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HPD has backlog of vehicle repairs

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The City Council voted to approve a budget transfer of \$15,000 from the civil engineer to auto equipment maintenance overtime.

They voted 9-4 to approve, with Councilors Kocayne Givner, Meagen Magrath-Smith, Israel Rivera and Michael Sullivan voting no.

Police Chief David Pratt was allowed to present to the council why this transfer was needed.

He explained that while the overtime would pay for four mechanics, the police specifically were in urgent need of their mechanic working overtime.

“Right now with the backlog we have like no spare vehicles,” Pratt said.

According to Pratt, several police vehicles were in need of maintenance and the repairs were significantly backed up.

“I think we have currently about 14-15 cars in the pipe right now to have some type of repair work done,” he said.

The back up for repairs is also preventing the six new cruisers from being able to be inspected and put out on the streets.

Additionally, cars need to be inspected before they go over to the police academy for recruits to use.

“If they’re not and they don’t pass the inspection, then

our people don’t pass that course, which can cause them not to pass the academy,” Pratt said.

Due to the urgency of this matter, the council took the order out of the finance committee without it having been discussed and addressed it in the council meeting.

“The finance committee meeting is after this council meeting, so if we don’t bring it up at this council meeting we have to go to committee tomorrow and then go back to the council another week,” Pratt said. “So as this all happens we’re backlogging the repairs more and more and more.”

Additionally, Pratt mentioned that it was more fiscally responsible to have the repairs done by their hired mechanic rather than hiring an outside company to do so.

Their mechanic works overtime for a rate of \$39 an hour, outside companies would charge significantly more.

“If he doesn’t have the overtime then we have to send those cars out when they break, as either way we have to fix them, so then they have to go out to local places that traditionally charge us a lot more money,” Pratt said. “One place even charges \$165 an hour.”

Councilor Kevin Jourdain questioned why the central garage wasn’t contributing further.

See REPAIRS, page 11

Library hosts whimsical teen Mad Hatter Tea Party

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer



Angela Chaffee and Libby Meehan from Blooming Table Events got dressed up to match the Alice in Wonderland theme at the Mad Hatter Tea Party.

Turley photo by Quinn Suomala

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Public Library recently hosted a Mad Hatter Theme Party for teens, complete with sweet treats, whimsical decorations and a craft provided by Blooming Table Events.

“I’m looking forward to having community members come in and enter a wonderland here, to escape the real world for a couple hours and get creative,” Co-owner of Blooming Table Events Angela Chaffee

This event was put on by Teen Librarian Robin Siniaho, who was inspired by other libraries who had put on similar events.

She then came up with the idea of having the theme be Alice in Wonderland.

“I was watching Alice in Wonderland and I thought that would be really great to do at the library,” Siniaho said. “It’s literary, it’s quirky and I’m almost looking for something that will appeal to teens.”

See TEA PARTY, page 12



Blooming Table Events put together a variety of Alice in Wonderland themed sweets.

GLORY OF THE SNOW



Scilla forbesii, also known as glory-of-the-snow, tries to weather the hail and snow storm we received mid-week. These plants bloom very early in spring and produce sprays of star-shaped flowers in shades of either blue, pink, or white.

Submitted photo

School district looks to retain its teachers

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – Last month, the Holyoke School Committee discussed the district’s work on improving teacher retention.

In the last year, about 77% of Holyoke teachers stayed in the district. This means that about one in five teachers left.

In order to work on proving teacher retention numbers, a teacher retention workgroup was put together. Three members of this workgroup, Assistant Superintendent Stephen Mahoney, Teacher Carolyn Monteiro and Teacher Jill Beyer presented their findings at this meeting.

“We agreed that either

we’re not adequately supporting teachers in the district, they’re leaving for some unknown reason or we’re struggling to hire the right kind of teachers from the get-go,” Monteiro said.

Of the teachers currently working in Holyoke, 51% of them have been in the district for less than three years. Only 27% have been with the district for more than six years.

Keeping teachers in the district for more extended periods of time could be crucial to helping Holyoke as a district to improve. The longer teachers stay the more consistency it provides for all involved.

“It really shows how many veteran teachers just aren’t here

See TEACHERS, page 11

MiraVista announces expansion of facilities

HOLYOKE – MiraVista, a leading provider of mental health and addiction treatment services, is pleased to announce the expansion of its facilities with the opening of brand-new adult inpatient treatment beds. These adult beds are in addition to the 16-bed adolescent unit which was recently renovated and now reopened.

The addition of these specialized beds reflects MiraVista’s ongoing commitment to meeting the growing demand for high-quality mental health care services. With mental health challenges on the rise globally, MiraVista recognizes the importance of providing comprehensive and compassionate care to individuals

with mental illness.

“Our decision to expand our inpatient treatment capacity underscores our dedication to serving our community and the commonwealth, and addressing the increasing need for mental health services,” said Shelley Zimmerman, hospital administrator at MiraVista Behavioral Health Center. “We believe that everyone deserves access to effective treatment in a supportive environment, and these new beds will enable us to provide specialized care to more individuals in need.”

The new adult inpatient beds will offer a range of therapeutic interventions tailored to meet the unique needs of each patient. MiraVista’s multidisciplinary

team of experts, including psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, and nurses, will work collaboratively to develop personalized treatment plans focused on promoting healing and recovery.

In addition to individualized therapy sessions, patients will have access to group therapy, medication management, recreational activities, educational workshops, and peer support, all designed to foster personal growth and empowerment. MiraVista’s holistic approach to treatment emphasizes wellness and resilience, empowering patients to achieve lasting positive change in their lives.

The expansion at MiraVista represents a significant milestone in the

organization’s ongoing efforts to enhance mental health care accessibility. By providing a supportive and nurturing environment, MiraVista aims to inspire hope and healing in individuals diagnosed with a mental illness, helping them to reclaim their lives and thrive.

Direct admission without first being seen in an emergency department is a new and welcoming process MiraVista introduced with the reopening of its adolescent unit.

For more information about MiraVista and its comprehensive range of mental health and addiction treatment services, please visit www.miravistabhc.care.

The Club to be revitalized

HOLYOKE – OneHolyoke CDC has announced a spring 2024 revitalization campaign for The Club, 43 Canal St., a social and professional meeting space for community residents opened in 2018 by the organization. The campaign will include renovations and the launch of a new program framework, and OneHolyoke is seeking feedback from the community in order to learn how The Club can best serve the community going forward.

OneHolyoke will hold the first public meeting for the project on Sunday, April 28 at noon, encouraging those from the neighborhood to share their ideas, join the effort and learn about OneHolyoke’s process and vision for The Club.

To begin the revitalization campaign, OneHolyoke is conducting community outreach in order to learn more about what the needs are and how The Club can act as a

catalyst for positive change. The first call to action for local residents is to complete a short survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SK79PCS>. The building will be closed to private rentals from April 1 to June 1, in order to provide the time and space for conducting upgrades, hosting neighborhood meetings, team building and strategic development.

The housing nonprofit, formerly known as the Olde Holyoke Development Corporation, has a mission to provide city residents with affordable housing and safe, attractive neighborhoods.

OneHolyoke CDC encourages all of those that are interested in participating in the revitalizing of The Club to complete the Volunteer Interest Form at <https://forms.gle/YARQFDHU1XGs55G56> or reach out to Nayroby Rosa or Jacob Alan Roberts at OneHolyoke@gmail.com.

Spring Job Fair to be held at mall

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.holyoke-mall.com/event/get-hired-job-fair-3/>.

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.

