

## City releases cookbook project

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The City of Holyoke has launched the “Holyoke Resilience Cookbook: Recipes for a Resilient Holyoke” project.

This project is put on by the city in partnership with the El Corazón Project/Heart of Holyoke Project through Nueva Esperanza.

This cookbook will act to provide people with recipes and a variety of educational resources concerning Healthy Incentive Plan outreach.

“The cookbook is all about getting people involved, learning what they need and helping them learn what they need,” Mass in Motion Coordinator Stephanie Colón said.

This cookbook will be made up of cultural recipes submitted by members of the Holyoke community.

Additionally, through this project the city has put on a cooking show and different events for the community to attend.

“We’re also doing a cooking show where we are going

See **COOKBOOK**, page 11

## Elected officials discusses efforts to strengthen Holyoke’s workforce

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – Several different elected officials for the city gave speeches on efforts made to strengthen the workforce in Holyoke.

This reception was hosted at the new Gary Rome Car Wash, Dog Wash and Detail Center, which had its grand opening as part of this event.

“It’s only fitting that one of the main topics this evening is strengthening workforce development in the city

See **WORKFORCE**, page 6



The elected officials present at the event came forward to receive recognition from the crowd for their efforts in improving the city of Holyoke.  
Turley photos by Quinn Suomala



People gathered indoors to mingle as they waited for the program of speeches for the evening to begin.



Mayor Joshua Garcia thanked everyone for attending the event and discussed the efforts of the schools to improve the city.

## Woman murdered in city remembered

By Kristin Rivers  
Staff Writer

CHICOPEE – A woman murdered in Holyoke on Sunday was remembered in neighboring Chicopee this week. At Tuesday’s Chicopee City Council meeting, Eileen Monaghan was remembered by the mayor and members of the council.

According to the Hampden County District Attorney’s Office, the Holyoke Police Department responded to a 911 call in the 200 block of South Water Street at 1:30 a.m. on April 14 for a report of suspicious activity.

“On scene, responding officers discovered two adult individuals, a male and a female. The female victim appeared to be suffering from stab wounds and the male unresponsive due to self-inflicted harm. Officers rendered aid to both, with the female victim tragically succumbing to her injuries,” they said.

Jason Chapdelaine of Springfield, a Chicopee firefighter, was arrested and charged with murder that

same day and later arraigned in Holyoke District Court on April 16.

Chapdelaine, who was later placed on unpaid leave from the fire department, is currently being held without the right to bail with his next court date scheduled for May 13.

“Her  
(Eileen Monaghan)  
unwavering dedication  
to the welfare of others  
and her tireless efforts to  
improve our community  
will be sorely missed  
by many.”

- Chicopee Mayor  
John Vieau

Monaghan, a Chicopee resident and mother of two, was the executive assistant at the Hampden County Sheriff’s Office to Sheriff Nick Cocchi and previously served as the chief of staff for State Rep. Joseph Wagner (D-Chicopee). She was also the former

wife of Ward 2 Councilor Shane Brooks.

During the mayor’s briefing, Mayor John Vieau called Monaghan “a true pillar of our community.”

“Eileen was not only a devoted, loving mother of two beautiful daughters, she was a coach. A coach to my daughter, a public servant, a community member, but, also, a beacon of kindness and compassion,” Vieau said. “Her unwavering dedication to the welfare of others and her tireless efforts to improve our community will be sorely missed by many.”

Vieau added this. “As we reflect on her remarkable contributions, let us also celebrate the legacy that Eileen leaves behind. A legacy marked by a deep commitment to service and a heartfelt dedication to making a difference,” Vieau said. “It is a legacy that continues to inspire us all to strive for a better and more caring world.”

Later, the councilors took a moment to pay tribute to Monaghan.

See **MONAGHAN**, page 3

## School Committee discusses TRAILS curriculum

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The school committee discussed Holyoke Public Schools’ Transporting Research and Action to Improve the Lives of Students curriculum, or their curriculum for social, emotional learning.

Director of Student Support Services Giselle Rojas gave a presentation on what this TRAILS curriculum is and how it is beneficial for the students.

“SEL is essentially the vehicle through which we help our children and adults strengthen their social and emotional skills,” Rojas said. “These skills are the ones that are going to help them and us identify and manage our thoughts and feelings, establish and maintain healthy relationships, and navigate problems and decisions.”

Rojas emphasized additionally that teaching SEL in schools can be crucial in increasing academic and post-secondary successes, reducing bullying and harassment,

decreasing staff burnout and improving student and staff relationships.

The TRAILS curriculum provides a framework for teachers to focus on SEL in their classrooms. Using this curriculum, teachers can provide 30-minute lessons on SEL, in the hopes that it will teach students to be “kind, respectful, engaged and thoughtful members” of the community.

“The TRAILS curriculum helps us with that as it allows us to strengthen how we teach these principals and it supports our school-wide approach to character and community building as well as discipline, academic and behavioral intervention and extracurricular programming,” Rojas said.

This curriculum has been developed from research in the benefits of SEL and how to implement it. It is based on two evidence-based approaches proven to support mental wellness: cognitive behavioral and mindfulness practices.

See **TRAILS**, page 11

## In The News

# New children's museum exhibit to be celebrated

HOLYOKE – The Children's Museum at Holyoke is thrilled to announce the opening of a groundbreaking exhibit: The Automotive TECHnician Center, presented by Marcotte Ford. This eagerly anticipated addition marks the museum's first new exhibit since 2018, bringing innovation and hands-on learning to children of all ages.

The result of over two years of planning and collaboration, this exhibit is made possible through the generous support of Marcotte Ford. Their dedication to Holyoke and its young residents has been instrumental in bringing this project to fruition.

The exhibit features a fully functional Ford Fusion donated by Marcotte and

locally fabricated to ensure an authentic experience. Children can immerse themselves in the world of automotive technology, changing tires, diagnosing issues, and even enjoying the radio. A tool wall, equipped with modified real tools for safety, enhances the interactive learning experience.

"Hands on stuff is great for a lot, there are a lot of kids who have trouble sitting in a classroom all the time," shares Natalie Colon, electrical trade student at Dean Technical High School. "I think having something hands on and a place where you can experience what being in a trade is like will definitely open kids eyes up to trade schools."

At The Children's Museum, exhibits are carefully crafted by education

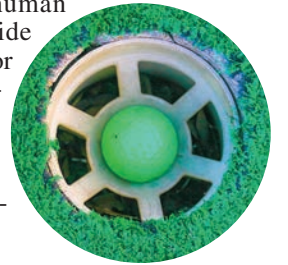
professionals to be hands-on and engaging. Through interactive experiences, children explore, discover, and learn by doing, fostering curiosity and creativity.

In addition to the new exhibit, the museum will continue to offer their classic exhibits including many interactive exhibits, including the Curvy Climber, World of Motion, Shop & Scan Grocery Store, Art Studio, and more. Each exhibit is designed to stimulate learning and exploration in a fun and dynamic environment.

A public event for the Community Celebration debuting the Automotive TECHnician Center on Saturday, April 27 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. The celebration will be held at 444 Dwight St, Holyoke.

# Library hosts mini golf on Saturday

HOLYOKE – On Saturday, April 20, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Holyoke Public Library will be hosting 18 holes of mini golf inside the library and human foosball outside the library. For more information or questions please email [nancy@holyo-kelibrary.org](mailto:nancy@holyo-kelibrary.org).



# Mother's Day plant sale May 11

HOLYOKE – Wistariahurst Mother's Day plant sale is on May 11, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Planning on gifting the motherly figure in your life flowers for Mother's Day? Support a local garden by purchasing your blossoms from Wistariahurst Museum. The plants are perfectly adapted to the unique climate and soil, making them ideal for a New England garden. With a variety of flora, including roses, daylilies, American wisteria, and kousa dogwood trees, there's something for everyone. A purchase also supports the maintenance of the historical museum and gardens.

"This is such a great gift for your mom or your garden that helps support our community space and we hope to see you there," raves Megan Seiler, Wistariahurst's Museum director.

