

CPA funding approved for Appleton Mill Project

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The City Council voted 7-6 to approve CPA funding of \$200,000 to help the Appleton Mill Project.

This project is overall costing WinnDevelopment, the company in charge of the project, about \$55 million.

The building site of this project was the Farr Alpaca Company, which was one of the largest alpaca wool mills in the world. However, that company has long since shut down and the building has been abandoned for the last 50 years.

WinnDevelopment purchased the property to convert it into 88 new apartments for seniors, ages 55 and older. They requested the \$200,000 from the CPA to help improve the amenities of the apartments.

The council was divided on whether or not to approve this project for CPA funding.

According to Councilor Meagan Magrath-Smith, this project was the most highly recommended by the CPA. She strongly encouraged the council to approve the funding.

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Children 'play-thru' library

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – Holyoke public library hosted their annual mini golf event on Saturday, April 20.

This popular event drew families from around the Holyoke community to participate in mini golf as well as outdoor games such as human foosball, cornhole and connect four.

Also available for families was food from the food truck Fritura Latina and a free lucky ticket auction, with prizes donated by a variety of community sponsors.

There were eighteen mini-golf holes set up around the library, with the majority sponsored by a local business or organization, such as Enlace de Familias, One Holyoke and the Holyoke Fire Department.

"The fire department really outdid themselves," Mini-Golf Event Chair Nancy Kocsmiersky said. "They gave us so much fire equipment stuff to just generally make it a really fun hole."

When people first entered the library they were directed to the community room where they were able to enter the lucky ticket auction and receive their equipment for mini-golf.

There was also a practice hole available for people to try and get a feel for the sport.

Following this, people went up to the reference section of the library where the first hole was to get started on their

mini-golf game.

This year the event was available for free to anyone interested in participating.

"This year we decided to try making it free by having the sponsorships completely cover the event," Kocsmiersky said.

Remaining funds from sponsors not used to fund the mini-golf event go toward other programs at the library. The library is grateful for all sponsors' assistance. The Holyoke Public Library Corporation was also crucial in pulling together this event.

The library hires a mini-golf company to come in with the equipment for the event, including the holes, the clubs and the mini-golf balls.

"All we have to do is decorate the holes," Kocsmiersky said.

Library employees look forward to this event each year. It is a day where the library is filled with families and people enjoying themselves.

"The sound of the kids laughing, it is so great for me," Kocsmiersky said. "Just having a lot of kids here laughing and having fun is the best part."

Additionally, this event gives many people a chance to explore the library, as the mini-golf holes cover every floor of the building.

"This gives people a chance to see different sections of the library that they don't normally go to," Kocsmiersky said. "For example, reference is normally

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Seamus Mahoney, Callie Letourneau and Maisie Mahoney enjoyed the day of mini-golf at Holyoke Public Library last Saturday. Turley photo by Quinn Suomala

Pioneer Valley Quilt Guild plans next show

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – The Pioneer Valley Quilt Guild is hosting a quilt show from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 4 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, May 5 at the Elks #61 Lodge at 440 Tiffany St., Springfield.

At this show there will be a variety of quilts and quilted items made by Guild members available for purchase.

"There will be a few things on the display that aren't quilts, per se, but are made by the quilting method," PVQG Member Elaine Conway said. "We have an upholstered chair, a Christmas tree skirt and even a ghost figurine that goes with a story about quilts."

They anticipate that the display will be roughly 82 items in the main room of the Elks.

There will also be an 8 foot quilted balloon on display

for all to see. This quilt was created by Herbert Menzel in 2012.

"He and 30 people made 24 panels, 12 on the top, 12 on the bottom, and it gets set up at the quilt guild," Conway said.

"It's very unique," Co-Chair of the Quilt Show John Roy said.

In addition to these items, there will be eight vendors, a quilt appraiser, raffle baskets and a food vendor.

"The vendors will primarily be vending quilting supplies and machines but there will also be a vendor from Thirty-One Bags," Conway said.

Also, there will be a section showing some of the guild's community relations and the donations they have made, for any interested in learning more about the guild's contribution to the community.

See QUILT, page 6

Wage increase transfer approved by city council

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The City Council voted 12-1 to approve a transfer of \$60,000 from mayor-contract negotiations to various staff in the clerical union.

This was as a result of the contract negotiation between the clerical union and Mayor Joshua Garcia.

Garcia approved the negotiation, as did the union, and sent it to the city council.

This negotiation came about following a study that looked into the salaries of similar positions in nearby communities. The union then requested for raises to receive comparable

See WAGE, page 11



This quilt titled "Chronicles" and made by Pioneer Valley Quilt Guild Member Loretta Forsihe will be raffled off at their quilt show on May 4 and 5.

Submitted photo

HCC celebrates inauguration of new president

HOLYOKE – In opening the inauguration ceremony of Holyoke Community College President George Timmons on Friday, April 19, his pastor, the Rev. Damone Paul Johnson, offered a parable about a high rise building with a broken elevator. There was another elevator in the building, the attendant told a concerned tenant, a service elevator. That one is working, the attendant said. It goes to the top but stops on every floor.

“Dr. Timmons has made it to the top,” Johnson said, “but he has stopped on every floor of service, dedication, and excellence.”

“In the past 78 years, we have come together as a college community only four times before to do what we are gathered to do today,” said Vanessa Smith, interim chair of the HCC Board of Trustees. “On average, we have hosted a presidential inauguration just once every decade and a half. This is an extraordinary occasion for many reasons, and because it is so rare, it is truly momentous.”

Smith said it was Timmons’ commitment to student success that stood out to her during the interview process last spring (he was hired in April 2023 and started in July) and called him a natural connector.