Bird Club to host walk on April 20

SPRINGFIELD – US Fish & Wildlife Service and the Allen Bird Club of Springfield, MA invite beginning birders of all ages to participate

in a free, introductory bird walk to be held Saturday, April 20, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon in Springfield’s Forest Park.

Geared toward those curious about birding, this introductory walk will focus on common local birds, identification tips, and appreciating the joy of birding. Participants must be able to walk 1.5 - 2 miles on even footing with one, moderately steep hill. Please bring water, bug repellent, and comfortable footwear. Spare binoculars will be available for those who need them.

The Family Bird Walk will begin at the Picknelly Field parking lot at Forest Park’s Route 5/Longmeadow entrance and will take place rain or shine.



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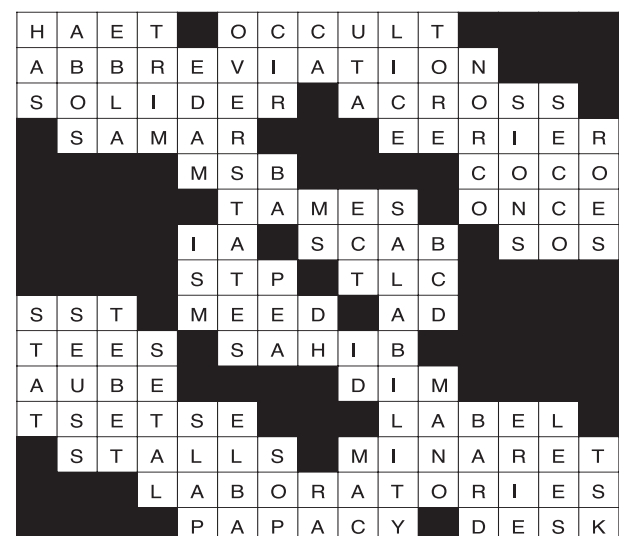
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Holyoke BikePed looking for volunteers to join

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.



FinCom accepts Green Communities Competitive Grant

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The finance committee accepted the Energy Resources Green Communities Competitive Grant of \$197,404.

This grant will be used for construction focused on energy efficient improvements to municipal buildings.

Conservation and Sustainability Director Yoni Glogower reported that they plan to retrofit lighting at Dean and Metcalf, replacing the current lights with

LED lighting.

Additionally, Glogower and his team plan to do a variety of weatherization improvements to various municipal buildings, including the City Hall Annex and the War Memorial building.

“We’re cueing up these buildings because we want that energy efficiency, we want to spend less on our heating costs, and this is also the first step to upgrading heating systems, if we want to get heat pumps in these buildings,” Glogower said.

According to Glogower, there is a

payback of less than nine years for the LED improvements and of 6.3 years for the weatherization measures.

“It should save the city about \$18,000 a year,” Glogower said.

This work should be completed within the next fiscal year, though the city will have until the end of FY26 to complete the work should they need it.

“This is great information as to what you will be using the grant for, so I appreciate it,” City Councilor Patty Divine said.

Glogower was the one who secured this grant for the city, which the finance

committee was grateful for.

“Yoni once again is doing a great job chasing down these grants and getting us the funding where we don’t necessarily have to pay for some of these things out of our own pocket,” City Councilor Israel Rivera said.

Holyoke has been a green community for 14 years. They submit annual reports to remain a green community and to be eligible for grants such as these.

The finance committee voted unanimously to accept this grant. The item will be on the next city council agenda.

Commemorative book on the way

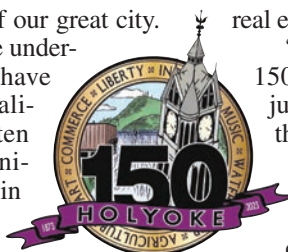
HOLYOKE – The Holyoke 150th Committee is proud to announce the Holyoke 150th Commemorative book will be hitting shelves and mailed out beginning the week of April 15. All pre-orders will be shipped or contacted for pick up. The books will be available for purchase for \$50 each at the Holyoke Artery, The Chamber of Commerce and Holyoke Highland Bike shop, with other locations to be announced.

We want to express our sincere gratitude to those who contributed to the Holyoke 150th Commemorative book and the individuals and amazing organizations that pre-ordered copies.

The 150th Committee is excited to share this book, documenting the events

of 2023 and the history of our great city. When beginning this huge undertaking, the goal was to have 150 pages of a high-quality hardcover book, written by the people and organizations that participated in the 150th celebrations. Most importantly the committee wanted the book to highlight the history of Holyoke.

“Working on this book was a true honor for me.” 150th Committee Co-Chair Aaron Vega said. “All Holyokers are proud of our city’s history but being part of Holyoke’s current story and history, for all of us to be living and working in Holyoke at this time, is the



real exciting part.”

“Being part of Holyoke’s 150th birthday celebration is not just an honor; it’s a testament to the rich tapestry of community, resilience, and progress that defines our city’s legacy. We cannot wait to showcase this city pride in the 150th Commemorative Book.” Greater Holyoke Chamber President Jordan Hart said.

For more information, please contact Jordan Hart at the Greater Holyoke Chamber by email at jordan@holyoke-chamber.com or Aaron Vega at the Office of Planning and Economic Development by email vegaa@holyoke.org.

UCC to hold traditional Puerto Rican meal April 12

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.



Eversource partners with the Arbor Day Foundation

SPRINGFIELD – As part of its continued commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship, Eversource is partnering with the Arbor Day Foundation to distribute more than 1,000 free trees and shrubs to customers across its three-state service territory through the nonprofit’s innovative Energy-Saving Trees program, including hundreds of plants in Massachusetts. This year, customers in West Springfield will be eligible to reserve a complimentary tree or shrub on a first-come, first-serve basis and take advantage of the benefits they provide.

Through this initiative, customers will have access to an interactive platform that allows them to view their property and find the best location to plant their tree or shrub to help conserve energy, as well as calculate estimated environmental benefits and annual cost savings. Eligible customers can reserve one

free tree or shrub per household through the online portal. The pilot program will continue until all plants are reserved, and distribution events will take place in each community in early May.

“The trees and shrubs planted through this program can help customers reduce their energy use and will also provide tangible community benefits from improving air quality to reducing stormwater runoff, beautifying neighborhoods and supporting biodiversity and pollinators,” said Eversource Vegetation Management Manager Christopher Gonzalez. “We’re proud to partner with the Arbor Day Foundation on this valuable effort which aligns with our mission of being responsible environmental stewards across the communities we serve as we work toward a more sustainable, equitable future for all.”

“It’s important to plant the right tree, in the right place, at the right time, and

this program makes it easy for communities to do just that,” said Arbor Day Foundation Chief Executive Dan Lambe. “When properly placed, trees and shrubs planted for shade or windbreak can help a homeowner save up to 20% on their electric bill as they grow. Eversource has stepped up to make each community it serves a greener and healthier place to live, and we’re grateful for the impact the company is making across New England.”

As part of its commitment to environmental stewardship and electric reliability for customers, Eversource advances educational partnerships with arborists, municipalities, students, and the public about planting the right tree in the right place. For more information about Eversource’s nationally recognized sustainability efforts, please visit the dedicated page of its website at Eversource.com.

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Guest Column

in the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid

Asparagus plants – upkeep and harvest

It was so much fun to be outdoors on Easter Sunday. I enjoyed just sitting on the deck, talking with family and moseying around the yard while the little kids enjoyed an Easter egg hunt. It's funny that being outside is one of those things that once you do it, you want to do it more often.

It got me thinking of some of the tasks back home I have to do to get the gardens ship-shape.

