2023.

3

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Guest Column

in the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid

Primroses serve double duty

This week's column was half done when I received a text from a good friend who I haven't seen in a few months.

She had just read last week's article and was reaching out to congratulate me on my impending delivery. What? If I were having a baby, my name may end up in more than just the local paper- try the Guinness Book of World Records.

Anyhow, I accidentally sent an old column in, not the one I revamped in honor of my first born's birthday. I am sorry you all missed out on a few new things I had to say about the Gerber daisy, but I hope this gave you a good laugh.

Another dear friend visited Cape Cod this past week. She left the morning that we had some freezing rain and light snow.

Later in the day I received a picture in a text message that said, "at least it's spring somewhere!" I chuckled as I looked at the pretty Polyantha Primroses (*Primula* spp.) planted outside of an establishment, almost beckoning tourists to jump start the busy season!

I countered her picture with one of my own, a picture of a primrose in my garden, just greening up but still weeks away from flowering. Why not take a closer look at this double duty plant, just in time for Easter giving.

What exactly do I mean by double duty? Pick one up at the grocery store to enjoy indoors this spring and then plant it in the garden.

Better yet, purchase a primrose as an Easter hostess gift and it will be a spring harbinger for years to come – a memory of you!

See GARDEN, page 5

Election letters to the editor welcome

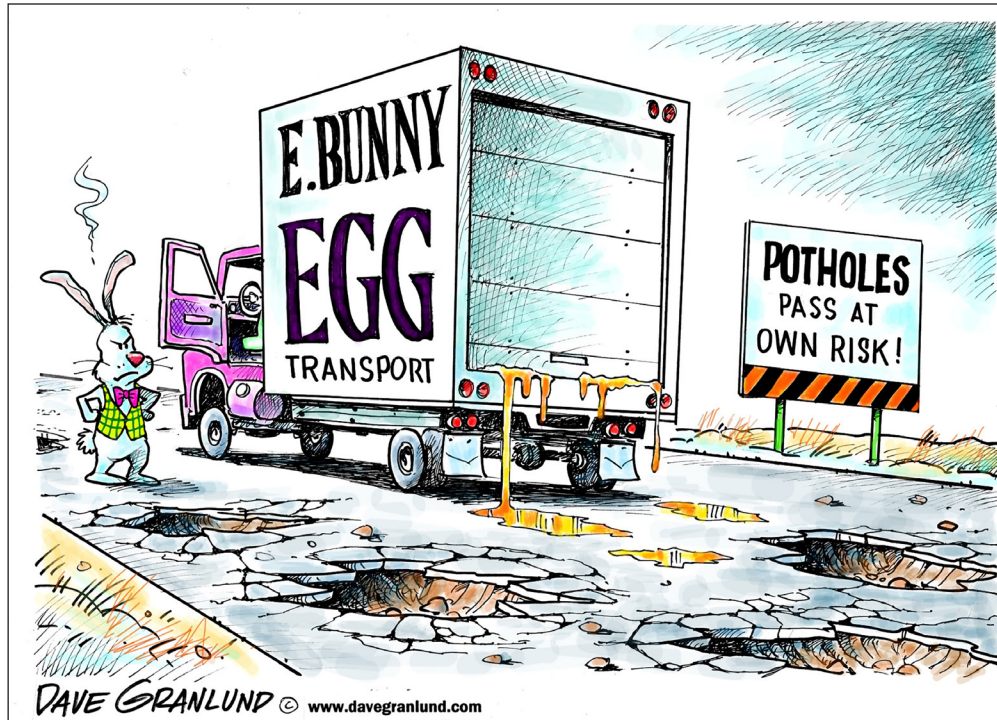
The Holyoke Sun welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Holyoke Sun, care of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



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

Guest Column

Veteran uncertain about Social Security and healthcare coverage



Dear Rusty

I'm not sure what I should sign up for in terms of Social Security; I am 64 and I am still employed full time and intend to stay employed until age 70.

I am retired from the Navy and receive military retirement payments and have military TriCare, as well as medical, dental, eye and life insurance through my employer. I don't want to lose benefits, but I also don't want to take Social Security until it reaches the maximum at age 70 (I think that is correct?). I will turn 65 in four months. Can you advise me?

Signed: Uncertain Veteran

Dear Uncertain Veteran

First of all, thank you for your service to our country. From what you've shared, and since you're still working full time, not claiming Social Security yet is a smart decision. If you were born in 1959 your Full Retirement Age is 66 years and 10 months and, if you claim SS before your full retire-

ment age, you'll be subject to Social Security's earning test, which would likely make you ineligible to receive SS benefits at this time.

The 2024 earnings limit (limit changes yearly) when collecting Social Security early is \$22,320 and, if that is exceeded, Social Security will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 over the limit (half of what you exceed the limit by). If you significantly exceed the limit, SS will declare you temporarily ineligible to collect SS benefits until you either reach your FRA or earn less.