“All of the genuine interactions in the hallways, out in the community, or over a meal in our culinary arts institute clearly bring him joy,” Smith said. “His ability to inspire, motivate, and engage our community is among the many gifts he brings to Holyoke Community College. We need only look around this room to see the evidence of Dr. Timmons’ ability to connect and form



President George Timmons embraces Student Senate president Alicia Beaton after she placed the HCC presidential medallion around his neck as student-trustee Barney Garcia (green bow tie) and Vanessa Smith, interim chair of the HCC Board of Trustees look on. Submitted Photo

strong and lasting relationships.”

Indeed, many in attendance wore bright green bow ties and socks in recognition of Timmons’ preferred dress style.

Student-trustee Barney Garcia talked how he had started off at HCC battered, lost, and depressed, someone who always wore a mask, and was too afraid to be himself.

“It wasn’t until I met Dr. Timmons, someone who is unapologetically himself, that I felt empowered to break that barrier and be unapologetically myself,” Garcia said.

Garcia said he and the president bonded over the fact that both were raised by grandparents, and that he had found in Timmons an awesome bonus dad.

In his own remarks, Timmons, talked a lot about how he once was and

thanked all those people in his life who made it possible for him to be where he is today: academic leaders, coaches, and colleagues, his brothers from Kappa Alpha Psi, his fraternity at Norfolk State University, the historically Black college in Virginia where he earned his bachelor’s degree; his parents, in-laws, and extended family; his brother, Tyrell; his wife, Frankie, and, last but not least, his grandmother, Ruby, now 91, who “raised me to be the man I am today.”

“Ruby taught me the value of education, which, she always said, will help you find your way, and, once earned, can never be taken away,” Timmons said.

Before coming to HCC, Timmons served as the provost and vice president of Academic Affairs and Student Affairs at Columbia-Greene Community College

in Hudson, N.Y. He holds a Ph.D. in higher education administration from Bowling Green State University, a master’s degree in higher education from Old Dominion University, and a bachelor’s degree in financial management from Norfolk State University.

From the moment Timmons was introduced to HCC, he said, he knew it was the right place for him.

“Among the things that inspire me about Holyoke Community College is our commitment to living our values of innovation, collaboration, kindness, inclusion, and trust,” he said. “Do you know what these values have in common? Each word suggests the need for others, for unity and togetherness. None can be accomplished alone.” Timmons said.

As an undergraduate himself, Timmons said, he learned first hand the impact a college president can have on the life of a student. When he ran out of financial aid during his final year at Norfolk State, President Harrison B. Wilson tapped into a discretionary fund so he could complete his bachelor’s degree.

“I was able to finish what I started,” Timmons said. “And that was just the beginning.”

“In the end,” Timmons said in conclusion, “when a single student finds their calling, discovers a talent, turns their life around, hones a skill, or finds the courage to speak up, the world is a better place. Potential becomes reality. We all benefit. That is the work we are doing at Holyoke Community College, and I can’t think of a better way to spend a life.”

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HPL hosts concert

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Public Library is hosting a concert on Wednesday, May 1, at 3 p.m. The Fanfare Brass Ensemble in the library park at the Maple Street stairs. Please bring a chair or blanket to sit outside. If there is inclement weather the performance will be held in the library community room.

COLLEGE NOTES

Simmons Univ. names dean’s list

BOSTON – Alexa Abild of Holyoke was named to the 2023 fall semester dean’s list at Simmons University in Boston.

Tree-planting at Wistariahurst for Arbor Day

HOLYOKE – Mayor Joshua A. Garcia and Holyoke Conservation and Sustainability Director Yoni Glogower will participate in an observance of Arbor Day at Wistariahurst on Friday, April 26, at 1 p.m.

Sarah Greenleaf of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, accompanied by a crew, will plant a tree on the grounds of Wistariahurst and Mayor Garcia will read an Arbor Day proclamation.

Located at 238 Cabot St., Wistariahurst is Holyoke’s historic house museum.

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Walkers needed for upcoming Jimmy Fund walk in Boston

BOSTON – Registration is now open for the 2024 Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk presented by Hyundai. Scheduled for Sunday, October 6, funds raised from the Jimmy Fund Walk support all forms of adult and pediatric patient care and cancer research at the nation's premier cancer center, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Due to ongoing construction in Copley Square, the Jimmy Fund Walk Finish Line location has been moved to the Boston Common for 2024.

The Jimmy Fund Walk is the only organized walk permitted on the famed Boston Marathon course, and participants have the flexibility to choose from four distance options: 5K Walk (from Dana-Farber Cancer Institute's Longwood Medical Campus); 10K Walk (from Newton); Half Marathon Walk (from Wellesley); and

Marathon Walk (from Hopkinton).

Whatever route walkers choose, participants will be treated to refueling stations with refreshments throughout the course. Poster-sized photographs of patients, Jimmy Fund Walk Heroes, are displayed along the course as inspiration. Walkers can participate virtually, as well.

All routes will conclude at the Jimmy Fund Walk Finish Line Powered by Schneider Electric at Boston Common, by the corner of Charles and Beacon Street. The finish line will include a celebration with food, entertainment, and more. Public transportation is encouraged.

The Jimmy Fund Walk has raised

more than \$176 million for Dana-Farber in its 35-year history, raising a record-breaking \$9.4 million in 2023. Funds raised from the Jimmy Fund Walk support all forms of adult and pediatric patient care and cancer research at the nation's premier cancer center, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The Boston Athletic Association has supported the Jimmy Fund Walk since 1989, and Hyundai has been the presenting sponsor for more than 20 years.

Register as an individual walker, team member, or start a team. Take advantage of this unique opportunity and lead a group of family, friends, or colleagues to the finish line. The Jimmy Fund can help you start

a team, grow your fundraising, and defy cancer, together.

Volunteers are needed to cheer on participants, serve snacks, distribute T-shirts, and more, at the four start locations, along the course, and at the 2024 Jimmy Fund Walk Finish Line Powered by Schneider Electric, located in the Boston Common. The Jimmy Fund Walk would not be possible without the hundreds of dedicated volunteers who donate their time, talent, and energy. Register to volunteer today.