Celebrate Mother's Day by bringing mom or motherly figure to Wistariahurst Museum during our Mother's Day Plant Sale. Take a stroll through the enchanted garden and find the perfect gift to spruce up mom's garden. Show mom some floral love by snagging her a selection of plants from our site. Don't miss this chance

to shower your awesome mom with blooming affection.

There are some plants that can be pre-purchase online here: <https://wistariahurstgiftshop.square.site/>.



# OneHolyoke holding Career Fair at Kelly School on April 24

HOLYOKE – OneHolyoke CDC will host its third annual "I Can Be Anyone I Want to Be" Career Fair for students and community residents on Wednesday, April 24 at Marcella R. Kelly Elementary School, 216 West Street, Holyoke.

The Career Exploration Fair for students will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and the Job Fair for residents and community members will be held from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The event is designed for students to envision future careers for themselves, and also for residents who are

looking for potential employment. Several Holyoke community organizations and businesses will be participating in the Career Fair.

Organizations that have already signed up to participate in the Fairs include: OneHolyoke CDC; State Police; Boy Scouts of Western MA; Holyoke Health Center; Holyoke Fire Department; Sullivan Metals; UMass Amherst Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences; Nuestra Raices; Positive Regard Network; and River Valley Counseling.

# Greek flag raising to be held on Friday, April 26

HOLYOKE – Mayor Joshua A. Garcia and members of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church will participate in a flag-raising in front of City Hall on Friday, April 26, at 2 p.m.

The mayor will be raising the Greek flag in celebration of the 203rd anniversary of Greek independence. The public is invited.



# St. Paul's hosting annual rummage sale

HOLYOKE – St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 485 Appleton St., will hold their annual rummage sale on Saturday, April 20 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the auditorium.

There will be bargains for every-

one: clothing, housewares, bedding, towels, books, toys, and holiday and craft supplies. Free ample parking is located behind the Church and all are welcome.

For more information, please call the Church Office at 413-532-5060.

**WestMass ElderCare**  
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– Sherry Anderson

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# You're invited to the World's Largest Pancake Breakfast

SPRINGFIELD – World's Largest Pancake Breakfast is a morning filled with flapjacks and fun in honor of Springfield's 388th birthday. It has been an annual tradition since 1986 and sponsored by MGM Springfield since 2013.

On Thursday, April 11, at 11 a.m. at MGM Springfield, the Spirit of Springfield announced the 2024 World's Largest Pancake Breakfast Honorary Chair. Spirit of Springfield President Judy Matt was joined by Springfield Mayor Domenic Sarno, Louis Theros, MGM Springfield President, Springfield Police Superintendent Cheryl Clapprod (retired) who served as the 2023 World's Largest Pancake Breakfast Honorary Chair, John Doleva, president, Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, John Sjoberg, Spirit of Springfield Chair, his colleagues from the Spirit of Springfield Board, sponsors, supporters, volunteers, and Kathy Tobin, Spirit of Springfield Vice Chair, who will serve as the emcee for the announcement.

Clapprod announced her World's Largest Pancake Breakfast Honorary Chair successor, Doleva, who is being recognized for his leadership of the

international museum, the attention it brings to the City of Springfield where the game was invented in 1891 by Dr. James Naismith. Instead of presenting an orange jacket as he has done to Basketball Hall of Famers for 25 years, Clapprod will be present him with a blue and white Spirit of Springfield jacket.

"I, representing the Basketball Hall of Fame, am honored and humbled to be chosen as the Honorary Chairman of the 2024 World's Largest Pancake Breakfast. This event is a bedrock event in the city that brings together and unites all in our community to enjoy a fun and very tasty day as well as the company of each other," said Doleva. "The annual pancake breakfast is yet another event and happening that puts Springfield on the national map showcasing the city where the game of basketball was invented among so many other firsts. The coordination and support of this event by Judy Matt and the Spirit of Springfield staff is beyond outstanding and the



cadre of businesses and organizations supporting the event is remarkable-this is a winning team. I hope everyone puts Saturday, May 18, on the calendar and all should plan to arrive

hungry."

The World's Largest Pancake Breakfast, sponsored by MGM Springfield, will be held Saturday, May 18, from 8 to 11 a.m. on Main Street from State Street to Bridge Street. The annual pancake party will feature a hot, hearty breakfast of pancakes, bacon, coffee, juice, milk, lots of entertainment and activities, and community spirit.

Additional support for the pancake party is being provided by Monson Savings Bank and TD Bank, with product and services being donated by American Medical Response, Baystate Health, Cabot Creamery, Costco, Elegant Affairs, Gleason Johndrow Landscaping, H. P. Hood, Hampden County Sheriff's Department, Home Grown Springfield - Sodexo, Mansfield Paper Company, MassMutual Center, Mercy Medical Center, Performance Food Service, Quality Beverage, Sheraton Springfield, Smithfield Packaged Meats, Springfield Business Improvement District, Springfield Parking Authority, and more.

For more information about the World's Largest Pancake Breakfast, visit [spiritofspringfield.org](http://spiritofspringfield.org).

## HCC to welcome success strategist for free emotional intelligence workshop

HOLYOKE – Success strategist Kurt Faustin will lead a free emotional intelligence workshop at Holyoke Community College on Tuesday, April 23.

The workshop, hosted by HCC's ALANA Men in Motion program, is free and open to the public. It will run from 12:30 to 2 p.m. in the PeoplesBank conference room (301/303) in the Kittredge Center for Business and Workforce Development on the main HCC campus, 303 Homestead Ave.

"Emotional intelligence competencies are at the heart of effective relationships, productivity, and overall success," Faustin says on his website. "Come learn and practice the E.I. skills that are the core of achieving personal awareness, connecting with others, managing stress, and conflict resolution."

ALANA Men in Motion is an HCC student support and mentorship program

for African American, Latino, Asian, and Native American men who attend the college.

Kurt Faustin, founder of The Dropout Academy, a personal and career development program, focuses on bridging the gap between mental health and performance with an emphasis on emotional intelligence, goal setting, and stress management. A father, entrepreneur, coach, and success strategist, Faustin is a former writer for the Huffington Post and Forbes magazine who has spoken in front of more than 50,000 people, working with organizations such as Harvard University, Chase Bank, and the United Way. He was appointed by Boston Mayor Michelle Wu to the city's first-ever Black Men and Black Boy's Commission and selected by Color Magazine's 40 under 40 Power List.

## Stanley Park to hold mass wedding reunion

WESTFIELD – As part of the 75 anniversary celebration this year there will be a Stanley Park wedding reunion on Sunday, May 5, at 10:30 a.m. Please join in front of the Carillon Tower for

a group picture and to share wedding stories and pictures. Feel free to wear a wedding dress or tuxedo and relive your special day as we celebrate 75 years of love and weddings in Stanley Park.

## MONAGHAN, from page 1

Ward 1 Councilor Abigail Arriaga shared her "heartfelt condolences" to Monaghan's family.

"Words cannot express the loss that we feel in Chicopee tonight. I can only imagine and I'm so sorry," Arriaga said.

Ward 9 Councilor Mary Beth Costello said Monaghan "was such a tremendous person and a wonderful worker."

Ward 5 Councilor Frederick Krampits said, "When you'd meet her, she was a spark of life and always very cheerful."

Councilor-at-Large Tim Wagner began his reflections with condolences to "Kathleen, Ashley and Shane, to my dad, to the staff and the Sheriff's Office" and thanked everyone who reached out to him.

"She was somebody who I knew well as well. Words can't describe what a wonderful person Eileen was and how much joy she brought to everybody's life and her daughters' lives. She will be missed," Wagner said.

After Councilor-at-Large Gerry Roy said he would miss Monaghan "running up and down Granby Road," Ward 8 Councilor Gary Labrie shared how Monaghan "was so well-liked in the city of Chicopee."

"A great coach, great at sports, just a fantastic person. She ran by my house every evening and I was at the same stride. Never slow, it was just very fast," Labrie said. "Just (a) great lady. I'm going to miss her a lot."

Vice President/Counselor-at-Large Robert Zygarrowoski expressed how he didn't know where to start on his reflections, sharing how he knew Monaghan for many, many years.