The earnings test no longer applies after you reach your FRA. So, if you're now employed full time and plan to stay so until age 70 and you expect at least average longevity (about 84 for someone your current age), delaying until age 70 to claim Social Security is how to get your maximum Social Security benefit.

As for your healthcare coverage as a veteran: TriCare requires you to enroll in Medicare Part A inpatient hospitalization coverage and Part B coverage for outpatient services at age 65, but you do not need to take Social Security when you enroll in Medicare. You must, however, enroll in Medicare at age 65 or you will lose your TriCare military healthcare coverage.

See SECURITY, page 5

O'Connor championed civics education



Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who died in December, was rightly celebrated as a trailblazing jurist who brought common sense and moderation to the Supreme Court.

She also was a champion of civics education, especially after she retired from the bench – and civics education needs champions in this era of partisanship and conspiracy theories, which thrive when Americans lack understanding of our system of government.

O'Connor, who left the court in 2006, enjoyed talking to students and promoting the study of how citizens participate in governing.

She told the National School Boards Association in 2008 that civics education would be her primary focus in retirement. She created the iCivics program to carry out that mission.

She and I served as co-chairs of the Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools and partnered to make public service

announcements promoting civics education. The Center on Representative Government at Indiana University, where I serve as a senior adviser, also promotes civics education, using similar approaches to iCivics.

O'Connor was, of course, the first woman to serve on the Supreme Court. Her nomination by President Ronald Reagan made history.

A rancher's daughter and a proud Westerner, she built a reputation as a moderate in her 24 years on the court. She often provided a swing vote on abortion, voting rights, sex discrimination and other controversial issues.

Unlike many justices, O'Connor started out in local politics; she served as a state legislator and majority leader of the Arizona Senate. She traced her interest in civics to her days as a precinct committeewoman gathering signatures to get candidates on the ballot.

That real-world background influenced her approach to jurisprudence.

She valued facts and experience over legal theory and ideology. Her views on affirmative action, for example, evolved from serving alongside Justice Thurgood Marshall, a legendary civil-rights litigator.

She could compromise, a key quality in

See CONGRESS page 5

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

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

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

Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

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

RECEIVERSHIP, from page 1

out of receivership," Brunelle said. Brunelle found Johnston's willingness to meet with the committee especially exciting when considering that the previous commissioner did not attend an open meeting in his entire time as receivership, while Johnston did so in his first six days as commissioner. In the upcoming months, the local control subcommittee will have seven meetings with the commissioner to create a plan for returning to local control. These meetings will go through August. The currently scheduled dates for each meeting are: Apr. 8, Apr. 23, May 13, May 28, June 10, July 22 and Aug. 19, all at 5 p.m. By the end of August the committee will release their official plan for returning the district to local control. For each of these meetings there will be a central topic that the committee will

focus on. These topics are: improvement, specifically focused on the turnaround plan, budget, policy, hiring and evaluation of the superintendent, collaboration, improvement and by-laws. Johnston was deeply impressed by the topics the local control committee put forward in their discussion. "What impressed me to no end was that the main topic that the subcommittee wants to focus on is continuing improvement, because that's about the children that we all have the privilege to serve here," Johnston said. "I just felt the values of this school committee shining through by selecting that as the first topic that we really want to focus on

together and that's my value as well, and I think that's going to be a good way for a really robust, collaborative relationship between us." Additionally, Johnston emphasized that this plan will focus on ensuring the school committee is prepared for local control. "Unequivocally this is about building up this school committee for us to transition local control to this body," Johnston said. These meeting dates and topics were decided on by the commissioner and the local control subcommittee at their meeting on Mar. 25. The committee also intentionally scheduled these meetings to fall right

before scheduled school committee meetings so that they can report to the larger school committee on how each meeting went. Additionally, the school committee hopes to schedule a retreat in the spring so they can work more in-depth with the ideas the local control committee puts forward. "I foresee a retreat...so that we can ensure that we're all on the same page, that we're going in the right direction, since we're all not able to participate in that subcommittee," School Committee member Ellie Wilson said. They also plan to have a retreat in late July or early August, before the plan is released, so that the committee can ensure once more that they all are fully onboard with the plan. This was a momentous day for the city of Holyoke, and all of the school committee are eager to put in the work to see this plan come to fruition.

"I'm very pleased and encouraged to report that Holyoke is now on a path designed to lead us out of receivership and back to local control."