One of the tasks concerns my asparagus bed. The grocery stores are teasing us lately, with spears from Mexico making an appearance in the sales circular.

I usually hold off buying it, preferring my home-grown to anything store-bought. I never did get to cut back the foliage in the fall after the first frost.

Presently, its laying down in the beds, making a catch-all for leaves. I'll get in there with a pair of sharp clippers, cutting away the foliage, then with a rake to further tidy up.

Once complete, I'll sprinkle lime on the beds, followed by some compost, since asparagus prefers fertile soil on the alkaline side.

It'll be a few weeks still before the spears start to poke through the surface. Since my beds are several years old at this point, I will be able to harvest for a good eight weeks.

Be on the look-out for the asparagus beetle midstream and the black eggs that are laid horizontally shortly thereafter, usually apparent on the upper portion of the spears. I monitor my beds often and flick the bugs into a yogurt container of soapy water while squishing the eggs in-situ.

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

When should we claim Social Security?



Dear Rusty

I am almost 63 and my husband will be 61 soon and we are looking to see when our best time would be to start our Social Security benefits.

We would like to know if one of us qualifies for benefits from a previous marriage from 1984 to 1995. And we are wondering if I can start drawing at age 65, in two years or if it is better that I wait until 67 because my spouse is two years younger than me. Also, if I were to continue working limited hours after 65, what would my earning limit be?

Signed Almost Ready

Dear Almost Ready

The first thing to understand is that Full Retirement Age for both of you is 67. If either of you claim before that, your monthly benefit amount will be permanently reduced and, because you are working, you will be subject to Social Security's "earnings test."

If you claim your benefit at age 65 your monthly payment will be about 87% of what you would get if you claimed at age 67. If your husband claims at age 62, his benefit will be about 70% of his FRA amount.

The only way to get 100% of the benefit you've each earned from a lifetime of working is to claim at your FRA. You can choose to claim at age 65 as long as you're comfortable with the benefit reduction which will occur and as long as your annual work earnings do not significantly exceed the earnings limit for that year. In any case, when each of you claims will not affect the other's retirement benefit amount.

Social Security's "earnings test" for those claiming before FRA sets a limit for how much can be earned before some or all benefits are taken away. The earnings limit for 2024 is \$22,320, but it changes yearly. If you claim early benefits and your work earnings exceed that year's limit, Social Security will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit.

They take away by withholding future benefits long enough to recover what you owe for exceeding the limit. If you sig-

nificantly exceed the annual earnings limit, you may be temporarily ineligible to receive SS benefits until you either earn less or reach your FRA.

The earnings test no longer applies after you reach your FRA. I cannot predict what the earnings limit will be two years from now, but it will be more than the 2024 limit and published at that time. FYI, in the year you turn 67 your pre-FRA earnings limit will be much higher and when you reach your FRA the earnings test no longer applies.

Regarding your previous marriage, you cannot receive spousal benefits from an ex-spouse while you are currently married. But when to claim may also be influenced by whether either you or your current spouse will get a spousal benefit from the other. If the FRA (age 67) benefit amount for one of you is more than twice the other's FRA entitlement, the one with the lower FRA amount will get a "spousal boost" to their own amount when both of you are collecting.

Spouse benefits reach maximum at one's FRA, but each person's personal SS retirement amount will continue to grow if not claimed at FRA. Waiting past FRA to claim allows the SS retirement benefit to grow by 8% per year, up to age 70.

So, with an FRA of 67, claiming at age 70 will yield a payment 24% higher than the FRA amount, 76% more than the age 62 amount and about 37% more than the age 65 amount. But waiting beyond FRA is only smart if financially feasible and life expectancy is at least average about 84 and 87 respectively for a man and woman your current ages. And, as a general rule, if one's spousal benefit at FRA (50% of their partner's FRA entitlement) is highest, then that spouse should claim at FRA to get their maximum benefit.

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

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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.

in my BACKYARD
By Ellenor Downer

I had fox sparrows under my feeder for several days now. Most recently I counted five of them usually it is two or three. The fox sparrow is a large sparrow about seven inches long. It has a gray head and back with bold, rufous or brown streaking. It has an irregular shaped central dot on its breast and reddish, brown rump and tail. The reddish coloring resembles the color of a fox, hence its name.

It often jumps forward and back, pulling aside ground cover to find food underneath. It may come to feeders when seed is scattered on the ground. I not only put seed in the tray feeders, but I sprinkle some on the ground for the juncos, sparrows and mourning doves.

The female lays four to six light blue green eggs with darker marks in a cup like nest of grasses, lichens and leaves lined with hair, fur and rootlets. When



Fox sparrow



Fox sparrow

we had horses, I would often find nests with their hair in them. My daughters and I would leave hairs groomed from their manes and tails on the ground for the birds.

The fox sparrow's song is a short series of clear melodious whistles and it is more melodic than most sparrows. Males may have one to three versions their songs, which are distinct to each male.

Interesting sightings

I have received emails of several interesting sightings. A Granby resident wrote, "I recently saw a bald eagle in my neighbors tree right next to my property. It was on Feb. 28. To make sure what I was seeing, I grabbed my binoculars and sure enough it was a bald eagle. He stayed there for around five minutes then he flew away." She said, "It was my first time spotting an eagle in Granby. I did spot one in the 90s at the Quabbin flying around. I usually see hawks in my neighborhood on a regular basis. But this was a nice site to see for sure."

A Barre resident saw a snow bunting on March 15. An Oakham resident saw two sandhill cranes on the morning of

Guest Column



Bald eagle

March 15. He said, "While driving down Rutland Road in Oakham, I did a double-take and hit the brakes. There, near the road at Eva Grimes' old place, stood two Sandhill Cranes. They almost could have been mistaken for lawn ornaments, but they were real. One stood erect while the other pecked at the lawn grass. Last year I observed three cranes fly over my house. Perhaps they plan to nest in one of our large beaver-impacted marshes?"

Brimfield resident

A Brimfield resident reported on March 18, he saw 22 ring-necked ducks and an immature bald eagle at a pond in Warren. He also said, "On South Street where last year there were three great blue heron nests and an osprey nest. There were two great blue herons standing in one of the nests used last year and an osprey sitting on the nest used previously. The osprey have been present there for three years, producing at least one chick each year. He also said his wife saw a dozen chipping sparrows in their yard, a first of the year at this



Turkey vulture

location.

He report the only spring arrival in our yard had been one male robin a few days ago. No phoebes yet and he still has some juncos and at least one white-throated sparrow.

The Brimfield resident said he did a tour of some local ponds on Wednesday. At the heron rookery at

Conant Brook in Monson he saw one great blue heron and one tree swallow. In Brimfield, there were 54 male and 18 female common mergansers.

Turkey vultures

On Tuesday, I spotted about four turkey vultures perched in a dead tree in Oakham. Several more were circling overhead. I have seen them at this location in past years.

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.

GARDEN, from page 4

I don't do more than that in terms of pest control and I'm able to keep populations down.

Weeds are another foe. It's important to keep the beds weeded - especially free of perennial grasses, and you will likely have a productive asparagus patch for decades to come.

I usually harvest asparagus with a knife, so that the cut is clean. If the spear has gotten a bit too tall, but the buds haven't opened too much, I will still harvest it at the appropriate length of 6-8" long, and cut the rest of the stem off at ground level.

If the buds have opened and are too far gone to be edible (at least in terms of looking like traditional asparagus) I will just allow the foliage to grow, figuring that the photosynthesizing will benefit the roots in the long run, just as later foliage does after the harvest period is over. I usually let really skinny spears go to foliage as well - they are usually kind of tough.