"I look at my wife who passed away on Jan. 8, and Eileen died a tremendous death," Zygarrowoski said before he paused as he got visibly emotional. "Patty and her were great friends because of her daughters at Saint Patrick's School. I wish them all the best."

Zygarrowoski added, "We never know when or where it's going to happen."

"Live every day to your fullest," Zygarrowoski said.

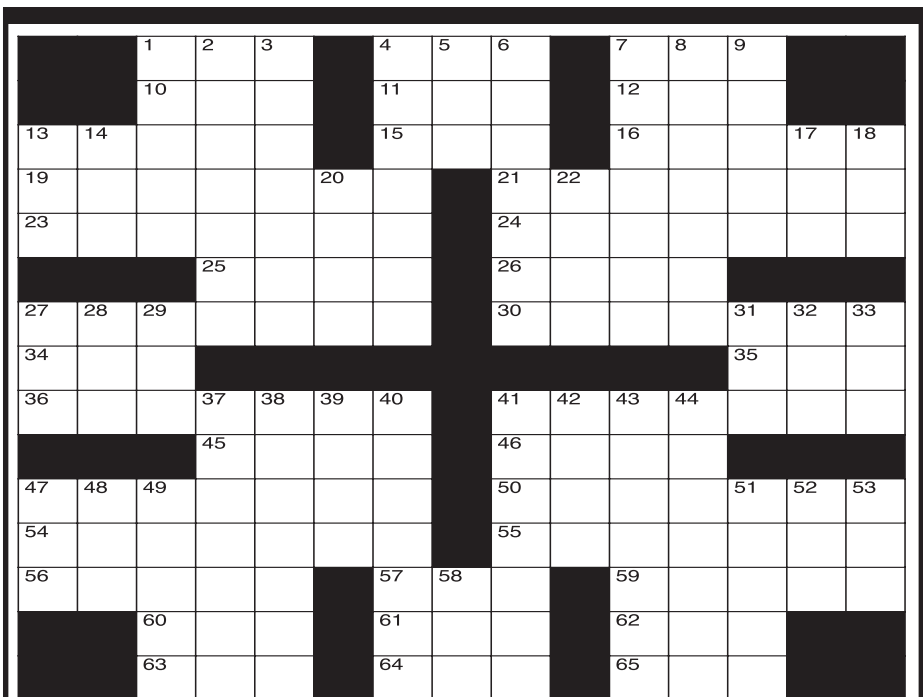
## City to lead 'Day of Prayer' May 2

HOLYOKE – Mayor Joshua A. Garcia and Holyoke faith leaders invite the press and public to attend the National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 2, at noon outside City Hall. The mayor will be joined by faith leaders and congregations as well as city officials.

The National Day of Prayer began in 1775, when the Continental Congress designated a time for prayer in forming a new nation. In 1863, President Abraham

Lincoln called for such a day. In 1952, Congress established the National Day of Prayer as an annual event. That initiative was signed into law by President Truman. The National Day of Prayer was established as the first Thursday of May each year.

Members of the clergy will offer prayers addressing a range of subjects, including women, youth, education, the workplace, and the media.



### CLUES ACROSS

1. Midway between south and southeast
4. For each
7. Airborne (abbr.)
10. Photographs
11. They \_\_\_
12. It's important in respiration (abbr.)
13. Monetary unit
15. Cool!
16. A son of Jacob
19. Cut off
21. Devour
23. Agent of one's downfall
24. Best
25. Network of nerves
26. Partner to "oohs"
27. Origins
30. Sewing utensil
34. Alias
35. Swiss river
36. Greek mythological figure
41. Type of whiskey
45. Lay to rest
46. "Rule, Britannia" composer
47. Select jury
50. Feeling
54. Action regarded as morally wrong
55. Makes angry
56. Act incorrectly
57. Defensive nuclear weapon
59. Class of escort aircraft carrier
60. To what degree
61. Buzzing insect
62. The human foot
63. "The Leftovers" actress Dowd
64. A place to stay
65. Sun up in New York

### CLUES DOWN

1. An involuntary muscular contraction
2. Earnest
3. Cuts out surgically
4. Can't move
5. Baseball stat
6. British soldier
7. Traditional medicine plants
8. Political party controlled by managers
9. Hebrew prophet
13. Supporter
14. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
17. Liberty Mutual mascot
18. Georgia rockers
20. A place where building is done
22. Large, deep-bodied fish
27. Clothing retailer
28. Supplement with difficulty
29. Annoy constantly
31. Founder of Babism
32. Indigenous person
33. Sea eagle
37. Leave behind
38. Time of day
39. Colorless crystalline compound
40. They lay out course requirements
41. A diamond has three
42. Algerian coastal city
43. Remove cover
44. Rechristened
47. Distinctive practice
48. Defunct phone company
49. Turkish officer of high rank
51. Eliminate from the body
52. Witness
53. Soviet Socialist Republic
58. Founding Father Franklin

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 9

## Can I claim Social Security and still work?



Dear Rusty

*I will be turning 63 soon. Can I apply for Social Security and continue to work?*

*Would I be limited to how many hours or how much I could make? I know my monthly SS amount would be cut by 30% or somewhere around there, but how would working affect me? I was trying to read up on this, but the \$1 and \$2 thing confused me. I have an offer to take a work-at-home position and need to decide soon, but it is a cut in income. The cut would be okay if I could draw my Social Security too.*

**Signed: Wanting Work at Home**

Dear Wanting

If you claim your Social Security to start in the month you turn 63, you'll be claiming 4 years before your Full Retirement Age of 67, which means your monthly benefit at 63 will be about 25% less than it would be if you claimed SS at age 67. And if you are working before your FRA, you'll be subject to Social Security's "earnings test."

The 2024 earnings limit for those col-

lecting early Social Security benefits is \$22,320 (this limit changes annually). If your annual earnings exceed the limit, Social Security will assess a penalty of \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit. They will recover that penalty amount by withholding future benefits until they recover what you owe.

If your work earnings are under the annual limit, you will get all your monthly SS benefits. But if you exceed the limit, they will find that out after you submit your income tax return (the following year) and issue you an overpayment notice, telling you how much you owe for exceeding the limit last year.

They will then withhold your benefits until they get back what you owe or you can repay them in a lump sum. To avoid the overpayment notice, it is best to inform Social Security in advance that you will exceed the annual earnings limit and they will simply withhold your monthly SS benefits during the year for enough months to avoid overpaying you.

So, what you should do depends largely on how much your earnings from your new work-at-home position will be. If your earnings are below the annual limit, no penalty will be assessed. If you only exceed the annual limit by a little bit, then you can still work and earn and simply repay them what is owed for exceeding the limit or have your SS benefit temporarily withheld.

If you only exceed the earnings limit by a

little, you'll still get benefits for most months of the year. But if you significantly exceed the annual earnings limit, you could even be ineligible to receive SS benefits until you either earn less or reach your full retirement age, the earnings limit goes away at your FRA.

So, what you should do depends on what "a cut in income" means in terms of your expected annual earnings amount. If your total annual earnings will be under the annual limit, your SS benefit won't be affected. If you only exceed the limit by a little bit, then you will get SS benefits for most months of the year. But if your annual earnings are significantly over each year's annual earnings limit, then you won't get SS benefits for most months of the year and may even be temporarily ineligible to receive benefits.

*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](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org). Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.*

## 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](mailto: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.

## Blueberry propagation experiment



A reader from Hardwick wrote in asking how to propagate blueberry bushes. I've never tried to propagate blueberry bushes myself, but have always thought that it would make good sense, especially if you have a limited pocketbook and a few productive plants on hand already, or at least you know someone that does.

Obviously, you would not want to replicate a plant that doesn't produce well or one that turns out berries that aren't to your liking.

In researching this skill, I found there to be two schools of thought on the matter: propagation by either softwood cuttings or hardwood cuttings.

Softwood cuttings are taken when the bush is in active growth, usually late June through early July, roughly about two months after spring growth began. The growth is new, not woody, but should not be super pliable or light green in appearance either, nor should it contain any flowers or immature fruit.