To register for the Walk (#JimmyFundWalk) or to support a walker, visit www.JimmyFundWalk.org or call (866) 531-9255. Registrants can enter the promo code NEWS for \$5 off the registration fee. All registered walkers will receive a bib, medal, and a Jimmy Fund Walk T-shirt.



PROJECT, from page 1

"If this council decides to support this development moving forward then, effectively, we are saying that we are seeing the housing need and we are willing to respond to it," Magrath-Smith said.

Additionally, Councilor Kocayne Givner felt funding this project would show the council's support for providing affordable housing for the community.

"There is something to be said about having Holyoke's stamp on various projects," Givner said. "Even if it is just a drop in the bucket for what they need for a project, it allows us as an organization to put our stamp on a project. So essentially we become one of the funders of this 88 housing unit senior project, which I think speaks volumes for the city."

Councilors opposed to approving funding for this project were concerned that this funding would just turn into more money in the pockets of a big company.

"Our stamp on the project will literally be stamps on the envelopes of the dividend checks that are being sent out to WinnDevelopment shareholders," Councilor Kevin Jourdain said. "You will have your stamp on the project, it's going to be mailing very wealthy people more money."

Those opposed to funding this

also felt that the \$200,000 from the city couldn't possibly make a difference in such a large project.

"It's a \$55-60 million project, they're looking for \$200,000 from us," Councilor Michael Sullivan said. "They claim in their presentation that if they don't get this \$200,000 they'll have to cut back on some of the amenities for the units. \$200,000 in a \$55-60 million project represents four tenths of one penny of the entire budget of this project."

Sullivan and others argued that this \$200,000 was not worth it if it was only going to add some small amenities to the house. They preferred to save the funding for future projects.

Other councilors disagreed, they felt that funding this project was an investment in the community.

"I think that for me there's a piece where we're trying to grow our city and we're trying to do positive things, it doesn't hurt to support," Councilor Israel Rivera said. "We don't have much of this type of housing."

These councilors felt amenities could add a lot to a building, and could be the difference between people staying in Holyoke versus going somewhere else.

"That'll be the difference between a nicer apartment and nicer amenities for the people that are going to live there...it will

make it something respectable," Rivera said. "I think quality of life matters and sometimes it doesn't hurt to give a little extra for that."

Magrath-Smith understood the opposed councilors' concerns, but pointed out that the Appleton Mills project is comparable cost wise to the Library Commons Two project, and the council approved a similar level of funding for that project.

"It is insanely expensive to create housing out of old stock, and that's what we have," Magrath-Smith said. "So I understand that sometimes you're looking at the cost thinking, 'this is so expensive this is ridiculous,' but these projects are actually very comparable."

Both of these projects are of substantial expense due to their size and nature. However, both will provide Holyoke with much needed affordable housing.

Moreover, councilors in opposition of this project felt that it was best to not approve this project and instead save the funding for potential future proposals.

"Saying yes to that means you are also saying no to rehabbing small projects in town that have much tighter go and no go, rehabbing two family homes, rehabbing three family homes in this town," Jourdain said.

Other councilors pointed out that there had not been submissions to the CPA of that nature, and that they cannot approve a project that does not apply to begin with.

In the end, the council voted 7-6 to approve the funding for this project, with Councilors Jenny Rivera, Juan Anderson Burgos, Patti Divine, Givner, Magrath-Smith, Tessa Murphy-Romboletti and Israel Rivera voting in favor.



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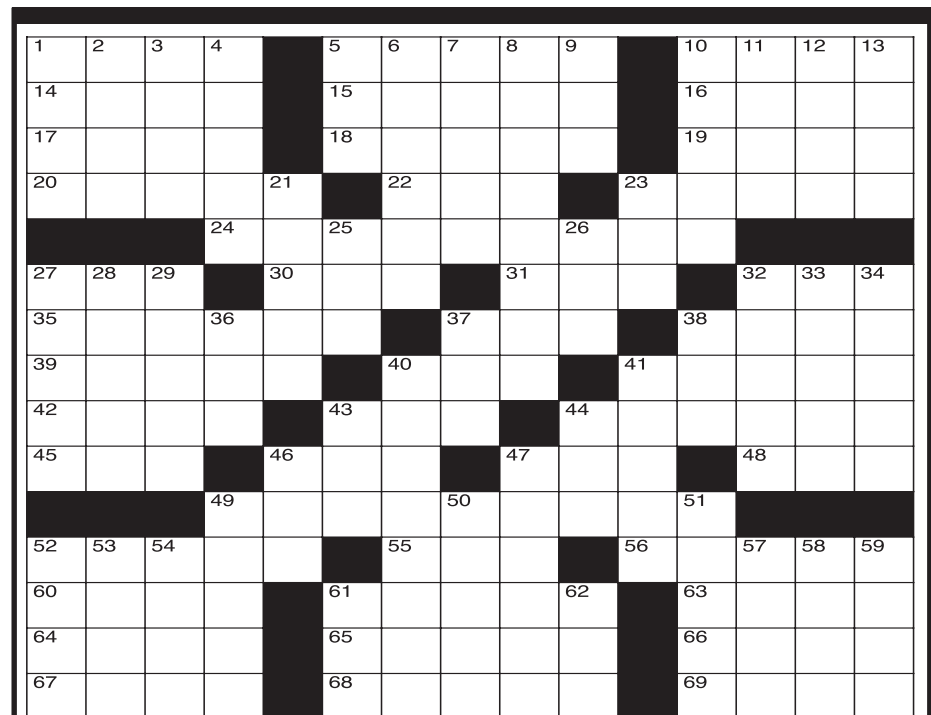
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- Try to grab
- U.S.-born individuals
- Some are covert
- Order of the British Empire
- Don't know when yet
- Payment (abbr.)
- Winged angelic being
- Variety of Chinese
- A way to be anxious
- Famed wrestler Hulk
- Partner to cheese
- Slang for sergeant
- Canadian flyers
- Actress Ryan
- Highly unpleasant vapor
- Body part
- Halfway
- Cool!
- Consume
- Salts
- Upper bract of a floret of grass
- Housepet
- Cavalry-sword
- Symbol of a nation
- Frocks
- Used to carry food
- Portuguese folk song
- Sharp mountain ridge
- Ireland
- Where golfers begin
- Greek mythological sorceress
- Fluid suspensions