Speaking of tough, what about those really thick spears, the kind that are "thumb-thick?"



If you notice the base of these spears to be woody and tough in appearance, get out the potato peeler and remove the outer skin, revealing a much more tender interior portion. An old friend taught me this trick, and it works out pretty well.

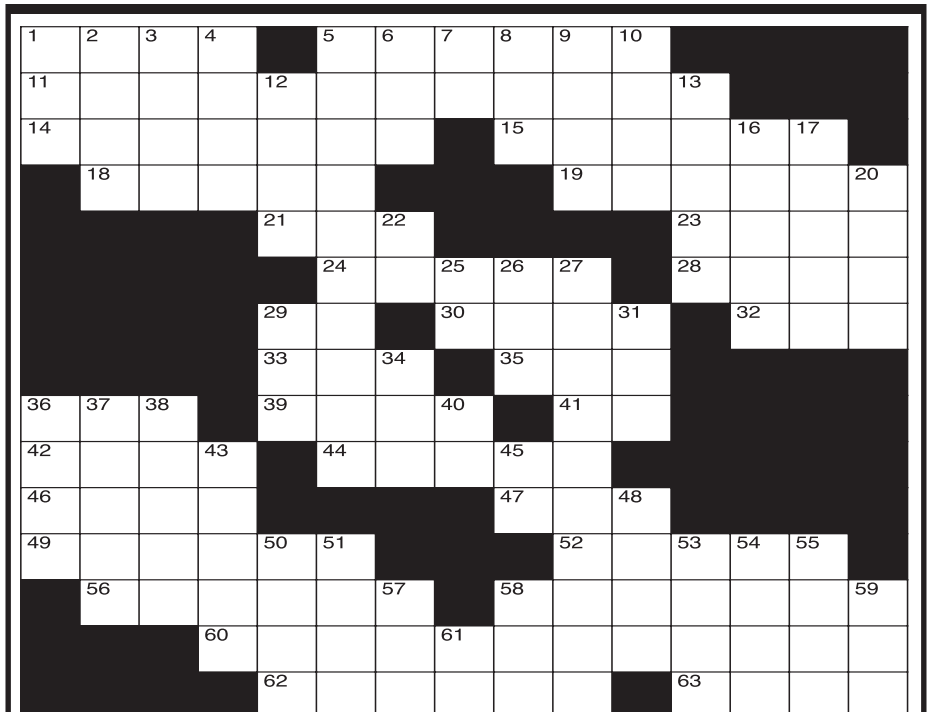
I'd be in remiss if I didn't address the stinky smell associated with eating asparagus.

Yesiree, it can happen even 15 minutes after ingesting it. Use the bathroom and voila, your urine will have a pungent, asparagus-like smell. Only maybe worse.

Our bodies convert asparagusic acid into sulfur-containing chemicals that are volatile enough to fly from the toilet up your nose, that is, if you have the ability to perceive it. Some people don't.

Call them lucky, perhaps. I consider myself lucky to have such an amazing vegetable growing right in my backyard, stinky or not.

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.



- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. A minute amount (British) | (archaic) | city | 37. Doctor ___: children's book author |
| 5. Mystical or magical | 41. Commercial | 4. Clip | 38. Hebrew calendar month |
| 11. Shortening | 42. Spots where golfers start | 5. In a way, misleads | 40. Designated hitter |
| 14. More satisfying | 44. Polite form of address (Indian) | 6. Human gene | 43. Northern Poland village |
| 15. Other side | 46. French river | 7. The Golden State (abbr.) | 45. A passport is one form |
| 18. Philippine island | 47. Reduce the light | 8. Lizard genus | 48. Hand (Spanish) |
| 19. More unnatural | 49. Blood-sucking fly | 9. Parasites that invade the skin | 50. Hit with the open hand |
| 21. Mutual savings bank | 52. A way to categorize | 10. Took apart | 51. Actor Idris |
| 23. Famed designer Chanel | 56. Procrastinates | 12. Mild yellow Dutch cheese | 53. Shakespeare's nickname "The ___" |
| 24. Makes less wild | 58. Tall slender tower | 13. S. California town | 54. Northern U.S. lake |
| 28. At some prior time | 60. Where researchers work | 16. Suffix plural | 55. Marvin and Horsley are two |
| 29. The cops who investigate the cops | 62. Office of the Pope | 17. Painting technique | 57. Soak |
| 30. Immune system response | 63. Office furnishing | 20. Small Eurasian deer | 58. Partner to cheese |
| 32. Distress signal | CLUES DOWN | 22. Mr. T character | 59. Expression of disappointment |
| 33. Engine additive | 1. Possesses | 25. Microsoft | 61. College dorm employee |
| 35. "No Scrubs" trio | 2. American Board of Orthopedic Surgery | 26. Shock therapy | |
| 36. Very fast airplane | 3. Ancient Syrian | 27. Able to be sold | |
| 39. A reward | | 29. A doctrine | |
| | | 31. These three follow A | |
| | | 34. Pulse | |
| | | 36. Quantitative fact | |

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 2

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.

'The Great Gatsby' to be performed at HCC

HOLYOKE – HCC brings Roaring '20s to life with stage production of "The Great Gatsby".

While there is certainly a lyrical quality to the prose in F. Scott Fitzgerald's classic novel, *The Great Gatsby*, set during the Jazz Age of the Roaring '20s, music, as important as it is to the story, does not literally project from the pages.

But it does literally sound from the stage during the Holyoke Community College spring theater production of "The Great Gatsby," which opens Thursday, April 11 to Saturday April 13 at 7:30 p.m. There will be a show at 2 p.m. on April 13 and April 12 show is ASL-interpreted. \$5 (HCC students, staff, and faculty); \$10 (general admission); \$8 (seniors). Available one hour before each show at the Leslie Phillips Box Office or call 413-552-2528 to reserve.

In this "Gatsby," a five-piece jazz band is part of the ensemble cast and lends a live soundtrack to the tragic tale of the mysterious Jay Gatsby and his pursuit of long-lost love Daisy Buchanan.

The show opens with a big dance number set to Irving Berlin's "Putting



Liam Galpin of Easthampton (as Jay Gatsby) and Alison Smythe of Wilbraham (as Daisy Buchanan) lead an ensemble cast in the Holyoke Community College theatrical production of F. Scott Fitzgerald's "The Great Gatsby," opening April 11.

Submitted photo

on the Ritz." Benny Goodman's "Sing Sing Sing" leads the top of Act 2. The play also incorporates songs such as "The Entertainer" by Scott Joplin and others not necessarily written before 1922, when the story is set.

"We wanted to choose music that would be familiar to the audience," HCC Theater Professor and director Patricia Sandoval said, "so they could feel a part of the energy. We wanted the music to be enjoyable."

"I find the story and the characters really compelling," Sandoval said. "The juxtaposition of decadence, elegance, betrayal, and the quest for love. It's the story of humans and the Jazz Age."

Though the story may be familiar to many people, Sandoval hopes audience members see the characters in the HCC production as more than stereotypes.

"A lot has been written about this story, and a lot has been written about F. Scott Fitzgerald," Sandoval said, "but I think what I'm trying to find in it is the hope that the character of Gatsby possesses. Things happen, but we, as humans, keep moving forward, looking for hope and love."

HHS students to take stage for 'My Fair Lady'

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke High School Music Department proudly presents "My Fair Lady" playing April 4-7 in the HHS North auditorium.