A stem should be cut about 5-8 inches long and the leaves should be pinched off of the last couple of inches. Fill a 4 inch or slightly bigger pot with a material that will drain freely but not be too fertile.

You are mainly looking for anchoring material; good options being equal parts sand and peat moss or sand and perlite. I've even heard of people using bark mulch.

Some experts employ a rooting hormone; others say the cutting will root regardless. I will use it because I have some on hand.

You will notice that there are different types of rooting hormone. Usually, it will say whether it is the type for softwood or hardwood cutting right on the container.

I'll dip the bottom of the stem into the hormone. Using a pencil, I'll make a hole in the material I've chosen to root the cuttings in and insert the cutting into the hole so at least those

two or three nodes from where the leaves were, are covered.

I set the pots in the shade, and I mist them a few times daily so that they will not wilt and die before they form roots. Experts say that this method will yield roots in 2-7 weeks.

Some challenges include keeping the media wet enough to prevent wilting, but not so wet that you end up with fungal problems.

Hardwood cuttings, in contrast, are taken during the dormant season, usually around the time that you are pruning. One expert actually recommended using stems from branches that are pruned away.

The stems should be green or red in color and diameter-wise just smaller than that of a pencil. Much narrower stems seem to produce good results as well. It's important to cut off the tips of branches that contain any buds that look like flower buds - they are a little rounder in appearance.

The same pot size and anchoring material is recommended but you would use a rooting hormone geared towards hardwood cuttings; it is a bit stronger. Hardwood cuttings are handled the same way - placed in the shade and misted, but because they have to "wake up" then callus and root, they take a few weeks longer to show results in at least two months, maybe 3-4.

No matter which way you take your cuttings, it's important not to tug on them or disturb them in any way in their pot, even though you may be anxious to see how successful you've been. You will know they are rooted by the quality of new growth you'd see; maybe even a new branch coming from the base.

Once sufficiently rooted the cuttings can be transplanted into a more fertile media and a larger pot or into a nursery area in your garden.

I'm excited to try taking cuttings of my blueberry bushes. I may even take some from my mom's plants.

What a nice memory it would be to have the descendants of my childhood blueberry bushes growing on my own property.

*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](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.*



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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.

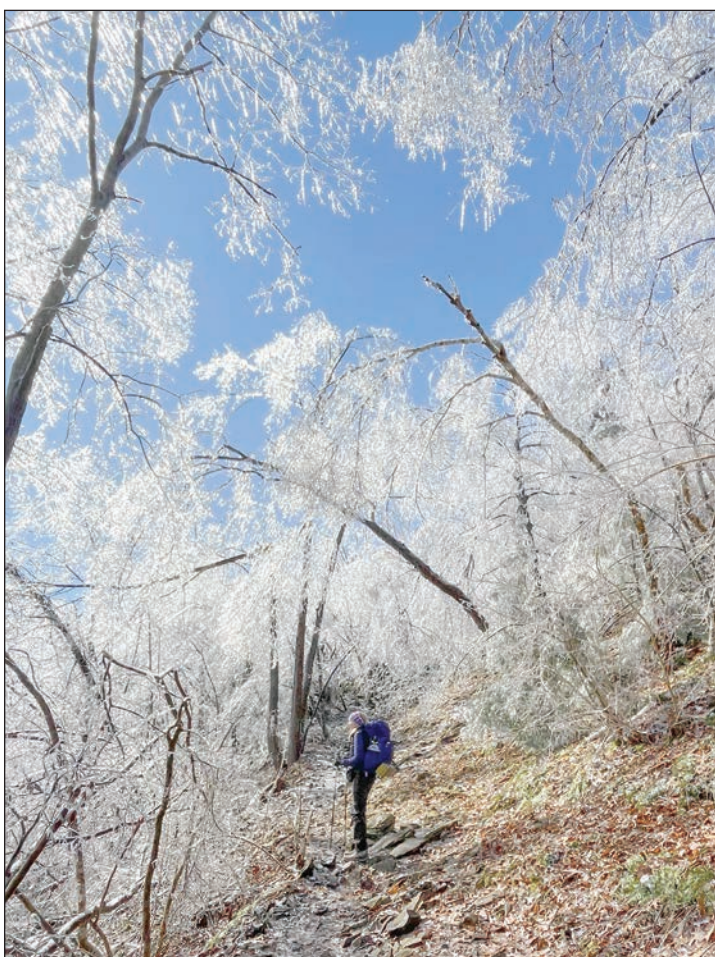
Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

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

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# An icy hike at the Holyoke Range

By Julie Midura  
Correspondent



"GET OUT OF THE WAY!" Tom yelled as the thunderous sound of splintering wood filled the space between us and sent my heart racing with fear.

We arrived at the Seven Sisters trailhead at the Holyoke Range at 10am on a recent Sunday morning. Our plan was to do a ten mile out and back hike along the ridge. The previous day's heavy rain combined with the frigid overnight temperatures caused a thick coating of ice to cling to the trees. As we moved upwards toward the summit of Bear Mountain in the midmorning sunshine, we were awestruck from the dazzling brilliance of the ice-encased trees.

Ten minutes into our hike, we encountered two women who were descending. They warned us that there was an overwhelming number of downed trees that were blocking the trail; so prolific that they feared losing their way and decided to turn back. Tom and I continued on, and within minutes, we encountered our first blowdown. As we scrambled over a patchwork of twisted limbs and bent branches, we wondered how many more fallen trees we would encounter. We reached the summit of Bear Mountain without incident, and stopped to marvel at the view before continuing along the ridge.

Soon we were pushing through the ice-coated branches of trees bent in half from the weight of the ice. It was both exhausting and exhilarating at the same time. The experience was similar to walking through a crystal chandelier, with the gentle sound of twinkling glass echoing all around us.

However, our delight eventually turned to shock as we encountered more and more blowdowns strewn haphazardly along the trail. Trees ranging in size from a mere fifteen feet to what had to be a hundred-foot tall behemoth lay scattered and splintered like giant toothpicks thrown from the heavens. Tom and I had never seen so much devastation on a hiking trail before. I felt saddened by the destruction, yet also in awe of the raw power of what nature has the ability to unleash. Dozens of trees and limbs littered the earth, unable to withstand both the weight of their ice-laden branches and the blowing wind that ensued.

Our progress was slow, the result of wading through an ever-growing accumulation of ice chunks below our feet that the trees began shedding when the sun rose high enough to kiss the treetops with sunlight. By early afternoon, the sound of large chunks of ice crashing to the ground became a constant melody.

There is a sound that a tree makes as it releases ice from its branches. It's quite distinctive; similar to the sound of twisting an ice cube tray in order to free the ice from its trappings. Nothing to worry about when you're in your kitchen filling your glass, but a sound that instills fear when it's coming from directly above your head in the middle of the forest. For that is when the ice becomes NOT a chiller of drinks, but a projectile.

Three-and-a-half miles into our hike, having dodged wayward ice chunks for the better part of an hour, we decided that we'd had enough fun for one day and turned to make our way back to the trailhead. And that is when a nearby tree decided to shed MORE than just ice.

We were stopped on the trail. Tom was about twenty feet ahead of me. We were talking about



how unsettling it was to hear the ice breaking away from the treetops and crashing to the ground all around us. But the sound of ice hitting the earth paled in comparison to this new sound that suddenly came from behind me. The source of the sound was unmistakable, and the decibel level told me that this was no small branch that was breaking off of a tree trunk. A tree was coming down. And based on Tom's scream to get out of the way, I was in its path.

Now, prior to that moment, I assumed that all of the trees and limbs that were going to fall had probably already fallen. The rest of the trees were likely strong enough to withstand the onslaught of ice and wind. If they were not, they would have fallen already. Right?

WRONG!