- Mayor Joshua Garcia

CONGRESS, from page 4

civic decision-making. O'Connor's experience in local and state politics forged her commitment to civics education. She said in a 2012 interview that Americans have a never-ending obligation "to teach our young generation about citizenship." But we haven't always fulfilled that obligation as well as we might. In a recent survey by the Annenberg Public Policy Center, one-third of Americans couldn't name the three branches of government. Most could identify only one of the five rights protected by the First Amendment. Other surveys have found a lack of knowledge about the filibuster, the length of Senate terms, the Electoral College

and other matters. When people don't understand how government works, they're more likely to believe the worst of their elected representatives. Divisions and distrust infect our politics. Worst of all, people of good will give up and disengage from political and civic activity. That's the bad news. The good news is that the work that O'Connor and others have done has had an impact. The iCivics project recently found that 38 states now require stand-alone high school civics course, a significant increase from previous years, and six states require a full year of civics study. Crucially, more schools teach citizenship in the early grades. And it works.

Studies find that young people who have taken civics classes score higher on assessments of what they know about government. They are more likely to rate voting, public service and jury duty as important. They voted in higher numbers in the 2020 election. On O'Connor's death, her colleague Justice Sonia Sotomayor said that she had "transformed how children learn about our shared responsibility as citizens." That alone would be a remarkable legacy, for a Supreme Court justice or anyone else. Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International

Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.



Justice Sandra Day O'Connor is shown with Lee H. Hamilton circa 2010. Submitted Photo

GARDEN, from page 4

Even though they are usually sold in small pots, it's hard to miss their brightly colored flowers poking up through basal foliage. They come in almost every color of the rainbow. Like the infamous pregnancy gift from last week's column, primroses also fall into the happy plant category! Many types of primrose make great garden plants; check the label to make sure the one you purchase is hardy before planting it outdoors. I have had a clump of primroses blooming for years now that originally started out as a potted plant. If it's been growing indoors for a while, be sure to let it harden off a bit before planting it in the ground; a partly shady spot with moisture retentive soil is best. Typically, primroses need to be divided every three years or so, evident by die-out that begins in the center of the plant. Simply separate a chunk from the outer portion of the plant and replant it in rejuvenated soil. I prefer to do this early in the season, but it can also be accomplished right after flowering has ended. In the heat of

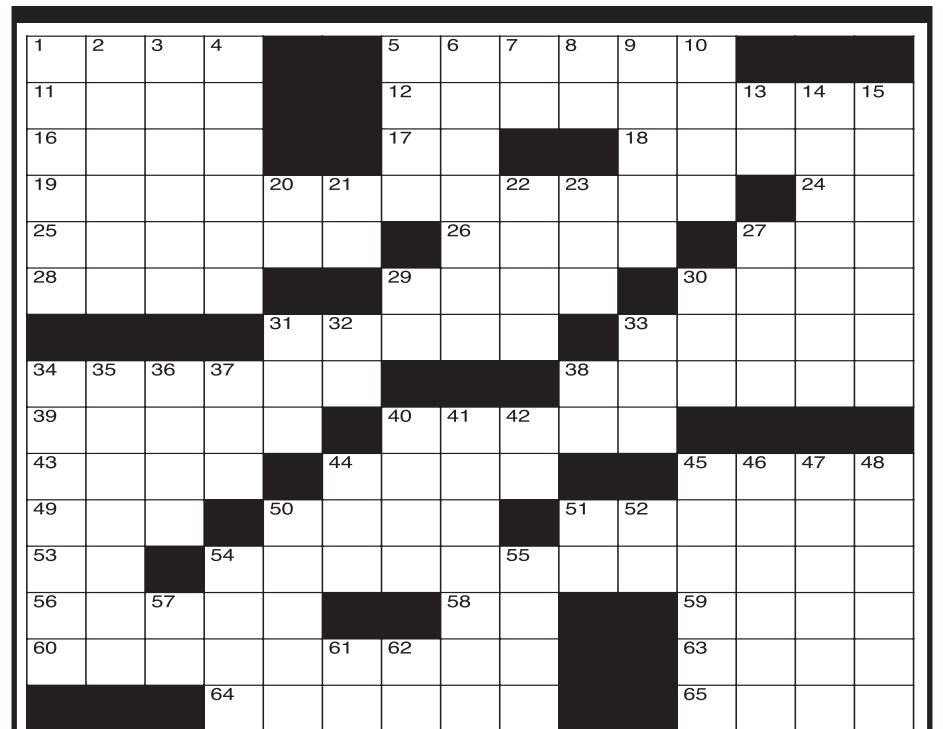
the summer, and especially in drier soils, the plant can look a little yellow and ragged. Keeping it well watered helps. One year, when money was tight, I divided a plant and potted up one of the divisions and gave it to my sister in law as a hostess gift. She still has it growing in her garden, and every once in a while, will send a picture of it happily blooming. I've tried in earnest to grow Japanese Primrose (*Primula japonica*) but something in my soil apparently isn't right. I will probably buy another one this year and hope beyond hope to eventually end up with a stand of them like they have in the display gardens at Positively Perennials.