In Learner and Loewe's classic musical, Cockney flower girl Eliza Doolittle (played by senior Veronica Colon) is taken under the wing of Professor Henry Higgins (played by

junior Aidan Fontanez-Courchesne), a phonetician, so that she can learn to pass as a well-to-do lady.

The curtain goes up at 7:30 p.m. for performances Thursday through Saturday, with a 2:30 p.m. matinee on Sunday.

Tickets are \$8 for students and seniors, and \$10 for the public.

Antique appraisals offered on April 6

AGAWAM – Feeding Hills Congregational Church, located at 21 North Westfield St., is hosting an antique appraisal Saturday, April 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The cost is \$5 an item or 3 for \$12 with a three item limit.

All appraisals are verbal to give the

owner an idea of value and a sense of history.

Items should be small enough to be hand carried.

Please no firearms or weapons of any kind.

For further information call Kathy 413-786-0195.



Janis Santos SCHOLARSHIP

Created in recognition of Janis Santos and her tenure at HCS Head Start, Inc.

The Janis Santos Scholarship Fund is available for **HCS Head Start alumnae**, past or current **HCS Head Start parents**, or current **HCS Head Start staff** who are interested in pursuing a career in Early Childhood Education to help address the current workforce crisis.

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<https://hcsheadstart.org/janis-santos-scholarship>
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 email: JSScholarship@headstart.org

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Saturday, April 6
 9:30-12:30

www.macduffie.org to register



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Abinadab Garay Cintron gets the bump for the Knights.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Michael Melendez keeps play moving with a hit.

Jeduar Colon Lanausse sets a ball straight up.

Ortiz Torres Gedeon goes to his side for a hit.

Adrian Centeno-Feliciano sets from the back line.

Holyoke Knights outlasted Granby Rams in opener

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

HOLYOKE – The season opening boys’ varsity volleyball match between the Granby Rams and the Holyoke Purple Knights was a very close affair from start to finish.

With the score tied 6-6 in the fifth set, the Rams reeled off nine unanswered points giving them a hard fought 3-2 victory at John “Jinx” O’Connor

Gymnasium, last Thursday night.

“We lost eight players from last year’s team, so it’s pretty exciting to win our season opener with some new players,” said Granby senior co-captain Michael Swanigan. “I’m very happy with the way we played in tonight’s match.”

The Rams, who captured the West League title with a perfect 8-0 record a year ago, only have eight players listed on this

year’s varsity roster. They won the first set, 25-14, the third set, 25-15, and the deciding set 15-6 in their season opening victory.

“I thought we played very well in our first match of the season,” said Granby head coach Chad Gagnon. “We’ve had some very good matches against Holyoke during the past couple of years. It’s a friendly rivalry.”

The Purple Knights won the second and fourth sets. The

score of those two sets were 25-15.

“We did start off a little bit slowly, but we managed to battle back in the second and fourth sets,” said Holyoke assistant varsity coach Josh Abrams. “We still have some things we need to improve on, but I’m pleased with our overall effort. We’re hoping to have a very good season.”

The Purple Knights boys’ varsity volleyball coach is

Paula Conway.

While Holyoke High School has been playing volleyball for many years, this is Granby’s third season competing at the varsity level.

The two teams split the season series a year ago.

Granby celebrated a 3-1 win on their senior night before losing 3-0, on Holyoke’s senior night a week later. The Purple

See KNIGHTS, page 8

Holyoke baseball falls to Westfield

HOLYOKE – On Monday afternoon, the regular season opened for Holyoke at Mackenzie Stadium. Unfortunately, it was not a successful opener as visiting Westfield dominated with a 14-3 win.

The Bombers scored in every inning and led throughout the game, putting it away with six runs in the sixth inning.

Holyoke had a rally in the second inning to try and get back in the game, scoring a pair of runs thanks to RBIs by Alvin Silva and Alexander Robles, but Westfield continued scoring and put the game out of reach. Holyoke is 0-1 to start the season.

Games being delayed or moved for eclipse

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

Athletes, parents, and fans are seeing changes to their schedules related to next Monday, April 8.

Several games and contests being held outdoors have had their start times delayed or have had the games moved off the date completely due to the upcoming solar eclipse set for the late afternoon hours that day.

Agawam High School Athletic Director Karen Gomez said she moved a softball game to later in the afternoon after she and other athletic directors received guidance from the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association urging them to

move events away from the time the eclipse is scheduled for.

According to the email from the MIAA: “On Monday, April 8, Massachusetts will be experiencing a solar eclipse from 2 to 4:30 p.m. You may already be aware of the danger of looking at the sun during the eclipse. Outdoor activity, practices, and games should be approached with extreme caution as unavoidable exposure to the harmful intensity could happen accidentally with extreme harm to athletes.”

The email did not specifically bar events from happening during that time period, but most of the rescheduled games outdoors were moved to the 5 p.m. hour to avoid the eclipse, which is sup-

posed to result in more than 80% coverage of the sun in Massachusetts.

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education also issued guidance to all schools, directing education officials not to allow students to look directly into the eclipse while it is happening.

“A solar eclipse occurs when the moon passes directly between the Earth and the sun,” the DESE guidance states. “The moon is much smaller than the sun, but because it is so close to the Earth, it can appear to partially or completely block the image of the sun.”

South Hadley High School Athletic Director Eric Castonguay confirmed he had

to move some events scheduled Monday, including a track meet due to the eclipse’s timeline.

“I didn’t really have an issue with it,” Castonguay said. “I don’t really know a lot about it, but I certainly would not want to expose the kids to anything that could be harmful to them.”

The forecasted weather for Monday, April 8, is actually supposed to be ideal for the eclipse. It is currently forecasted to be sunny with temperatures in the low 60’s. For more information on what contests have been moved to different times or off the date altogether depending on the availability of officials, go to www.arbiterlive.com for up-to-date schedules.