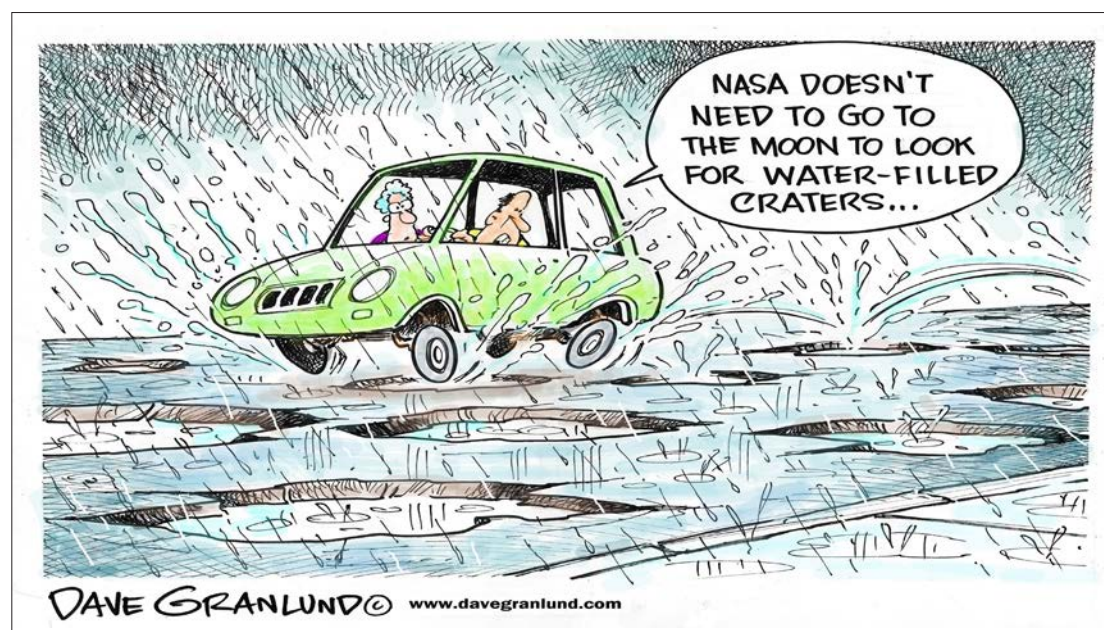
Now it's cataclysmic moments like this when you begin to second guess your decisions. Like perhaps taking a hike on a trail that was littered with fallen trees immediately following an ice event wasn't such a good idea after all. Especially since the reason for the destruction was still very much in evidence on every tree in the vicinity. But there would be time to question my life choices later. Right now, there was just one thing to do. RUN!

When I heard the explosive crack of splintering wood and simultaneously heard Tom yell, "GET OUT OF THE WAY!" I knew that I had, at best, two seconds to get out of the trees path. With my heart exploding out of my chest, I sprinted towards the largest tree nearest me and leapt behind it for cover. A millisecond later, the ground shook as the tree struck the ground.

I remained motionless, trying to comprehend what had just happened while waiting for my racing heart to return to its natural rhythm. I peered around the tree I had taken shelter behind and looked at Tom with my mouth hanging open. The top of the tree was no more than twenty feet from where I was standing. With enormous relief, I looked up to the heavens and said, "Thank you."

As we walked away from what had been the scariest experience we had ever been through on a hiking trail, I thought to myself, 'I really need to rethink my life choices.'

See you in the wild places, my friends! But perhaps not in conditions such as the ones described here.



## In The News



President and CEO of Gary Rome Auto Group Gary Rome welcomed the gathered crowd to the elected officials reception and the grand opening of the new Gary Rome Car Wash, Dog Wash and Detail Center.



Eileen Leahy from the Holyoke Chamber of Commerce gave some opening remarks for the elected officials reception and the grand opening of the new Gary Rome Car Wash, Dog Wash and Detail Center.



City Council President Tessa Murphy-Romboletti thanked all the elected officials for attending the reception.



Receiver Anthony Soto discussed the efforts made to improve Dean Technical High School over the past several years.



Vice President of Programs and Services of MassHire Holyoke Bud Delphin discussed the programs available to assist Holyoke residents in finding jobs within the city.



Principal of Dean Technical High School Roseanne Caracciolo addressed her hopes for the students of Holyoke to become the future of the city.

### WORKFORCE, from page 1

of Holyoke," Mayor Joshua Garcia said. "Gary Rome and the expanding force of Gary Rome Hyundai are a workforce development phenomenon."

Garcia expressed his gratitude for all the business Rome has brought to Holyoke, and then continued to address other ways he has seen Holyoke grow in his time as mayor.

He specifically highlighted the progress he has seen in the schools and the relationship that has to the workforce of Holyoke.

"The schools are preparing our students to work in the marketplace," he said. "This is one of the many ways we invest in the future of our young people."

He mentioned the transition toward ending receivership that Holyoke Public Schools is now in. This end in receivership is a huge step toward improving the city of Holyoke.

"When we do emerge from receivership and take back control of our schools, the Holyoke school to work pipeline will get an even bigger boost from not just the school board, but the school department administration, the city council and the mayor's office," he said.

Receiver Anthony Soto came forward and addressed how he has already seen growth in the city and the schools throughout his time working with the district in receivership.

Specifically, he focused on how Dean Technical High School has greatly improved in the last several years.

"Over the last few years we have been investing heavily in our vocational program and I'm happy to report that we have almost 400 kids at Dean and we have a waitlist of over 100 kids," Soto said.

Soto also mentioned that he and others working in Holyoke are looking into the possibility of expanding Dean. This

opportunity will be made possible by the new middle school at the Peck site.

"It will allow us to take almost 300 middle schoolers that are at Dean and put them into a brand new middle school and potentially grow some of our programming that we have at Dean," he said.

Additionally, the school system is working on a local needs assessment study aimed at understanding and enhancing the schools' roles within the Greater Holyoke job market.

"This study will evaluate Dean Tech's existing programs against state, regional and local workforce demands, identifying areas for improvement and potential new initiatives to increase CTE programming," Soto said. "The ultimate goal is to ensure that Dean Tech's programs closely align with the job market and the greater needs of Holyoke."

Dean Tech Principal Roseanne Caracciolo is supportive of these initiatives. In her own speech she emphasized how the students of Dean and Holyoke High School are the future of Holyoke.

"At Dean Tech we are looking for the future of Holyoke to be in this room," she said. "I want every one of our students to be working in Holyoke...I want all of my students to know that they can be here and they can run businesses."

Vice President of Programs and Services of MassHire Holyoke Bud Delphin brought forward an emphasis on the opportunities MassHire Holyoke is working to provide residents, the students included.

"Our purpose is to support workforce development in the community," he said.

Over the summer, MassHire provides a youth program where young people in Holyoke can get support in getting into the workforce. Delphin reported that this program will help 150 young people get work at six work sites.

"Over the years they have helped thousands of young people here in Holyoke get work permits," Delphin said. "We learned a long time ago through research that young people who are able to work, who get jobs as teenagers, grow into better citizens. They learn what is required to be in the workforce and they are much more engaged in the community."

MassHire Holyoke also provides job fairs, webinars, free job postings, job recruitment and they provide information about incentive programs for businesses.

Additionally, many of the speakers focused on the spirit of collaboration present in the city of Holyoke.

"We have worked hard to be open and transparent," Garcia said. "A government that works from the top down and the bottom up, because the way I see it, the government was not designed so that any one person is in total power and control."

It is this collaboration that many hope will help guide Holyoke into a brighter future.

City Council President Tessa Murphy-Romboletti specifically mentioned how glad she was to see the city council, the school committee and the business community all in one place as they outlined their hopes for the future of Holyoke.

"I think having the business community here is also really important to what we want to do," she said. "It's about building trust. I am thrilled to be a part of all of the things that the city is doing and I appreciate all of our being here. This is such a great representation and it's why we supported projects like the car wash."

This event was a large success for the business community of Holyoke and all those who spoke at this event look forward to seeing the future progress of Holyoke.



President and CEO of Gary Rome Auto Group Gary Rome hosted an elected officials reception, complete with food trucks and beverages for all in attendance to enjoy.



The gathered elected officials as well as President and CEO of Gary Rome Auto Group Gary Rome came together for the ribbon cutting to announce the opening of the new Gary Rome Car Wash, Dog Wash and Detail Center.

*Turley photos by Quinn Suomala*



Manager of Donor Relations Laura Freeman, Director of Development Julie Phillips and Manager of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving Beth Ollson from Holyoke Community College advertised their annual day of giving set for April 23.