CLUES DOWN

- "Mad Men" leading man
- Water (Spanish)
- Annoy
- Bulgarian capital
- Japanese title
- Capital of Zimbabwe
- Giraffe
- A mixture of substances
- Midway between south and southeast
- Staffs
- Turkish title
- Type of acid
- Thin, flat strip of wood
- Russian river
- Ribonucleic acid
- Partner to flow
- Airborne (abbr.)
- Earthy pigment
- Genus of earless seals
- "Key to the Highway" bluesman
- By or in itself
- Hot fluid below the earth's surface
- Partner to trick
- British Air Aces
- Ammunition
- Supervises flying
- Health care for the aged
- Flanks
- Millimeters
- Where wrestlers perform
- Not around
- Flightless bird
- Bell-shaped flowers of the lily family
- Expressed concern for
- Satisfies
- Flew off!
- Wings
- Load a ship
- Vigor
- British title
- Whisks
- ___ Adams: founding father
- Body of water

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Guest Column

in the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid

Do it now, while the forsythia is blooming

It's funny how nature is sometimes used as a cue to do this or do that. The term is phenology. When I was first learning about perennials all those years ago at UMass, I remember my instructor saying it was safe to remove winter protection "when the forsythia is blooming."

It is also safe to prune roses and butterfly bush "when the forsythia is blooming." And it's time to sow your peas and plant grass seed, too.

Kinda cool, isn't it, that nature can dictate when it is safe or indeed the best time to accomplish things in the garden?

The forsythia is blooming nicely in my front yard, and I did head out over the weekend to tackle some of the above. My pink "Fairy" rose bush was in dire need of clean up.

There was a wee bit of winter kill that I trimmed back to the next nice node. Shockingly there were still some spent flower clusters left from last year; those were removed as well.

Long arching branches were reigned in – it's not good for roses to be all over the ground where they are more susceptible to fungal issues. Likewise, canes that were crossing each other or branching out at weird angles were remedied too.

I applied a sprinkling of granular organic fertilizer at the base of the plant to support all of the beautiful blooms I'm expecting to have.

My 2-year-old Butterfly Bush (Buddleia) barely suffered any winter kill at all in contrast to last year when it died back all the way to the ground! I'm excited because that means it has a couple of feet head start and earlier blooms to boot!

I had to remove only a couple of inches of dead tips. I applied a balanced fertilizer here too in hopes of many beautiful purple flowers.

Other sections of my perennial beds met with different jobs to be done. Gayfeather (Liatris spicata) always looks unkept until new growth ensues.

I try to cut the old stems down a bit further and rake my hands through the dead, grass-like foliage, clipping away what doesn't come free easily. If you look within the plant you'll notice whitish tips of new growth. It won't be long!

I find a lot of satisfaction from cultivating the perennial garden, but it's almost too early to do that. Butterfly Weed (Asclepias tuberosa) is still weeks away from popping up.

If I haphazardly scratch around in the garden it could be at the plant's expense or at the expense of any self-sown seedlings that germinated. Purple Coneflower (Echinacea purpurea) is always a good self-sower, but it's up to you to decide if these tiny plants are worthy of keeping or weeding out.

Same goes for Ballon Flower (Platycodon).

See GARDEN, page ??



Guest Column

Older husband, working wife seek guidance



Dear Rusty

I am 74 years old, retired and receiving Social Security.

My wife will be 65 in January of 2025. Our hope was to start paying off some credit card expense by her receiving SS when she turns 65, however it appears there would be a substantial reduction to her benefits. Her work income is \$37,500 a year and she wasn't planning on retiring from work at age 65. Because I am 11 years older, we felt it makes sense to use her Social Security as a means to lower our debt. We have \$27,000 in credit card debt and I don't really want to use my 401(k) funds due to taxes. We pretty much live on my Social Security and pension.

Signed: Seeking Suggestions

Dear Seeking

Your wife's Full Retirement Age for Social Security purposes is age 67. Because she will not yet have reached her FRA in January 2025, when she is 65, if she claims SS to start at that time, not only will her monthly amount be reduced, but she will be subject to Social Security's annual earnings test.

The earnings test sets a limit for how much can be earned by beneficiaries, who claim SS before FRA.

The earnings limit for 2024 is \$22,320. The limit for next year is not yet published (it's based on changes to the national wage index), but will be a bit higher likely about \$23,500.

Thus, I can't provide the exact impact, but if your wife's 2025 earnings exceed next year's limit, Social Security will take back \$1 in benefits for every \$2 over the limit (half of the amount over the limit). So, if your wife earns \$37,500 per year, that will likely be about \$14,000 over the limit and Social Security will take back half of that \$7,000.

They "take back" by withholding future benefits or you can repay them in a lump sum. So, you will have a choice repay Social Security from your other assets, or they will withhold your wife's SS benefits for the number of months needed to offset her penalty for

exceeding the earnings limit.

The number of months they will withhold depends on how much is owed and what your wife's monthly SS benefit is. For example, if your wife's age-65 SS benefit is about average (\$1,900) and her penalty for exceeding the limit is \$7,000, Social Security would withhold your wife's benefit for four months to recover the penalty, but she would receive her full benefit for the remaining eight months of the year.