Holyoke High School 2024 spring varsity schedule

| BASEBALL | | | | BOYS TRACK | | | | GIRLS TENNIS | | | |
|------------------|------|------------------|-----------|------------------|------|---------------|-----------|------------------|------|------------------|-----------|
| Mon., April 1 | Home | Westfield | 4 p.m. | Fri., April 5 | Away | Southwick | 5:15 p.m. | Thurs., April 4 | Away | South Hadley | 4:30 p.m. |
| Wed., April 3 | Away | East Longmeadow | 5:15 p.m. | Tues., April 9 | Home | Westfield | 4 p.m. | Mon., April 8 | Home | Chicopee Comp | 5 p.m. |
| Fri., April 5 | Home | Taonic | 4:30 p.m. | Tues., April 23 | Home | Pope Francis | 4 p.m. | Tues., April 9 | Away | Belchertown | 5 p.m. |
| Mon., April 8 | Away | West Springfield | 5 p.m. | Tues., April 30 | Home | PVCA | 4 p.m. | Thurs., April 11 | Home | West Springfield | 4 p.m. |
| Fri., April 12 | Home | Northampton | 5 p.m. | Tues., May 7 | Home | Ludlow | 4 p.m. | Fri., April 12 | Away | Central | 5 p.m. |
| Mon., April 15 | Away | Hampshire | 1 p.m. | Fri., May 17 | Home | Putnam | 4 p.m. | Thurs., April 18 | Home | Northampton | 1 p.m. |
| Wed., April 17 | Home | Central | 1 p.m. | | | | | Mon., April 22 | Away | West Springfield | 5 p.m. |
| Fri., April 19 | Home | Agawam | 1 p.m. | | | | | Wed., April 24 | Home | South Hadley | 4 p.m. |
| Tues., April 23 | Home | Belchertown | 4 p.m. | Fri., April 5 | Away | Southwick | 5:15 p.m. | Fri., April 26 | Away | Chicopee Comp | 5 p.m. |
| Thurs., April 25 | Away | Chicopee | 5 p.m. | Tues., April 9 | Home | Westfield | 4 p.m. | Mon., April 29 | Home | Pope Francis | 4 p.m. |
| Mon., April 29 | Away | Easthampton | 5:15 p.m. | Tues., April 23 | Home | Pope Francis | 4 p.m. | Thurs., May 2 | Home | Central | 5 p.m. |
| Wed., May 1 | Home | Chicopee Comp | 4 p.m. | Tues., April 30 | Home | PVCA | 4 p.m. | Fri., May 10 | Away | Agawam | 5 p.m. |
| Fr., May 3 | Away | Agawam | 5:15 p.m. | Tues., May 7 | Home | Ludlow | 4 p.m. | Wed., May 15 | Home | Ludlow | 5 p.m. |
| Tues., May 7 | Away | Belchertown | 5:30 p.m. | Fri., May 17 | Home | Putnam | 4 p.m. | | | | |
| Thurs., May 9 | Home | Chicopee | 6 p.m. | | | | | | | | |
| Mon., May 13 | Home | E. Longmeadow | 6 p.m. | | | | | | | | |
| Wed., May 15 | Away | Chicopee Comp | 5 p.m. | | | | | | | | |
| Thurs., May 16 | Away | Southwick | 7 p.m. | | | | | | | | |
| SOFTBALL | | | | BOYS VOLLEYBALL | | | | | | | |
| Tue., April 2 | Away | Southwick | 5:30 p.m. | Thurs., March 28 | Home | Granby | 5:30 p.m. | | | | |
| Thurs., April 4 | Home | Ware | 4 p.m. | Tues., April 2 | Away | Commerce | 6:15 p.m. | | | | |
| Wed., April 10 | Home | Agawam | 4 p.m. | Thurs., April 4 | Home | SICS | 5 p.m. | | | | |
| Fri., April 12 | Away | Central | 5 p.m. | Fri., April 5 | Away | Southwick | 6:30 p.m. | | | | |
| Tues., April 16 | Away | Palmer | 4 p.m. | Wed., April 10 | Home | Duggan | 5 p.m. | | | | |
| Thurs., April 18 | Home | Granby | 1 p.m. | Fri., April 12 | Home | Athol | 5:15 p.m. | | | | |
| Fri., April 19 | Away | West Springfield | 1 p.m. | Tues., April 16 | Away | Ware | 6:15 p.m. | | | | |
| Mon., April 22 | Away | SICS | 5 p.m. | Thurs., April 18 | Home | Malden | 2 p.m. | | | | |
| Wed., April 24 | Home | Ludlow | 4:45 p.m. | Mon., April 22 | Away | Chicopee | 6 p.m. | | | | |
| Fri., April 26 | Home | Southwick | 4 p.m. | Wed., April 24 | Home | Sci-Tech | 6 p.m. | | | | |
| Mon., April 29 | Home | Smith Academy | 4 p.m. | Fri., April 26 | Away | E. Longmeadow | 6 p.m. | | | | |
| Tues., April 30 | Away | Ware | 5:30 p.m. | Mon., April 29 | Home | E. Longmeadow | 6 p.m. | | | | |
| Thurs., May 2 | Away | Smith Academy | 5:30 p.m. | Tues., April 30 | Home | Chicopee | 5 p.m. | | | | |
| Mon., May 6 | Home | Central | 5 p.m. | Mon., May 6 | Away | Granby | 6:15 p.m. | | | | |
| Thurs., May 9 | Home | Palmer | 6 p.m. | Wed., May 8 | Away | SICS | 6:15 p.m. | | | | |
| Fri., May 10 | Away | Longmeadow | 5 p.m. | Fri., May 10 | Away | Ludlow | 6 p.m. | | | | |
| Mon., May 13 | Away | Granby | 5 p.m. | Tues., May 14 | Home | Southwick | 5 p.m. | | | | |
| Wed., May 15 | Home | SICS | 6 p.m. | | | | | | | | |

Send us your photos!
thesun@turley.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. For questions, email info@baystate-games.org or call 781-932-6555.

Pioneers look to keep adding

LUDLOW – With about a month remaining until the regular season begins, the Western Mass. Pioneers got a look at their potential 2024 team in the Open Cup match, a loss, held two weeks ago.

Now, the Pioneers will continue

practice at Lusitano Stadium until they have a “friendly game” exhibition contest on May 10 against Third Eye FC. The home opener for the Pioneers will be on Thursday, May 18 against Pathfinder FC, a familiar opponent for the Pioneers.



Abdel Talabi settles the ball for the Pioneers.



Ben Awashie works on the offensive side of the field.

Turley photos by David Henry

KNIGHTS, from page 7

Knights also won the only meeting of the 2022 campaign between the two squads by the final score of 3-1. “We’ve been playing Holyoke since I was a sophomore and they’ve always been a very good volleyball team,” Swanigan said. “It was another exciting match tonight.” Swanigan is planning to become a member of the first men’s volleyball team at Curry College next fall. “I’m very excited about having the opportunity to continue playing volleyball in college next year,” Swanigan said. “I’m going to be the first boys’ volleyball player from Granby High School to play volleyball at the college level.” A couple of the Purple Knights standouts are senior co-captain Jeduar Colon, senior Adrain Centeno-Feliciano, and junior Michael Melendez. Holyoke junior Nathan Jusino, who’s a setter, didn’t play in the season opening match because of an injury. Granby sophomore Jake Gagnon, who’s also a co-captain, handled the serving duties at the end of the final set. Senior Nicolas Grandmont had a couple of blocks during that stretch and sophomore Braeden Gallagher added a kill, which helped the visiting team seal the deal.

“I’m very proud of my team,” coach Gagnon said. “All of them are hard workers and they play volleyball all year long.” A Gagnon kill in the opening set gave his team an 8-4 advantage. With Swanigan handling the serving duties, the Rams then rattled off the next eight points giving them a comfortable 16-4 lead and they took a 1-0 lead in the match. Just like Granby did in the first set, Holyoke served first in the second set and they raced out to an early 5-2 lead following a Colon kill. The home team kept the lead until the Rams went ahead for the only time at 15-14 with the help of a 4-0 spurt. The Purple Knights ended the second set with an impressive 11-0 run. Centeno-Feliciano did the serving while Colon had a couple of kills. With freshman Nate Walsh doing the serving, the Rams scored the final seven points of the third set which gave his team a 2-1 overall lead in the match. The Purple Knights never trailed in the fourth set, and they forced the outcome of the season opening match to be decided in the fifth set. The second meeting of the regular season between the two teams is scheduled to take place at Granby High School on May 6.

City of Holyoke PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Holyoke Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 23, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.com ID: 836 3939 8493i

For a complete copy of the application and site plan, contact the Planning Department at (413) 322-5575. APPLICANT: Holyoke Housing Authority

City of Holyoke PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Holyoke Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 23, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.com; ID: 83639398493; CALL IN 1 646 558 8656

For a complete copy of the application and site plan, contact the Planning Department at (413) 322-5575.

APPLICANT: Holyoke Housing Authority PLANNING BOARD: Mimi Panitch 04/05, 04/12/2024

City of Holyoke PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Holyoke Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 23, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.com; ID: 836-3939-8493; CALL IN *67 646 558 8656

A complete copy of the application may be seen in the Office of Planning and Economic Development at 20 Korean Veterans Plaza, 8:30 am-4:30 pm, M-F.