# SPORTS

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## Knights improve to 5-2 on the season

HOLYOKE – Last Friday evening, Holyoke boys volleyball scored a 3-0 sweep of visiting Athol.

The Knights have been doing well on the young season, improving to 5-2 with the victory. Holyoke is more than halfway

to a state tournament spot very early in the season. Holyoke will host Chicopee on Monday evening at 6 p.m.



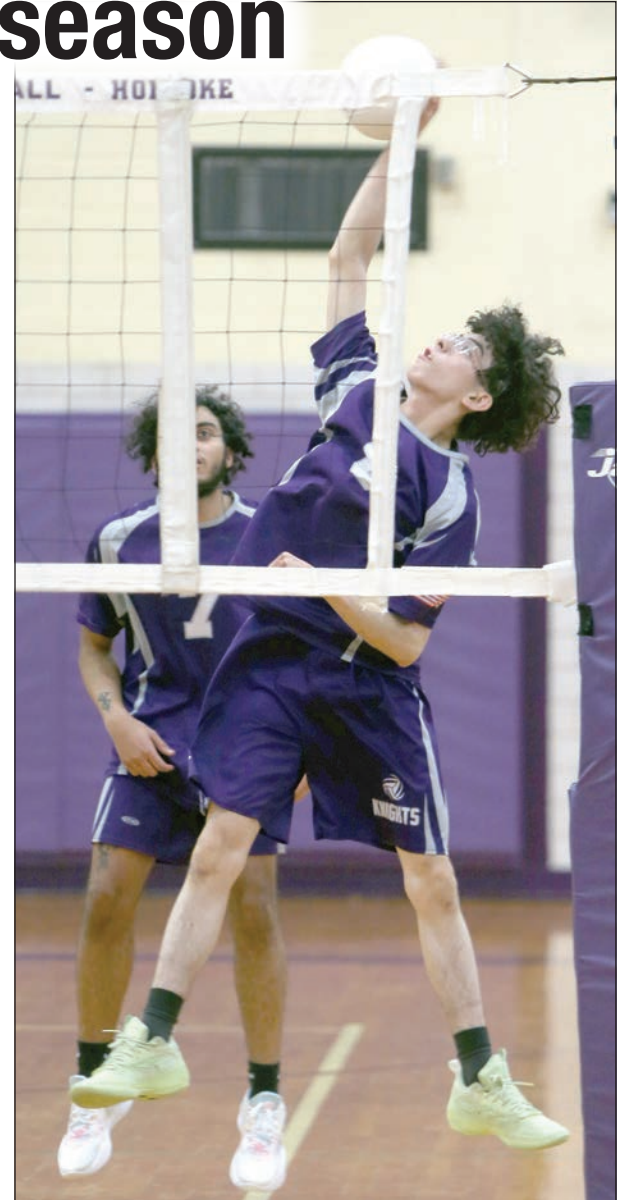
Daniel Rodriguez goes to his right for a hit.



Abinadab Garay Cintron lunges for a bump.



Ortiz Torres Gedeon keeps the ball in play.



Yandiel Rivera Troche sends a spike away near the sideline.



Michael Melendez sets near the net.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

## Some roster spots still open in Over-28 Baseball League

Rosters spots are dwindling, but there are still some spots available as the Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League prepares for its season opener on Sunday, April 28 featuring three games.

Registration for the 2024 season is now open and any interested players can go to [www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org](http://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.

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 used as well some expansion to the surrounding area this season. The league does not play on Mother's Day or Memorial Day weekends.

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.

## Holyoke softball falls to Central

HOLYOKE – Last Friday afternoon, Holyoke had a close matchup with Central High School.

The Knights would lose 10-7 despite a rally in the top of the seventh inning.

Holyoke got a hit and two RBI from Kylie Blaha. Janiya Lagoy had two hits and two runs scored for the Knights.

Alexis LeTellier also had two runs scored. Blaha pitched six innings, allowing 11 hits and six earned runs. The Knights fell to 0-2 on the season.

# HoopHall announces unique new exhibit for summer

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced another brand new exhibit coming to the museum this summer titled The Vault: Boston Celtics Unlocked. This innovative and immersive experience will be unlike anything the Basketball Hall of Fame has previously produced. The Hall of Fame has collaborated with the NBA's most storied franchise to present this inaugural installation of The Vault.

"We are excited to launch another state-of-the-art space in the world's finest sports museum," said John L. Doleva,

President and CEO of the Basketball Hall of Fame. "The Vault: Boston Celtics Unlocked is a limited engagement that will feature a finely crafted experience that will capture the imagination of sports fans and speak to the heart of what makes basketball the world's most popular game."

Matt Zeysing, Vice President of Curatorial for the museum, began working on The Vault concept more than a year ago. "We knew we wanted to create something spectacular, something that basketball fans had never seen before.

The Boston Celtics represent a winning tradition that is second to none and that tradition still continues today. To that end, our team has carefully curated and brought together the most sought-after Celtic memorabilia in the world."

Set in an immersive bank vault, Celtics legends from the past and present will take visitors on an epic journey to discover the true meaning of Celtic Pride. The Vault will feature authentic game-worn jerseys, championship rings, the original '81 NBA championship trophy, long-lost footage, and much more.

"The Boston Celtics are honored to bring their history and tradition to life with the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame in The Vault: Boston Celtics Unlocked," said Boston Celtics Team President Rich Gotham. "We hope fans enjoy this immersive experience, which will showcase unique memorabilia and celebrate the Celtics' storied legacy."

Visitors will enjoy an exclusive display of Celtics memorabilia for a limited period. Tickets for the museum can be purchased online at etix.com or at the door.

## Registration 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@bay-stategames.org](mailto:info@bay-stategames.org) or call 781-932-6555.

## T-Birds in keeps playoff hopes alive

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (30-35-3-2) snapped their six-game slide with a 4-2 comeback win over the Providence Bruins (40-20-6-3) on Sunday afternoon inside a sold-out MassMutual Center, the 19th such crowd this season.

The afternoon started rocky, as Patrick Brown connected on a forehand from the slot area on the day's first shot to give Providence a 1-0 lead 46 seconds into the contest.

T-Birds starting goaltender Colten Ellis put himself into a pickle at 9:24 of the first when he mishandled a puck to the side of his net. After a pair of Bruins dislodged it, the third man on the attack, rookie Jaxon Nelson, deked to the backhand to beat Ellis and give Providence a 2-0 advantage. It was Nelson's first professional goal.

Brandon Bussi drew the net for the Bruins, and after shutting out the T-Birds on March 10, he had his sights on duplicating the feat on Sunday, holding the T-Birds off the board past the midpoint of regulation.

With their backs against the wall, the T-Birds leaned on their Man of the Year to jumpstart the squad. Off a draw at 13:08 of the middle stanza, Drew Callin pushed past his opponent to hack a shot toward Bussi's crease. The normally stout netminder sprung a leak this time as the puck sneaked

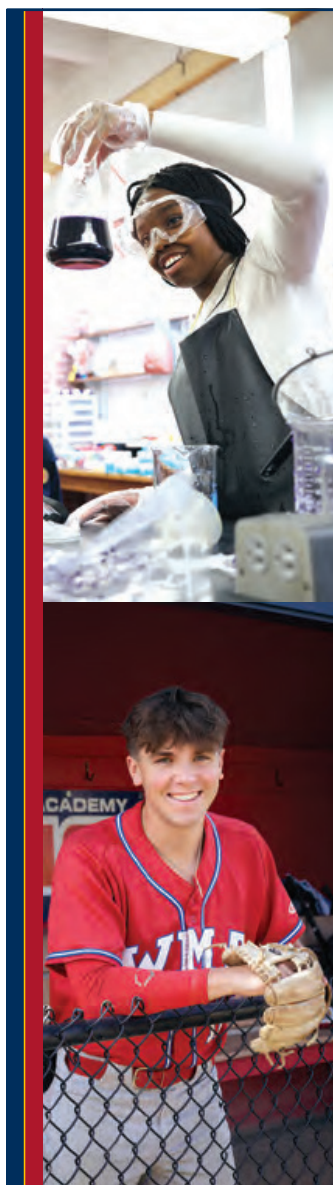
under his legs to get Springfield on the board, cutting the lead to 2-1.