The sea of whorled flowers in light and dark pink is arboretum worthy. *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.*

SECURITY, from page 4

You could choose to delay enrolling in Medicare at 65 because you have "creditable" employer coverage, but if you do so you will lose your current TriCare coverage and need to rely solely on your employer healthcare plan. In that case, you would still be able to enroll in both Medicare and TriCare-for-Life without penalty prior to your employer coverage ending and have coverage under both programs thereafter. I suggest you contact TriCare directly at 1-866-773-0404 to discuss your personal TriCare coverage after age 65. You can also go to www.TriCare4U.com. Whenever you enroll, Medicare will be the primary payer of your healthcare costs and TriCare will be the secondary payor. Your vision, dental, and prescription drug coverage would be through TriCare

(Medicare does not cover those services) or acquired separately. Just remember, you must be enrolled in Medicare Part A and Part B to have TriCare-for-Life coverage after age 65. *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.*



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Database management system
- 5. Medical procedures
- 11. ___ Clapton, musician
- 12. Defender
- 16. Exert oneself
- 17. Indicates position
- 18. Quay
- 19. Atrocities
- 24. A way to address an adult man
- 25. Ends
- 26. Unable
- 27. Taxi
- 28. Gratuities
- 29. A famous train station
- 30. Japanese persimmon
- 31. Sours
- 33. Beneficiary
- 34. Baseball official
- 38. Confused situation
- 39. Unworldly
- 40. Yemen capital
- 43. Type of soil
- 44. Beloved beverage
- 45. Lying down
- 49. ___ Angeles
- 50. Fail to amuse
- 51. Collapsible shelter
- 53. Commercial
- 54. Taste property
- 56. Lordship's jurisdictions
- 58. It cools your home
- 59. Dismounted
- 60. Charge in a court of law
- 63. One less than one
- 64. Spoke
- 65. Famed garden
- 5. Abba ___, Israeli politician
- 6. Observed
- 7. "Westworld" actor
- 8. Belonging to me
- 9. Shoelace tube
- 10. Takes to civil court
- 13. Early multimedia
- 14. Produces anew
- 15. Horse races
- 20. Of I
- 21. Equally
- 22. Changes color
- 23. A place to stay
- 27. Town in Galilee
- 29. Mathematical figure
- 30. Klingon character
- 31. They ___
- 32. Atomic #58
- 33. Showed up extinct
- 34. Loosen grip
- 35. Unpleasant smell
- 36. Innermost membranes enveloping the brain
- 37. Esteemed college "league"
- 38. Partner to Pa
- 40. Small American rail
- 41. A salt or ester of acetic acid
- 42. Sodium
- 44. Military figure (abbr.)
- 45. Lighted
- 46. Paid to get out of jail
- 47. All of something
- 48. Ohio city
- 50. More abject
- 51. A radio band
- 52. Scientific development (abbr.)
- 54. Monetary unit
- 55. Scored perfectly
- 57. A punch to end a fight
- 61. The Golden State (abbr.)
- 62. The Beehive State (abbr.)

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 11

Holyoke Community College to host free legal clinic April 4

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.

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.”

Western New England School of Law’s Center for Social Justice is sending about a dozen legal volunteers, including CSJ staff attorney Gladys Vilacarreras, 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.

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.

ELECTIONS, from page 1

3,500 ballots, so it’s quite a big difference,” McGee said.

Another main expense of the election season is programming the cards for the voting machines. While the state pays for the ballots during a state election year, the city does still have to pay for the programming of the cards.

Additionally, staffing polls for early voting is time-consuming and expensive.

“We just had a week of early voting for the March election and I think total from Saturday to Friday we had probably 20 people vote in person,” McGee said. “I just feel that the cost that it puts on us for such a low turnout is really not worth it.”

McGee also mentioned that the state often has the deadline to register to vote on a Saturday, which means the office has to staff people to work that day, which only adds to the overtime.

“It definitely becomes quite costly with the deadlines that are always falling on weekends,” McGee said.

In the weeks leading up to the elections, McGee anticipates that the clerk office will close their genealogy research hours.

“We just can’t attend to people while we’re trying to process all of the ballots,” McGee said.

The office does make sure they get all the vital records out with the online requests, but they need to focus their time and staff on election preparation and other everyday work during that time.

“That’s why it’s helpful to have a couple seasonal people in the office that strictly work on the election so we can still keep on top of all our other work,” McGee said.

To learn more about upcoming elections and to apply to be a pole worker, go to <https://www.holyoke.org/clerk-voter-information/>.



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The team takes batting practice off the tees at practice.

The softball team works out on Tuesday afternoon.

The Holyoke High School softball team is coming off one of its first playoff appearances in years last season.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Baseball prepares for regular season

HOLYOKE – Earlier this week, Holyoke High School basketball worked to get ready for the regular season.

The Knights had one scrimmage against Windsor Locks High School this week, and are getting set for the season opener at home against Westfield High School on Monday, April 1 at 4 p.m.