Unless your wife tells them in advance that she will exceed the limit, Social Security will find out the following year after you file your income taxes. But, in any case, your wife cannot avoid the annual earnings test for working before reaching her Full Retirement Age.

The earnings test goes away when your wife reaches her FRA of 67. Until that time, if she continues working she will have a choice to have her benefits withheld for a portion of the year or simply repay Social Security in a lump sum in which case her benefits would continue uninterrupted.

FYI, there is a silver lining in this, because if your wife has benefits withheld because she exceeds the earnings limit before her FRA, after she reaches her full retirement age Social Security will give her time credit for the months when benefits were withheld, which will result in her monthly Social Security payment amount increasing somewhat at her full retirement age. Thus, over time, your wife may recover the benefits which were withheld for exceeding the annual earnings limit. But to get 100% of the benefit she's earned from a lifetime of working and be exempt from Social Security's earnings limit, she would need to wait until she reaches her FRA to claim.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

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 news-

paper 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.

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

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

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

Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

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



A Blandford resident saw a male northern flicker during the April 4 snowstorm among other birds at her snowbound feeding station.

I saw a male northern flicker before the snow storm last week near the Barre line. The day after the snow, I saw one by the edge of the road at the ball-field in the center of Oakham, the only bare spot.

The northern flicker is about 13 inches long. Distinguishing marks include a black band or necklace under its throat, black spots on its breast, gray head and long beak. The male has a black line at the base of its bill, which the female lacks. Both have a red patch on the neck and a white rump, clearly visible in flight.

The flicker is the only ground feeding woodpecker. Ants make up almost half of its diet. It also catches insects in the air and eats fruit, berries and seeds. It will come to feeders like the one in Blandford.

Flickers are cavity nesters and excavate a hole in a tree, fence post or cactus. They will use a nest box. The female lays seven to nine white eggs. They make a loud "kekekekeke" for territorial display and a "woikawoikawoka" during courtship. They also do muffled volleys of drumming.

Flocks of robins

The Blandford resident also had a



Northern flicker

flock of about 25 robins in her yard. She said they departed before she could shovel clear strip of grass for them and put out mealworms. I saw many robins along the side of the after last Thursdays snowstorm and the day after as there was no other area clear of snow.

Pileated woodpecker holes

I received a photo from a Charlton resident showing a tree with numerous holes made by a pileated woodpecker. It was impressive.

I usually hear the pileated woodpecker more than I see them. Recently, I heard one and looked for it in the area of its hammering. I saw this one and it kept up its excavating as I watched it.

More snowstorm bird

A Brimfield resident, who sends me frequent bird sightings, said, "During the snow storm last week in addition to the usual suspects we had a field sparrow, a Carolina wren and about 36 goldfinch visit the yard. Some of the male goldfinch were beginning to show some yellow plumage."



Black vulture

Black vultures

The Brimfield resident said his wife saw two black vultures in the center of Brimfield feeding on a dead opossum. He said, "They are showing up in western Massachusetts more often recently."

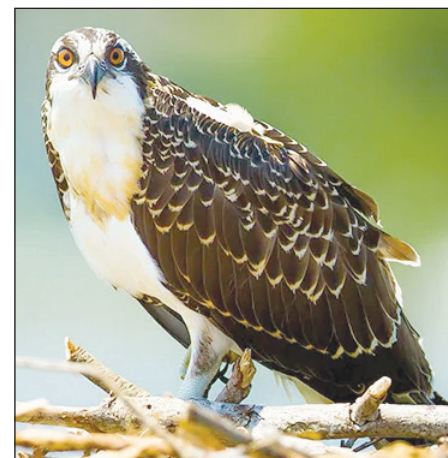
Turkey vultures

A favorite roost for turkey vultures is near the transfer station in Barre on Depot Road. I saw several vultures circling over the area, several perched on lamp posts and a shed at the transfer station. One on the lamp post had its wings spread out. It was quite a sight to see.

I saw a turkey vulture spreading its wings like that several years ago on one of the high tension line poles in Oakham. It almost looked like it flew into the post.

Ospreys and herons

This Brimfield resident makes regular trips to several ponds. He said in his most recent email, "In Warren at the pond on South Street the osprey pair that have nested there the past three years



Osprey

have returned. Last year there were three great blue heron nests there that produced young. This year only one pair of herons has returned so far. At my last visit it looked like a heron was incubating eggs or maybe just sitting down?"

He also said, "At the great blue heron rookery at Conant Brook Dam in Monson there are four nest this year. On a visit last week the four nests had birds incubating eggs. There were six nest here last year but one of the trees with a nest looked like it was in danger of falling over, guess it did. And another nest has disappeared." He said there is an osprey pair at the playing fields in Wilbraham by the YMCA/Spec Pond. He saw one of osprey bring sticks to the nest and at another visit one was sitting on the nest.

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.

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In The News

City to lead 'Day of Prayer' on 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.

Museum hosts Mother's Day plant sale

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, day-lilies, American wisteria, and kousa dogwood trees, there's something for everyone. A purchase a l s o

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/>.



QUILT, from page 1

There will also be handmade non-quilt items for sale at the PVQG Boutique.

Additionally, PVQG Member Loretta Forsihe has volunteered her quilt "Chronicles", which won Best in Show at the Big E in 2022, to be raffled off during the show.

This quilt was inspired by a quilt made hundreds of years ago by women taken from Africa to be enslaved in Australia.

"On the way over [to Australia] they gave them needles and fabric and these women sat and sewed a quilt in this pattern," Co-Chair of the Quilt Show Janet Foy said. "This quilt is the pattern of that original quilt."

The original quilt is hanging in the Australia Quilting Museum, according to Foy.

Admission for the show is \$10 and proceeds go toward the guild. The admission is good for both days of the show.