APPLICANT: Salmar Realty, Inc.. PLANNING BOARD: Mimi Panitch, Chair 04/05, 04/12/2024

Notice of Public Hearing

The DGR Committee of the Holyoke City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, April 22, 2024 at 6:30pm to hear a special permit application of Hasan Kuruca at 263 Hampden Street (006-04-013) for an outdoor vehicle sales lot.

City of Holyoke PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Holyoke Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 23, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.com; ID: 836-3939-8493; CALL IN *67 646 558 8656

8656 to hear, pursuant to the Holyoke Zoning Ordinance, a Site Plan Review petition (Sec 10.0) and Special Permit to Increase Fence Height (Sec 4.6.3.2); Self-Storage Facility (File 162j, submitted by JLL Real Estate, LLC, to be located at 679/689 Main Street and Beaulieu Street (055-00-009.2; -009; - 009.1).

A complete copy of the application may be seen in the Office of Planning and Economic Development at 20 Korean Veterans Plaza, 8:30 am-4:30 pm, M-F.

APPLICANT: JLL Real Estate, LLC. PLANNING BOARD: Mimi Panitch, Chair 04/05, 04/12/2024

Notice of Public Hearing

The Ordinance Committee of the Holyoke City Council will hold a public hearing to hear a zoning ordinance change proposal to allow cannabis businesses beyond the IG zone and allow priority for social equity applicants and those negatively impacted by war on drugs.

Hearing continued from February 28, 2024 Ordinance Chair Israel Rivera 04/05, 04/12/2024

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. HD24P0713EA

Estate of: Ovilla Gadbois Date of Death: 01/21/2024 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Sara Spooner of Auburn, MA

The Petitioner requests that: Sara Spooner of Auburn, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve With Personal 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 04/29/2024.

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: April 01, 2024 Rosemary A Saccomani Register of Probate 04/05/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD23P1405EA

Estate of: Linda Jane Guyotte Date of Death: 01/11/2023 CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT

A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by Sandra Chamberlain of Brookline, NH requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

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 05/07/2024.

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.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M. Hyland, First Justice of this Court.

Date: April 01, 2024 Rosemary A. Saccomani Register of Probate 04/05/2024

Notice of Public Hearing

The Ordinance Committee of the Holyoke City Council and the Planning Board will hold separate public hearings to hear a zoning change application from IG to DR for Holyoke Housing Authority at 662, 666, 674, 680, 702, and 710 South East Street (029-09-009 through 019) to build rental and homeownership units.

8479 1259 Meeting Passcode 530195 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 with same Meeting ID and Passcode.

Planning Board meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 23, 2024 at 5:30 pm via www.zoom.us Meeting ID: 836 3939 8493 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 with same meeting ID. For a copy of the application or to provide comments to the Ordinance Committee, please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org or by phone 413-322-5525.

Ordinance Chair Israel Rivera, Planning Chair Mimi Panitch 04/05, 04/12/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD21P1169EA

Estate of: Richard E Howes, Jr. Also known as: Richard Elwin Howes, Jr. Date of Death: 11/10/2020 CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT

A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by Michael S Gove of Ludlow, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

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 05/07/2024.

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.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M. Hyland, First Justice of this Court.

Date: April 02, 2024 Rosemary A. Saccomani Register of Probate 04/05/2024

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Holyoke Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, April 24, 2024, at 5:30 p.m., in the City Hall Annex, Room 403, Holyoke MA to hear the petition of Nilsa Laboy, who is requesting a variance from Section 4.4.6 (2) for an accessory structure nearer than 8 feet of a principal structure for the property located at 475 Northampton Street, Holyoke, MA. (223-00-012).

A complete copy of the application may be seen in the Office of Planning & Economic Development, 20 Korean Veterans Plaza, Rm 401, 8:30-4:30, M-F.

APPLICANT: Nilsa Laboy BOARD OF APPEALS: Josh Knox, Chair 04/05, 04/12/2024

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Holyoke Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, April 24, 2024 at 5:30 p.m., in City Hall Annex, Room 403, Holyoke, MA to hear the petition of Volta Charging, LLC who is requesting a variance from Section 6.4.3.6 (Electric Signs) and Section 6.4.6.8 (a) (Off-Premises Signs) for the property located at 28 Lincoln Street, Holyoke, MA (073-00-034).

A complete copy of the application may be seen in the Office of Planning & Economic Development, 20 Korean Veterans Plaza, Rm 401, 8:30-4:30, M-F.

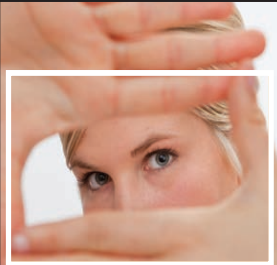
APPLICANT: Volta Charging, LLC BOARD OF APPEALS: Josh Knox, Chair 04/05, 04/12/2024

Notice of Public Hearing

The Ordinance Committee of the Holyoke City Council and the Planning Board will hold separate public hearings to hear a zoning ordinance change to amend Section 8.1.9: "Notification of watercourse alteration." Ordinance Committee hearing will take place on Wednesday, April 24th at 6:30 pm at Holyoke City Hall 536 Dwight St and can be accessed remotely via www.zoom.us Meeting ID 825 8479 1259 Meeting Passcode 530195 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 with same Meeting ID and Passcode.

Planning Board meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 23, 2024 at 5:30 pm via www.zoom.us Meeting ID: 836 3939 8493 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 with same meeting ID. To provide comments to the Ordinance Committee, please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org or by phone 413-322-5525. To provide comments to the Planning Board, please contact Brianna Tejada at tejadab@holyoke.org

Ordinance Chair Israel Rivera, Planning Chair Mimi Panitch 04/05, 04/12/2024



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TEACHERS, from page 1

any more and the cumulative impact of the kind of turnover we are trying to prevent," Montiero said.

Due to these numbers, the workgroup sent out a survey to teachers who had left HPS and teachers currently working in the district.

This survey was meant to determine why teachers were leaving the district. It asked teachers who left what deciding factors were in their decision to leave, and teachers who were still in the district what they could see causing them to leave.

Of the teachers still in the district, 76% responded to the survey. They indicated that the main reasons they would consider leaving HPS are: workload and/or work-life balance, student behavior, salary/pay, district leadership, and the work hours.

For the survey sent to teachers who had left the district, 50 responded. Of those, 80% indicated that their leading reasons for leaving were related to either school leaders, student behavior, and/or workload.

"When people explained their answers [regarding district leaders] they were really talking about the response that school leaders had in really challenging situations, particularly involving student behavior," Montiero said. "Teachers felt like they weren't being supported necessarily by school leaders, and it was that feeling of lack of support that had them put school leaders up there."

Based on these results, the work-

group came up with two strategies to try to improve teacher retention.

Strategy one is to "create and foster a work environment where teachers are and feel supported,

valued, appreciated, fairly compensated, and successful."

They found that teachers had too high of a workload and that they felt undervalued and underappreciated.

Based on this strategy, they found several sub-priorities. These priorities were: prioritization and coordination, work day, professional learning, coaching and support, communication, compensation, appreciation, connection and wellbeing, and recruiting.

Using these sub-priorities as a guide, they hope to increase competitiveness of pay and to modify the teacher workday to help protect their work-life balance.

They also plan to develop an achievable list of responsibilities and expectations for teachers differentiated by years of experiences, job type and grade band as well as limit the number of school and district priorities year by year so they can focus on fewer things at one time.