Knights look for another playoff appearance

HOLYOKE – Last year, Holyoke softball finally made an appearance in a tournament for the first time in many years. The Knights had a scrimmage earlier this week against Suffield, Conn. Holyoke will open the season on the road Tuesday, April 2 at Southwick Regional School. Their home opener is against Ware on April 4.



The Knights will look to build off last year's success this season.



The Knights are hoping for an improved season this year.



Holyoke High School's baseball team works out on Tuesday afternoon.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Holyoke plays its home games at Mackenzie Stadium.

Pioneers fall in Open Cup

LUDLOW – Last Thursday night, the Western Mass. Pioneers opened their season with a matchup in the US Open Cup. The Pioneers faced Union Omaha and unfortunately were shut out by a 4-0 decision. With the loss, the Pioneers Open Cup chances have ended after just one game. The Pioneers will now gear their preparations toward the May 18 season opener. The Pioneers will also have an exhibition contest on May 10 against Third Eye FC.



Abdel Talabi sends a pass away ahead of pressure.



Gianluca Cersosimo sends a free kick away.



Santiago Blasco Gomez dribbles up the field.



Joaquin Lauria Calvo settles the ball before making a pass.



Tomas Duben and Khalid Rose fight to keep the ball with some pressure from the opposition coming on.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Registration now open to take part in Bay State Games

WOBURN – Registration for the 42nd annual Bay State Summer Games is now open. The 2024 Summer Games will include thirty sports with competitions from May 11 – July 27 at venues throughout eastern and central Massachusetts including Game On in Fitchburg, Boston Sports Institute in Wellesley, Union Point Sports Complex in Weymouth, and North Star Ice Sports in Westborough. Bay State Games participants range in age from 5 to over age 75 and represent more than 300 Massachusetts communities as well as surrounding New England States in some sports. From grassroots participants to accomplished amateur athletes, the Bay State Games provide opportunities for the athlete in all of us.

Seven high school showcase sports will take place for a variety of sports, including baseball, basketball, field hockey, ice hockey, soccer, softball, and volleyball. Athletes currently in grade 8-11 who live or go to school in Massachusetts are eligible to attend regional tryouts during

the month of June. These tryouts will determine teams representing the various regions of the Commonwealth that will compete against each other in July. Check each sport page for specific eligibility requirements.

The Summer Games include a wide variety of individual sports including swimming, track & field, figure skating, pickleball, wrestling, weightlifting, badminton, and more. These sports are open to a wide range of ages and skill levels from youth participants to masters-aged athletes. Adaptive sport divisions in archery, swimming, and track & field are offered, as well. Bay State Games also organizes tournaments for pre-existing teams in rugby, and 6v6 field hockey.

Returning in 2024, Table Tennis will take place on June 1 at PingPod in Boston after a 5-year hiatus from the Summer Games sport lineup. New venues include Babson College, which will host the Girls Basketball Showcase, and NorthStar Ice Sports, which will host Figure Skating

and the Girls Ice Hockey Showcase. Game On in Fitchburg will serve as a hub venue for eight sports. Bay State Games expects 1,500 athletes and their families to attend competitions at Game On during the second week of July.

Bay State Games is pleased to announce a new partnership with Marathon Sports to provide athletes, officials, and volunteers with a special, traditional Bay State Games gift. Details will be released later in March.

“We are excited to present the 2024 version of the Bay State Summer Games where Massachusetts amateur athletes of all ages and abilities can have their ‘Time to Shine,’” said Kevin Cummings, Executive Director of the Bay State Games. “This year will feature the addition of table tennis and ultimate as well as several new host venues including Babson College in Wellesley, Howard Park and Maplewood Park in Malden and NorthStar Ice Sports in Westborough. We look forward to welcoming athletes from

across the Commonwealth as we celebrate the 42nd year of the Bay State Summer Games.”

An additional feature in 2024 is that in over a dozen sports, athletes who win a gold, silver, or bronze medal at the 2024 Bay State Games will qualify to participate in the 2024 State Games of America in San Diego, California. The State Games of America features more than 8,000 athletes from over 25 different state games programs nationwide. To see the list of qualifying sports, please visit www.stategamesofamerica.com.

In addition to sports programming, Bay State Games offer college scholarships, a sportsmanship initiative, college internship opportunities, and a High School Ambassador program.

For more information on all sports in the 2024 Summer Games, links to online registration, and information on other programs, go to www.baystategames.org.

For questions, email info@baystategames.org or call 781-932-6555.

Open roster spots for Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League

The Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League is looking to infuse new talent into its league for the 2024 season.

Registration for the 2024 season is now open and any interested players can go to www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org to get registered, or to seek more information or make inquiries about the league. The league website will also be updated over the next month with information

about the upcoming season.