Following matching minors and another penalty to the Bruins, Springfield's man advantage earned a 4-on-3 opportunity, and the AHL's leading goal scorer made his presence known as Adam Gaudette rifled a one-time snapper over Bussi's glove at 14:40, tying the score off a perfect cross-ice setup by Jakub Vrana.

Special teams proved paramount for Springfield, as the penalty kill went a perfect 5-for-5, including two clutch successes in the final period. Gaudette provided more heroics at 10:32 of the third when he skated in on the right wing on a 2-on-1 and blistered a wrist shot over Bussi's blocker to give the T-Birds a 3-2 lead on his 44th goal of the season. The two-goal day for Gaudette was his 12th such game this season.

With Providence clamoring for an equalizer in the final minute, Callin, rookie Dylan Peterson, and Kean Washkurak gutted out a defensive zone sequence to clear their end. Washkurak capped things off with an empty-netter from the red line to give the T-Birds the victory.

The T-Birds look to earn a second straight win over the Bruins when they travel to Providence for a rematch on Friday night at the Amica Mutual Pavilion at 7:05 p.m.





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**PREVIEW NIGHT**  
**Tuesday, April 30**  
**6-7 p.m.**

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**For families interested in Grades 6-12, PG.**

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Middle School building

UPPER SCHOOL PREVIEW  
Mattern Science Center

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**City of Holyoke  
LEGAL NOTICE**

The Holyoke License Board will be holding a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, May 1, 2024, at 5:15 pm.** You can join via Zoom.com; ID 85778652384; CALL IN: \*67 646 558 8656 or in person at Holyoke Chamber 177 High Street, regarding the application for a **Alteration of Premises Application at Brian Boru Inc DBA Brian Boru at 37 Commercial Street**, pursuant to M.G.L. Ch.138.

Applicant: Carlo Sarno

License Board:  
Anthony Luciano,  
Chairman

04/19, 04/26/2024

**City of Holyoke  
LEGAL NOTICE**

The Holyoke License Board will be holding a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, May 1, 2024, at 5:15 pm.** You can join via Zoom.com; ID 85778652384; CALL IN: \*67 646 558 8656 or in person at Holyoke Chamber 177 High Street, regarding the application for a **New Seasonal All Alcohol Liquor License at Restaruante La Isla Corp DBA Restaruante La Isla at 161 High Street**, pursuant to M.G.L. Ch.138.

Applicant:  
Restaruante La Isla Corp

License Board:  
Anthony Luciano,  
Chairman

04/19, 04/26/2024

**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. 04/24/2024**

**Estate of:  
Ronald Paul Recoulle  
Date of Death: 02/23/2020  
CITATION ON PETITION  
FOR FORMAL  
ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **Laurie Recoulle of Holyoke, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as 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 05/06/2024** This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appear-

ance 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 04, 2024

**Rosemary A Saccomani**,  
Register of Probate  
04/19/2024

**LEGAL NOTICE  
COMBINED NOTICE  
OF NO SIGNIFICANT  
IMPACT AND INTENT TO  
REQUEST**

**RELEASE OF FUNDS**

Publication and Posting  
Date: April 19, 2024

By: Executive Office  
of Housing and Livable  
Communities (EOHLC)  
100 Cambridge Street,  
Suite 300  
Boston, MA 02114

Project Name:  
Library Commons II,  
Chestnut/Essex/Elm  
Streets, Holyoke,  
Hampden County, MA

This notice shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by EOHLC.

**REQUEST FOR RELEASE  
OF FUNDS**

On or about May 6, 2024, EOHLC will submit requests to the HUD Boston Regional Office for the release of Federal funds under, as amended, Section 119 of Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (PL 93-383) and under Title II of the Cranston Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act of 1990, as amended; and the release of Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP) funds under Section 8, The Housing Act of 1937, as amended, for the purpose of attaching project-based vouchers to be utilized in a project known as Library Commons II, located at 213 Chestnut Street, Holyoke, Hampden County,

MA. The project consists of the new construction of 41 affordable units on five sites, through the rehab of one vacant building (circa 1888), and the construction of three new townhome-style buildings. The project will use \$1,000,000 in HOME funds and the following sources of state funds: \$1,500,000.00 AHTF; \$1,260,000 FCF; \$1,440,000. HIF; \$1,000,000. AAHG; \$1,240,000. State HOME-ARP; \$1,200,000. HSF; \$1,000,000. State HOME; \$400,000 City of Holyoke HOME/CDBG/ARPA (funding split to be determined); \$250,000. City of Holyoke CPA; \$900,000. Mass Development UPP and a permanent mortgage. Expected additional public funding includes Federal and State low-income housing tax credits in loans and equity. The total estimated project cost is approximately \$28,259,214.00. The project sponsor is Way Finders Inc., Springfield MA.

**FINDING OF NO  
SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

EOHLC have determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at EOHLC, Bureau of Rental Assistance, 100 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02114 and may be examined or copied weekdays from 9am to 4pm.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to Dan Tobyne, [dan.tobyne@mass.gov](mailto:dan.tobyne@mass.gov), Bureau of Rental Assistance, 100 Cambridge Street Suite 300, Boston, MA 02114. All comments received by May 5, 2024, will be considered by EOHLC prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

**RELEASE OF FUNDS**

The Commonwealth of MA acting through EOHLC certifies to HUD that Catherine Racer is in her capacity as Certifying Officer, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities, and allows the project, to use HUD program funds for the purpose specified.

**OBJECTIONS TO**

**RELEASE OF FUNDS**

HUD will accept objections to its release of funds and the Commonwealth of Mass. certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Commonwealth of MA; (b) the Commonwealth of MA have omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the project have committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted via email to

CPDRROFBOS@hud.gov in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and shall be addressed to the Environmental Officer, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Boston, MA. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

For EOHL  
Catherine Racer,  
Undersecretary

04/19/2024

**Office of Purchasing**

536 Dwight Street, Room 3  
Holyoke, MA 01040

**REQUEST FOR  
PROPOSALS**

**RFP 2024-430PED**

**Wayfinding and Signage  
Consultant**

The City of Holyoke is seeking proposals from qualified locally based companies and/or individuals with specific experience in developing comprehensive plans for vehicular/pedestrian wayfinding and integrated signage. The selected Consultant will work in conjunction with the

City and relevant stakeholders to develop a Comprehensive Plan and Implementation Strategy for Wayfinding and Signage. The signage and wayfinding system will be designed to project a consistent image for vehicular and pedestrian routes to guide residents and visitors easily and safely to landmarks, facilities and community services. Proposals can be requested electronically from [morrowj@holyoke.org](mailto:morrowj@holyoke.org) or [sweeneye@holyoke.org](mailto:sweeneye@holyoke.org) or in person from the Purchasing Dept. Documents will be available starting 4/15/2024 at 10 a.m. **SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE ON MAY 16, 2024 at 2 PM.** No late submissions will be accepted. Technical Proposal & Price Proposal **MUST** be in separate envelopes. No electronic submission allowed. The city reserves the right to reject any and all submissions. This project may be paid for using Federal Funds. Respondents will be verified for eligibility to receive Federal Funds.  
04/19/2024

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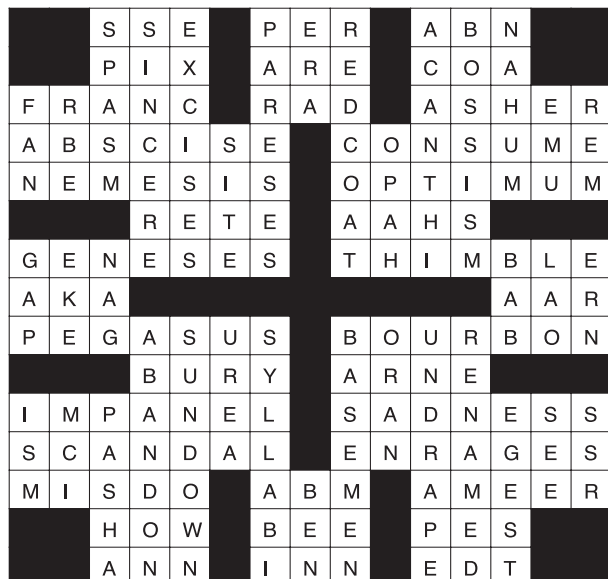
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**COOKBOOK**, from page 1

to teach people how to make healthy, affordable meals while also talking about topics that are important in our community, such as food deserts, food in the schools, food insecurity, amongst other topics," Colón said.