"The money we raise from the quilt show goes to community service proj-

ects, we make blankets for A-Okay for Families, we make cardiac and cancer pillows for people to use to support themselves," Foy said. "A lot of what we make is donated."

Those in attendance of the show are also welcome to get more information about the guild and to sign up to join.

The guild meets at the Elks at 6:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of every month.

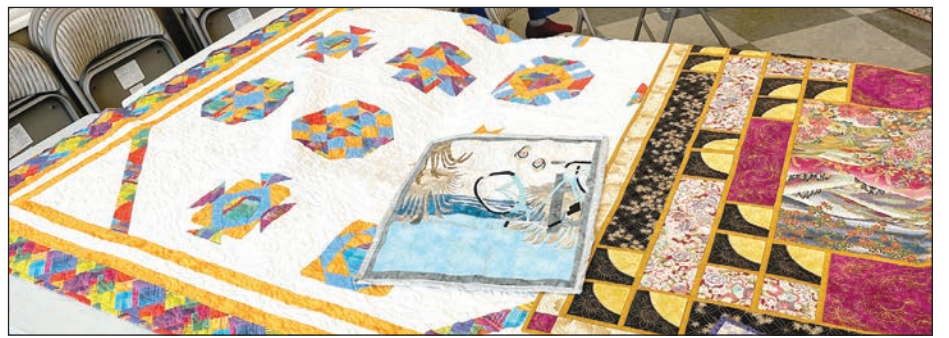
"Anyone is welcome to come," Foy said.

While the guild does not offer quilting lessons, there are members located in many nearby towns who would be willing to give new quilters some advice.

"It's not a sewing class but if you went in there and said, 'I'd like to learn to quilt and I live in Springfield,' Elaine lives in Springfield, she might ask you to come over and she'll help you," Foy said.

The guild will also invite in speakers who teach them new quilting skills.

Currently, PVQG has 60 members and they look forward to hopefully seeing those numbers increase following the upcoming show.



The Pioneer Valley Quilt Guild will have a variety of quilts made by their members available for purchase at their quilt show on May 4 and 5. Submitted photo

GARDEN, from page 4

Lavender (Lavandula) is sometimes slow to wake up too, but this year the plants already look "alive." Many times, you have to search within the plant for signs of fresh silver-green growth, then cut back to that point.

This year, like we saw with the Butterfly Bush, there seems to be very little winter kill. I'm going to leave be for now and not prune anything yet.

I planted Hollyhocks (Alcea rosea) near my lamp post last spring and they grew great all summer. I thought it would be neat to have 6-7-foot spires of papery pastel blooms reaching for the sky, reminiscent of the Polish hollyhocks my mom had by the porch when I was a teenager.

Admittedly they don't look all that

fabulous right at the moment. Hollyhocks like it rich, so I fertilized and will also provide some compost to further enhance their growth, and maybe just maybe I will re-live the Hollyhocks of my youth come July.

All in all, I feel pretty good at how the perennial gardens faired through the winter. Next week I have to get those peas in – at least before the forsythia stops blooming!

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.

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Palmer wins wild marathon with Holyoke

PALMER – The Palmer High School softball played an unusually wild offensive game with Holyoke last Tuesday afternoon.

The only inning where runs were not scored was the top of the fifth as Palmer eventually won by the 12-run mercy rule 38-26 after six innings. Palmer scored 18 runs in just the first two innings, but Holyoke kept it close with 14 runs in the first two frames. After limiting Holyoke to just two runs in the

fourth and fifth innings, the Panthers were finally able to put the game out of reach.

The Panthers took 27 walks and had 20 hits. Hannah Roy went 5-for-7 with six RBI. Holyoke's Janiya Lagoy went 5-for-6 with two RBI.

Holyoke had 28 hits and five walks in the game. Jayda Pardo did go the distance for Palmer, striking out four in six innings.

Struggles continue for Holyoke baseball

HOLYOKE – Last Friday afternoon, Holyoke baseball lost to Agawam 14-5. The Knights have yet to win a game this season in seven tries. The Knights offense was able to get a bit of production in the match-up, with Justin Rivera, Alexander Robles and Jovaughn Rivera all getting two hits each. Jovaughn Rivera drove in two runs for Holyoke. Holyoke looks for its first win on Monday at Easthampton at 5:15 p.m.



Justin Rivera pitches for the Knights.

Darwin Jimenez Ventura makes a throw to first.



Alanna Bonilla pitches in relief for the Knights.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Janiya Lagoy one-hands the grounder to short.



Arthur Mazzu fields a grounder to second base.



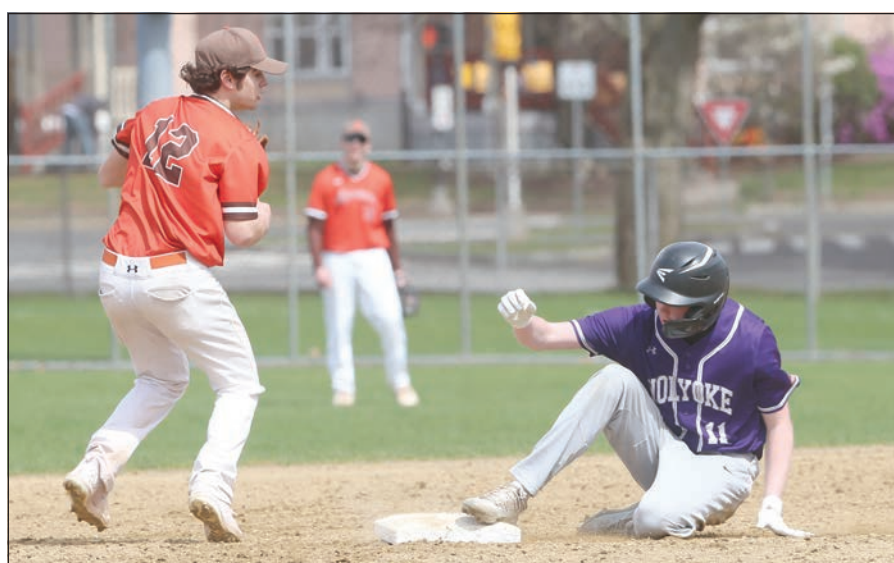
Jayden Diaz makes solid contact.