There are many open roster spots available in the league for the 2024 season, which is tentatively scheduled to begin on Sunday, April 21. The league plays most Sunday from late April through late August with playoffs following that. The league plays a 15-game schedule and typically fields six teams each year. Games are usually played at 10 a.m. with fields in Easthampton and

South Hadley normally used.

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.

The league is currently in the process of preparing for the 2024 season and held a meeting on March 24 to discuss plans for the upcoming season. The next meeting will be held after the league’s open practice for all players, including players interested in joining the league. The open practice will be at Beachgrounds Park in South Hadley at 10 a.m. on April 7.

Springfield Thunderbirds rebound to defeat Crunch

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (28-29-3-2) got a hat trick from one of their key stars en route to a 6-4 triumph over the Syracuse Crunch (35-20-4-2) on Saturday night before the 11th consecutive sellout crowd of 6,793 inside the MassMutual Center.

It was the home team that drew first blood on the scoreboard. Right winger Will Bitten intercepted a Syracuse pass in Springfield's defensive zone and went in alone on a breakaway. Bitten made a nifty forehand to backhand move before tucking the puck past Syracuse netminder Hugo Alnefelt, notching his 14th goal of the season and giving the T-Birds a 1-0 lead at 3:37 of the first.

Unfortunately, the Springfield lead slipped away in the waning seconds of Syracuse's first power play. After taking off on a rush up-ice into the T-Birds zone, Felix Robert filtered a pass into the blue paint that glanced off a defender before slipping in past Vadim Zherenko at 16:22.

The T-Birds, though, responded in

minutes and regained their one-goal lead with less than a minute to play in the opening period. After a brief give-and-go between Hugh McGing and Hunter Skinner at the offensive blue line, Skinner made a terrific pass through traffic to the left-wing side. Ryan Suzuki received the pass and wasted no time whistling a release past Alnefelt on the glove side of the net for his 10th tally on the year. That marker gave the T-Birds a 2-1 lead going into the first intermission, and Zherenko made that stand up with a sensational diving stop on Walteri Merela with barely a second remaining on the clock on a crease scramble at the end of the frame.

It only took 30 seconds for the Thunderbirds to add to their lead in the second. Mikhail Abramov found his linemate Jakub Vrana streaking down the left wing on a stretch pass. Vrana took the feed and ripped a perfect shot past the glove of the Syracuse netminder to give Springfield a 3-1 lead.

Still, Syracuse would not go away as they narrowed the Springfield lead back to one less than three min-

utes later. After a Syracuse shot took a crazy carom off the plexiglass behind Zherenko, the puck found the stick of Crunch defenseman Devante Stephens, who quickly spun a turnaround shot through Zherenko to make it 3-2 at 2:44.

Tempers flared shortly thereafter as Sam Bitten and Tyson Feist dropped the gloves at the 14:11 mark of the period. As he had done all season, Bitten's fight fired up the sold-out crowd in the Thunderdome, and it, in turn, led to offensive fireworks a few minutes later. After Quinn Schmiemann was called for a hooking infraction, Will Bitten got his second of the night, taking advantage of a crazy carom off the corner glass that skittered right to him in front of Alnefelt. While the Crunch goalie got a piece, the puck squeezed home, and the two-goal lead was restored, 4-2, at 9:59 of the middle frame.

Vrana and Bitten's line was not done, either. As the game went to 4-on-4 in the closing minutes, Vrana and Abramov capitalized on a 2-on-1, as Abramov slipped a left-wing shot over

Alnefelt's glove, giving Springfield a 5-2 lead at 17:46, a lead that carried into the intermission.

Syracuse did not go quietly into the night, and Ilya Usau's goal at 4:46 made it a 5-3 game. Zherenko kept the Crunch at bay until Alnefelt went to the bench for an extra skater with under six minutes to play. Just moments after the ensuing faceoff, Cole Koepke redirected a pass in the slot from Alex Barre-Boulet, and the Springfield lead was down to 5-4 with just 5:05 to go.

Things got dicey for Springfield with just over a minute to play when a Barre-Boulet shot squeezed through Zherenko's legs and rolled precariously across the goal line. Jack Finley seemed to have a wide-open net, but he could not get the puck across the line, and the T-Birds survived the threat.

Bitten capped off his sweet night by racing up ice and chipping the loose puck into the empty net with 1:01 remaining, making it a 6-4 final.

Springfield begins a crucial six-game road trip on Friday night in Hartford against the Wolf Pack.

Public Notices

Commonwealth of
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The Trial Court
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Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD24P0340GD
In the interests of
Ava L Green
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 02/15/2024 by Julia E Subira of Chicopee, MA will be held 04/25/2024 08:30 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing. Located: 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: March 21, 2024
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
03/29/2024

Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No. HD24P0550EA
Estate of:
Edward B Lavelle
Date of Death: 08/15/2023
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Margaret M Lavelle of Holyoke, MA a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Margaret M Lavelle of Holyoke, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 03/29/2024

Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD24C0087CA
In the matter of:
Anthony Mario Jr. Quinones
CITATION ON PETITION
TO CHANGE NAME
A Petition to Change

Name of Adult has been filed by Anthony Mario Jr. Quinones of Holyoke, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Anthony Mario
Quinones-Guarascio
IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/10/2024.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 3, 2024
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
03/29/2024

Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No. HD24P0485EA
Estate of:
Remi Rawson
Also Known As:
Remi Rose Rawson
Date of Death: 03/17/2021
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Heather Rawson of Northfield, MA.