The second strategy was to "strengthen school cultures and students' social emotional learning and support systems".

The sub-priorities for this strategy were: to create a multi-tiered system of support which includes a system of social-emotional learning, behavioral, and academic tier 1,2, and 3 supports; SEL and relationship building; student behavior supports; and special educa-

tion support.

To implement these strategies they hope to explore alternative programming or placement options for students in need of behavioral support and to strengthen the overall system of support so each student has the SEL, behavioral and academic support they need.

They also want to ensure school schedules have dedicated and protected time for SEL and relationship building.

In order to move forward on achieving these goals, the teacher work group will share this report to DESE, school committee, cabinet and school leaders, teachers, families and community members.

They hope to have a finalized action plan for mid-May, which Superintendent/Receiver Anthony Soto will share with the district.

Additionally, even while they are developing a concrete action plan, they have already taken some steps toward implementing their ideas in schools.

"We've already begun much of the work on these recommendations," Mahoney said. "So for example...we have taken a first cut at prioritizing teacher responsibilities and expectations for first, second and third year plus, we'll take another crack at it later this week and then start sharing it with an advisory group of school leaders and teachers."

The school committee agreed that taking these steps were necessary and they look forward to seeing the progress as the group moves forward.

REPAIRS, from page 1

"We're supposed to be cross training and working on other departments' vehicles and if your guys are coming up short maybe the answer is you need an employee and a half," Jourdain said. "You should be getting a half employee that is part of the central garage so you're avoiding the overtime that we're expending here."

Jourdain elaborated that the point of the central garage was to allow for flex scheduling so that employees could work across multiple departments' vehicles in order to prevent situations where one employee was alone in a department and working significant overtime.

He insisted that the council should have further discussion at a later time in order to try to prevent this issue from occurring in the future.

"If we let this go through... we've got to revisit the staffing because if there's other overtime then maybe the answer is we need another person in there or we're not funding or filling all the positions," Jourdain said. "We need to be properly staffed in the central garage."

Jourdain will likely bring this matter up at a future meeting in order to try to diminish overtime spending.

For now, the council approved the transfer of funds so that the police department could get the cruisers they needed onto the streets.

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TOWN OF WILBRAHAM

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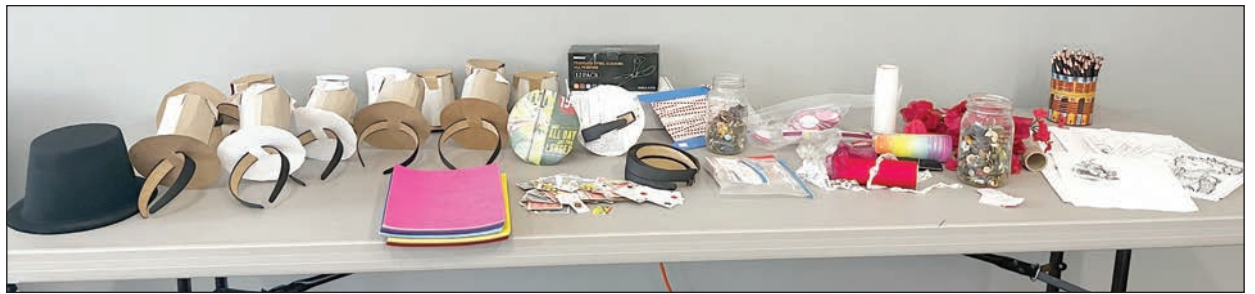
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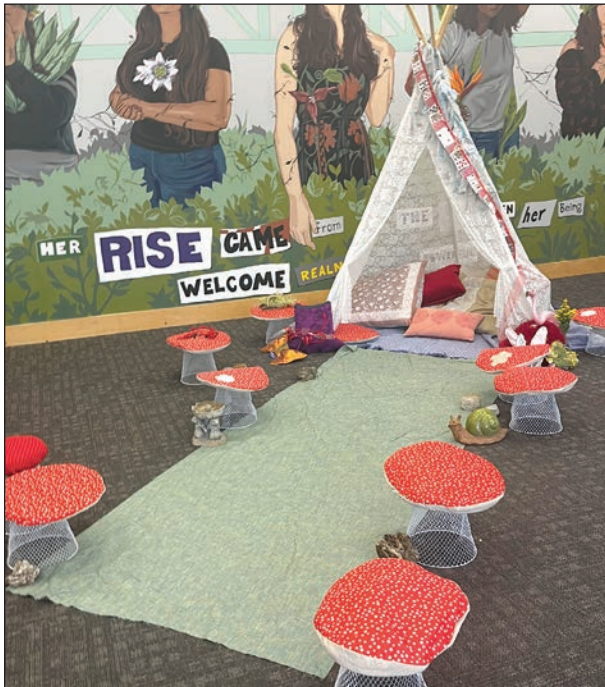


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Those who attended the event were welcome to make top hats in the Alice in Wonderland theme.



A photobooth was available at the Mad Hatter Tea Party hosted by Holyoke Public Library.



Vanessa, Serenity and Armani Bass put together their own top hat with arts and crafts provided.



Libby Meehan and Angela Chaffee enjoyed tea from the vintage tea set.

TEA PARTY, from page 1

"I think Alice in Wonderland is such a fun theme because there's so many different characters and things you can do with it," Co-owner of Blooming Table Events Libby Meehan said.

Siniaho then contacted Blooming Table Events and they sat down together to plan out the party.

"We talked a lot about what kind of crafts we wanted to do," Siniaho said.

The community room at the library was decorated with mushroom stools, a whimsical tea table and different heart decorations, all provided by Blooming Table Events.

"Libby is the creative director and she just makes everything beautiful," Chaffee said.

They also came through with Alice in Wonderland themed sweets, with tea and different "eat me" cakes.

"The girls from Blooming Table Events already had a menu idea of what they wanted to make, so I kind of just let them run with it," Siniaho said.

"We gave all the treats special names to tie in with the theme and it was really fun to be creative in that way," Chaffee said.

Siniaho also set up a giant connect four and some card games for teens to play, and Blooming Table provided a create your own top hat arts and craft as well as a photo booth.

"I'm really excited about the craft," Meehan said. "I really want to see what people want to do with the hats."

Meehan and Chaffee had a lot of fun preparing for this event. They carefully planned out all the details of the event to ensure it stuck with the

Alice in Wonderland theme.

"It was so fun, this is a book that I've loved since I was younger," Meehan said.

All the decorations they brought for the party were either handmade, vintage or borrowed as Meehan and Chaffee strive to be eco-friendly in their work.

They were excited to be partnering with the library for this event and to see the different community members in attendance.

"We are really excited to be partnering with the library and offering this program to the community for free," Chaffee said.

"Libraries are just such an important part of the community, having a space where you can go to explore different worlds through books and where you can have events like this where you can have fun, relax and be creative...we're really happy to partner with them."

Siniaho hopes to make this event a tradition of sorts at the library and to continue to do other literary themed events in the future.

She encourages families to keep an eye out for different events at the library. To learn more about the library events go <https://www.holyokelibrary.org/>.

Siniaho also welcomes people interested in signing up for the weekly teen news letter to reach out to her at rsiniaho@holyokelibrary.org.

Armani Bass put together her own tophat at the Mad Hatter Tea Party hosted by the Holyoke Public Library.



Blooming Table Events decorated the whole room with an Alice and Wonderland theme for the Mad Hatter Tea Party.



Serenity Bass showed off her handmade hat while enjoying a spot of tea.

Turley photos by Quinn Suomala

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