Kiara Perez catches the out. Marialis Camacho sends a throw across the diamond.



Sabrina Grondin swings and connects on a hit.



Theo Marion slides into second safely.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Knights boys varsity volleyball outlasted by Indians in 3-2 loss

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WARE – Just when it looked like the Holyoke boys varsity volleyball team wouldn't have very much trouble sweeping Ware for the fifth time since 2021, the Indians came storming back.

After losing the first two

sets -27-25, 25-19- the Indians took the final three sets—25-21, 25-17, 16-14—giving them a 3-2 come-from-behind victory at Paul Orszulak Gymnasium, last Tuesday night.

"We've never defeated Holyoke since I've been a member of the Ware boys' volleyball team," said Ware senior captain Remy Cahalan, who's a five

year varsity player. "It just feels amazing to finally beat these guys, especially at home. It was great team effort tonight, and it's a reverse sweep."

The non-league home win improved the Indians overall record to 5-3.

The Purple Knights, who had won five straight matches since losing to Gramby in the

season opener, had a 5-2 mark.

"This is a frustrating loss for us because we held a 2-0 lead in the match," said Holyoke assistant varsity coach Josh Abrams. "We just made a couple of costly mistakes. I wish we could play them again during the regular season."

Longtime Holyoke varsity coach Paula Conway didn't

make the trip to Ware High School.

"I hope coach Conway is doing well," said Ware head coach Steve Jarvis. "She's been coaching volleyball for a very long time. I have friends who played volleyball for her back in the 1970's."

During the offseason,
See VOLLEYBALL, page 8

Gaudette wins Willie Marshall Award

SPRINGFIELD – The American Hockey League announced today that Springfield Thunderbirds forward Adam Gaudette is the 2023-24 recipient of the Willie Marshall Award, given to the league's leading goal scorer.

Gaudette scored a league-best 44 goals in 67 games for the Thunderbirds, surpassing his previous career high of 27 goals set last season and tied for the fourth-most by a Springfield skater in 80 seasons of AHL hockey in the city. He becomes the first Thunderbirds skater ever to claim the award and the first Springfield AHL skater to lead the league in goal-scoring since Michel Picard of the 1990-91 Springfield Indians.

Gaudette added 27 assists to finish third in the AHL scoring race with 71 points and was voted to the AHL's First All-Star Team this season, marking the first time a Thunderbirds player earned such recognition. The sixth-

year pro from Braintree, Mass., has 77 goals and 57 assists in 138 AHL games, along with 27 goals and 43 assists in 220 career games in the NHL. Gaudette was originally a fifth-round pick by Vancouver in the 2015 NHL Draft and joined the St. Louis Blues organization via trade from Toronto on Feb. 17, 2023.

The AHL's goal-scoring award was established in 2004 to honor Willie Marshall, the AHL's all-time leader in goals, assists, points, and games played; past winners include Mike Cammalleri (2005), Alexandre Giroux (2009, '10), Tyler Johnson (2013), Frank Vatrano (2016), Carter Verhaeghe (2019) and Stefan Noesen (2022). Other previous yearly goal-scoring leaders include Bryan Hextall (1937), Lou Trudel (1942, '45), Fred Glover (1951), Dunc Fisher (1958), Jimmy Anderson (1961, '64), Yvon Lambert (1973), Gordie Clark (1980), Paul Gardner (1985, '86), Jody Gage (1988) and Brad Smyth (1996, 2001).

Spots still open in Quabbin Valley 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.quabbinvalley-baseball.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.

USA Basketball holding 3v3 competitions

SPRINGFIELD – USA Basketball announced today that it will host two FIBA 3x3 pro circuit competitions in Springfield, beginning with a Quest (April 22-23), which is a FIBA 3x3 Men's World Tour Qualifier, and followed by the FIBA 3x3 Springfield Women's Series (April 23-24). Both events will be held at the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame and admission is free with the purchase of a Hall of Fame museum ticket.

The Quest will feature up to 12 teams with, at minimum, one team bid on the line into the FIBA 3x3 World Tour Edmonton Masters (July 6-7). The event will be the first FIBA 3x3 competition hosted by USA Basketball since the 2023 FIBA 3x3 Colorado Challenger.

The Springfield Women's Series, the opening event on the 2024 FIBA 3x3 Women's Series, will include eight teams in the field with the top finishers improving their allocation opportunities for future stops along the way to the Women's Series Final. The

Springfield Women's Series marks the first FIBA 3x3 Women's Series event hosted in the United States since the Series' inception in 2019.

The Springfield Women's Series will be streamed live at YouTube.com/FIBA3x3.

Participating teams had several pathways into the FIBA 3x3 Men's World Tour Quest and FIBA 3x3 Springfield Women's Series, including automatic allocation, wildcard berth from the host or qualification from a previous FIBA 3x3 event. The field for both competitions will include professional 3x3 teams from the United States and around the world.

Different than 5-on-5, 3x3 is played on a half-court with a 10-minute game clock and 12-second shot clock. Play is continuous, as teams "clear" the ball behind the 2-point line following a made basket, defensive rebound or steal. The first team to score 21 points via 1-point field goals or 2-pointers behind the arc is victorious; or if time expires then the team leading wins.

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 volley-

See **GAMES**, page 9

VOLLEYBALL, from page 7

Cahalan was teammates on a club volleyball team with Holyoke senior captains Jeduar Colon and Adrain Centeno-Feliciano.