Heather Rawson of Northfield, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to insti-

tute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 03/29/2024

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

Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No. HD24P0569EA
Estate of:
Jessica Frances Steinman
Also Known As:
Jessica Steinman
Date of Death:
January 23, 2024
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Frederick Steinman of Longmeadow, MA.

Frederick Steinman of Longmeadow, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervi-

sion by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 03/29/2024

Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD24C0104CA
In the matter of:
Jessica Lynne Torres
CITATION ON PETITION
TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Jessica Lynne Torres of Holyoke, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Jayce Lyric Moore
IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/24/2024.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 22, 2024
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
03/29/2024

Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103

Docket No. HD24P0560GD
In the interests of
Nathaniel Luis Miguel
Velazquez
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 Lydia Del Valle of Springfield, MA will be held 04/12/2024 08:30 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing. Located: 50 State St., 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: March 14, 2024

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
03/29/2024

See PUBLIC NOTICES,
page 11

Classifieds

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TOWN OF HAMPDEN HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

The town of Hampden Highway Department is seeking to fill a full-time skilled worker/truck driver position. All applicants must possess a valid Class B CDL, 2B Hoisting License, OSHA 10 Certificate of Training, and a copy of current driving record. Applicants must have the skills and knowledge necessary to perform general road and grounds maintenance and the ability to operate and maintain all associated tools and equipment. The capability to perform maintenance/repair on trucks and equipment, welding, and the use of other garage tools, along with light construction and snowplowing experience, would be beneficial. Please call the Hampden Highway Department (413) 566-8842, or email highway@hampdenma.gov for inquiries and application/resume submittals.

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 brookfield-ma.us. Salary commensurate with experience. Current appropriation \$89,989.00 Please submit a resume and cover letter to Selectmen@brookfieldma.us. Open until filled.

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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.



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PUBLIC NOTICES, from page 9

City of Holyoke Office of Procurement
536 Dwight Street, Room 3
Holyoke, MA 01040
INVITATION TO BID
2024-46MB

The CITY OF HOLYOKE, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for the Roof Renovations to City Hall Annex, DPW and Children's Museum/Volleyball Hall of Fame at Holyoke City Hall Annex, DPW and Children's Museum/Volleyball Hall of Fame in Holyoke, Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by ARCHITECTURE EL, INC. The Project consists of but not limited to:

The Work of Project is defined by the Contract Documents and consists of re-roofing three buildings for the City of Holyoke:

1. City Hall Annex building, which includes approx. 8,000 sf. roof replacement, masonry chimney repair, partial stone and masonry repointing. Demolition of penthouse exterior stucco skin. Re-skin penthouse with metal wall panel system. Removal of exist pyramid style skylights and replaced with new gable style glass skylights in existing openings. Limited site work includes rain leader tie-in to existing storm drain and pavement patching and repair.

2. DPW building, which includes approx. 5,000 sf of partial roof to be replaced, new drains with new locations, demolition of masonry chimneys and new boiler

flue. Removal of one skylight with new gable style placed in existing opening.

3. Childrens Museum, which includes approx. 14,000 sf. roof replacement and adding overflow scuppers. Demolishing exterior thin brick skin of clerestory. Re-skin clerestory with metal wall panel system.

The work is estimated to cost \$3,425,000.00.

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J & CFR 200. Minimum wages/Davis Bacon wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §26 to 27H and CFR, 200 inclusive.

THIS PROJECT IS BEING ELECTRONICALLY BID AND HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Please review the instructions in the bid documents on how to register as an electronic bidder. All Bids shall be submitted online at www.biddocs.com and received no later than the date and time specified.

A Walkthrough will take place on April 2, 2024 from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Room 403, City Hall Annex, 20 Korean Veterans Plaza, Holyoke MA 01040

General bidders and file sub-bidders must be certified by (DCAMM) **Filed Sub-Bid Categories are the following categories Masonry, Miscellaneous and Ornamental Metals, Roofing and Flashing, Glass and Glazing, Painting, Plumbing, HVAC, Electrical.** These bids will be received until **April 16, 2024 2:00PM** and publicly opened

online, forthwith Bids will be received until **April 30, 2024 on 2:00PM EDT** and publicly opened online, forthwith. **This project is funded with Federal Funds. Respondents will be verified for eligibility and must comply with all Federal requirements including Part 200. The city reserves the right to reject any and all bids.**
03/29/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD24P0614EA
Estate of:

Lillian Frances O'Shea
Date of Death: 12/20/2023
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by **Keith D Kennedy** of Westfield, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Keith D Kennedy** of Westfield, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to

obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/25/2024.**

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 21, 2024

Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
03/29/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD24C0095CA
In the matter of:
Odin Thomas Whitcomb
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Minor has been filed by **Odin Thomas Whitcomb** of Holyoke, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Odin Ryan Matusko

IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/16/2024.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 18, 2024

Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
03/29/2024

Commonwealth of MA
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate & Family 50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758

Docket No. HD23P2614GD
Citation on General Probate Petition
Petition for Appointment of Receiver for
KATHERINE ACEVEDO-GONZALEZ

To all interested persons:
A Petition has been filed by: **Abimael Acevedo-Romero**, of Holyoke, MA

Requesting appointment of Receiver, and that the Court appoint **John J. Ferriter**, of Holyoke or some other suitable person Receiver for the property located in the Commonwealth of MA, of **Katherine Acevedo-Gonzalez**, last known of Barceloneta, Puerto Rico.

You have the right to obtain a copy of the petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before 10:00 a.m. on May 2, 2024.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M. Hyland, First Justice of this Court
Date: March 26, 2024

Rosemary A, Saccomani,
Register of Probate
03/29/2024

HUNT, from page 1

Children were welcome to come in order to get some eggs, take a free ride on the merry-go-round, make some crafts, meet the Easter Bunny and get some fun balloons.

"I love giving rides and seeing children get rides on the carousel," Betournay said. "And it's not just children, it's all ages and families coming together. I'm glad to see people enjoying the carousel."

They were also welcome to take a ride on a pony, provided by AJ Stables out of Westfield.

This event has been tak-

ing place in Holyoke, rain or shine, for over 15 years now and it is a highlight for the community.

"There are plenty of smiles inside even when it is raining outside," Betournay said.

Betournay shared her excitement at being able to host this event and see all of the community come together.

"I think it's good to give families quality things to do together," she said. "I love being able to host events where the whole community can enjoy it. Everyone is welcome and we get to share in the joy together."



Children were offered free rides on the Merry-Go-Round at the Parks and Recreation annual Easter egg hunt.



Sparky the dog from the Holyoke Fire Department made an appearance at the Easter egg hunt.



Members of Holyoke Parks and Recreation helped to pass out eggs to the waiting children.



Families were offered pony rides at the Parks and Recreation Easter egg hunt.

Best Pizza in Town **Holyoke Pizza** **You Ring We Bring**
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 SAV-A-LOT PLAZA

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- #1 Two Large Pizzas, 1 Topping Each & 2 Liter Soda **\$30.50 +Tax**
- #2 One Large 1 Topping Pizza, 10 Buffalo Wings & 2 Liter Soda **\$30.50 +Tax**
- #4 One Party Size Cheese Pizza, 20 Buffalo Wings & 2 Liter Soda **\$41.50 +Tax**
- #11 Ten Wings w/French Fries **\$15.99 +Tax**
- #13 Two 16" Grinders with Bag of Chips & Can of Soda **\$22.95 +Tax**
- #16 Large 1 Topping Pizza, Small Cheese Calzone, 2 Liter Soda & 10 Wings **\$40.50 +Tax** **FAMILY SPECIAL**

Clipless Coupons – Order By Number

Lunch Specials
 11AM-3PM ONLY
 (Almuerzos Especiales)

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 Each Topping (same as Pizza Toppings) Additional \$1.75
- Any Wrap with Small Bag of Chips and Can of Soda\$10.99
- Any Wrap with French Fries and Can of Soda\$11.99
- Any 8" Grinder with a Bag of Chips & a Can of Soda\$10.99
- Any 8" Grinder with French Fries & a Can of Soda\$11.75
- Any Pita Pocket with a Bag of Chips & a Can of Soda\$10.99
- Any Pita Pocket with French Fries & a Can of Soda.....\$11.75
- Any 16" Grinder with a Bag of Chips & a Can of Soda.....\$13.25
- Any 16" Grinder with French Fries & a Can of Soda\$13.99
- 10" Cheese Pizza \$8.50 Each Topping \$1.50
- 4 Chicken Tenders with French Fries & a Can of Soda\$9.99
- Cheeseburger with French Fries & a Can of Soda.....\$9.99

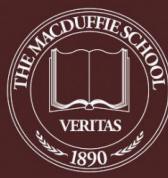
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www.holyokepizza.com



Rechele from Dazzle Day Face Painters blew up balloons for waiting children.
 Turley photos by Quinn Suomala



Michelle Shreppnick from BNP played music and made announcements at the Parks and Recreation Easter egg hunt.



Open House
 Saturday, April 6
 9:30-12:30

www.macduffie.org to register