Colón also mentioned that through this project the city is starting a food policy council, called the Food Economy Coalition.

"We've been meeting to see what route we want to choose, how to engage the community members, how to make policies and advocate for people while also not just working for them but working with them," Colón said.

The city was approached by Linnean Solutions, a firm out of Maine. This firm was interested in working with the city to assist them with food planning and other similar work in the community.

"They came up with this cookbook idea and it just expanded from there," Colón said. "We said, 'yeah we can do a

cookbook but how about we do more in the cookbook and really engage the community that we're serving.' They are an amazing firm that we have been blessed to work with."

Thanks to the collective work of Linnean Solutions, Mass in Motion, Nueva Esperanza and other members of the community, this cookbook project has been a success thus far.

They hope to officially release the cookbook in the summer. For this release the community will be invited to a "blowout" party.

Additionally, Marissa Chiapperino from Holyoke Medical Center will also do food demonstrations with recipes from the book at the Holyoke Farmers Market this summer.

While many people will be able to get a physical copy of the book, there will also be a pdf available online for anyone to access. The pdf, and the cooking show episodes will be available at the explore Holyoke website.

"Once the cookbook is complete

it will be completely accessible to our community," Colón said.

Colón and other non-profits working with this project will help anyone interested in printing out the pdf of the book.

Colón emphasized how important it was to her for the community to have access to this resource.

"I think it's an important resource to have for the community because we want to help enhance the recipes we pass down from generation to generation while also making them a little bit healthier," she said. "It's offering a different resource and incorporating healthier options into our diets so that we can still pass these recipes down and also prevent diabetes or obesity."

Not only does she hope that this can help improve the health of people in the city, but she also wants this cookbook to be a resource that can unite the community.

"We believe that food brings people together, so we do have tons of pantries and locations in Holyoke who give away

free food," Colón said. "A lot of the time the things they're giving away aren't culturally relevant for people so we want to bridge that gap of...here's a resource on how to use the kinds of things you're receiving and it can still be culturally relevant to you."

Colón encourages everyone to reach out to her to learn more about this project and to attend the events that they can.

"We want to hear what our community wants," Colón said. "We are doing all these activities to really get input. We don't just want to work for people, we want to work with them. There's power in collaboration, there's power in community-led initiatives...it's really important to us to invite everyone to this process to make it beneficial for everybody."

For more information on the Resilience Cookbook project or to submit your own recipe, contact Colón at [mimcoordinator@holyoke.org](mailto:mimcoordinator@holyoke.org) or Executive Director of Nueva Esperanza Kayla Rodriguez at [kayla@nuevaofholyoke.org](mailto:kayla@nuevaofholyoke.org).

**TRAILS**, from page 1

Additionally, it provides teachers with implementation support, including professional development in SEL best practices. TRAILS is also designed for flexibility, so teachers can fit it in around their own schedules.

"Some use the 30 minutes and some divide the lessons through the day or through the week, which the lesson plan includes ways in which teachers can do that," Rojas said.

These lessons are provided for children in kindergarten through ninth grade. Those in kindergarten through fifth grade get them in their morning meeting and in sixth through eighth in their intervention block.

Ninth graders at Dean get these lessons in their college and career course while those at Holyoke High School North Campus receive them in their freshmen seminar.

Each TRAILS lesson builds from the

work of the Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning, which is a leading national organization in SEL research and practice.

It focuses on five core competencies: self-awareness, self-management, relationship skills, social awareness and responsible decision making.

Each of these competencies are taught in a separate unit of the curriculum, making a total of 25 lessons for teachers to cover.

This is the third year HPS has been implementing the TRAILS curriculum, though it is only the second year in which teachers, rather than counselors, were expected to teach it.

HPS found these lessons easier to implement if led by the teachers rather than the counselors.

Counselors will come by and observe teachers while they are conducting these SEL lessons so they can provide feedback.

"This feedback helps us assess

the impact and the level of the student engagement, as well as help us to make informed decisions about the curriculum trajectory in our district for the months ahead," Rojas said.

Rojas and Soto also took the time to emphasize that these lessons are not the only times in which students are taught SEL. The lessons are simply meant to give students a toolkit of skills that they can use in other areas of their lives.

"We are constantly looking for opportunities to reinforce some of the lessons that are in here," Soto said. "It's not just the TRAILS curriculum, it's not just that 30 minute block, it's not just our counselors, it's not just morning meetings, it's every day. We have to take every opportunity to teach our kids to be good kids."

School Committees Member Yadilette Rivera Colón and Rosalee Tensley Williams also mentioned how crucial it is for the adults in school buildings to model the SEL skills the students

are learning.

"If the SEL is not being modeled by the adults in the building then there's less buy-in from the people in the building," Rivera Colón said.

"Children mimic what they see," Tensley Williams said. "So those of us that are adults on the staff, we have to carry ourselves in a way that the kids will believe what we say."

HPS acknowledges that implementing this curriculum could still use some work, as they would like to see more engagement from students in higher grade levels. They plan to continue to work on improving the implementation of TRAILS and other ways to focus on SEL in schools.

"We are exploring what we need to put in place to ensure that training expands so that we can also bring it to teachers because it's absolutely a necessity," Rojas said. "We are exploring and looking at potential professional development options for next year to do that."

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# \$375 million for statewide transportation infrastructure

The Massachusetts Senate unanimously approved \$375 million in bond authorizations for statewide transportation projects, including the state's Chapter 90 program, which would create a reliable funding source for local infrastructure investments like roads, bridges, regional transit equipment and infrastructure, bicycle infrastructure, and electric vehicle infrastructure, among other things.

Projects funded by the annual legislation often improve quality of life for

residents in every region of the state, and many play a role in environmental mitigation. Every city and town in the state would receive a share of \$200 million in funding to be used on maintenance and construction of roads and bridges. \$150 million would be allocated equally to six programs targeting specific transportation infrastructure, and \$25 million would be allocated to cities and towns through the rural roads program. "Getting around our communities is a fundamental part of everyone's day," said Senate President

Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland). "Whether the commute takes you on the sidewalk, through a bike lane, across a small bridge, onto your Regional Transit Authority, or to the T, your journey should be quick and safe. By passing today's legislation, we are empowering our cities and towns with the funding to make improvements to the infrastructure our residents travel on, regardless of where they go and how." "I am proud to join my colleagues in the legislature to secure this investment for the sustainability of roads, bridges,

and regional transit infrastructure for the Hampden district and communities across the Commonwealth", said Sen. Adam Gomez (D-Springfield). "Delegating the implementation of infrastructure funding to municipalities will ensure that improvements at a local level will be addressed appropriately."

A previous version having been passed by the House of Representatives, the legislation now awaits final enactment in each branch, before being sent to the Governor's desk for her signature.

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DDS is an Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action Employer. Females, minorities, veterans, and persons with disabilities are strongly encouraged to apply. Reasonable Accommodation: If you require an ADA accommodation, please contact Ferdousi Faruque, at (857) 301-2416 or email at Ferdousi.Faruque@mass.gov Ferdousi must receive your request for an accommodation no later than two weeks prior to the date of this event. For those who request an accommodation after this date, every effort will be made to provide a reasonable accommodation; however, we may not be able to do so given potential time constraints. COVID Vaccine: As a condition of employment, depending on job assignment and location, employees may be required to have received COVID-19 vaccination and/or other vaccinations, or to have been approved for a vaccination exemption prior to their start date. Finalists for these positions will be provided details about the verification or exemption process. Candidates with questions on vaccination requirements should contact the diversity officer listed on the posting for additional information.