Cahalan finished the home match with a game-high 18 kills and 22 digs.

"It's always a great feeling whenever you make a kill," he said. "It's one of my favorite things to do during a match. I just want to help my team win anyway that I can."

Ware senior captain Josh Mulligan had 10 kills and 13 digs, along with four aces.

Sophomore Sean Bernier added 24 digs.

The duo of Colon and Centeno-Feliciano led the Purple Knights with 10 kills apiece.

"Both of them are very talented volleyball players," Abrams said. "They're our leaders."

With senior Ian Rivera Soler handling the serving duties, the Purple Knights won the first four points of the opening set.

The Indians responded with a 6-1 run and took the lead for the first time at 6-5 following a Cahalan kill.

The Purple Knights were leading 26-25 before a Ware net violation enabled the visitors to take a 1-0 advantage.

Led by Colon and Centeno-Feliciano, Holyoke managed to hold onto the lead from start to finish in the second set.

The third set was also very close.

The score was tied 10-10 in the third set before the Indians ran off four consecutive points with the help of a couple of unforced errors. The home team reeled off the final four points of the set, which kept the match alive.

"We limited our mistakes in the third set," Cahalan said. "Winning that set gave us a lot of momentum heading into the fourth and fifth sets. We were able to keep the momentum in the fourth set."

Holyoke had a 6-5 lead in the fourth set before Ware put together a 10-1 run giving them a 14-7 lead.

The Purple Knights didn't get any closer than three points the rest of the way, which forced the fifth set.

"Once we tied up the match, I knew that we were going to win," Cahalan said. "It just feels amazing."

With the match now tied at 2-2, Holyoke junior Michael Melendez had three aces, which gave his team a 6-3 lead in the fifth and deciding set. Then a Colon kill pushed Holyoke's lead to four points.

The Purple Knights held a 14-12 advantage following a Centeno-Feliciano kill.

A Mulligan kill kept the match going a little bit longer.



Then with junior Nathan Harmon doing the serving, the Indians won the next three points to complete the comeback. Harmon had a team-leading 26 assists.


"I thought Nathan did a great job of hitting, setting and passing the ball in tonight's match," Jarvis said. "He also played well defensively. I'm very pleased with his performance."

The final point came on a combined block by sophomore Ryder Cahalan and junior Gavin Sawabi.

"This is probably our best win since we won at Salem High School in the state tournament a couple of years ago," Remy Cahalan said. "I can't remember another reserve sweep. It was the first one of this season."

Following the match, Cahalan took a couple of pictures with Colon and Centeno-Feliciano.



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GAMES, from page 8

ball. 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@baystategames.org or call 781-932-6555.

HoopHall announces unique new exhibit for this 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.

Public Notices

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 Restaurante La Isla Corp DBA Restaurante La Isla at 161 High Street**, pursuant to M.G.L. Ch.138.
Applicant:
Restaurante La Isla Corp
License Board:
Anthony Luciano,
Chairman
04/19, 04/26/2024

Trial Court of the Commonwealth Hampden County

Superior Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01102 (413) 735-6016 Docket No. 2379CV00619 JULIE MAGRI v. THE HEIRS, SUCCESSORS, ASSIGNS AND DEVISEES OF LOUIS MAGRI, SUCH OTHER PERSONS, IF ANY, UNASCERTAINED NOT IN BEING, UNKNOWN WITHIN or WITHOUT THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS ORDER OF NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

It appearing from the Motion for Order of Service by Publication, in the above-captioned matter, which is sworn to that the Defendants cannot be personally served through process, IT IS ORDERED that this order be published for three (3) successive weeks, the last publication to be at least twenty (20) days before said return day, in The Holyoke Sun, a newspaper published in Holyoke, Hampden County, Massachusetts and that all parties claiming any right, title, or interest to the real property located at 66 King Street, Holyoke, MA, Massachusetts, commonly known as 66 King Street, Holyoke, Hampden County, Massachusetts, identified in the Complaint in Hampden County Superior Court entitled Julie Magri v. The Heirs, Successors, Assigns and Devisees of Louis Magri, et. al., Hampden County Superior Court, Civil Action

No. 2379CV00619, file a response to said complaint within thirty (30) days after the last publication date in this Order, and if the parties fail to do so, a Judgment for Plaintiff will be so Ordered.

It appearing from the Motion for Order of Service by Publication, in the above-captioned matter, which is sworn to that the Defendants cannot be personally served through process, IT IS ORDERED that this order be published for three (3) successive weeks, the last publication to be at least twenty (20) days before said return day, in The Holyoke Sun, a newspaper published in Holyoke, Hampden County, Massachusetts and that all parties claiming any right, title, or interest to the real property located at 66 King Street, Holyoke, MA, Massachusetts, commonly known as 66 King Street, Holyoke, Hampden County, Massachusetts, identified in the Complaint in Hampden County Superior Court entitled Julie Magri v. The Heirs, Successors, Assigns and Devisees of Louis Magri, et. al., Hampden County Superior Court, Civil Action No. 2379CV00619, file a response to said complaint within thirty (30) days after the last publication date in this Order, and if the parties fail to do so, a Judgment for Plaintiff will be so Ordered.

WITNESS, Hon. Jeremy C. Bucci, First Justice of this Court

Attest: **William Walsh**
Assistant Clerk

04/26, 05/03, 05/10/2024
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. HD24P0823EA Estate of: Stephen R Rodriguez Date of Death: 03/04/2024 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 **Marisol Rodriguez of Holyoke, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/10/2024. 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 12, 2024
Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate
04/26/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-8600

Docket No. HD24P0774EA
Estate of: **Betsy M Whiting**
Also Known As: **Betsy Whiting**
Date of Death: **12/29/2023**
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Richard C Whiting, Jr. of Florence, MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Richard C Whiting, Jr. of Florence, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
04/26/2024

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.

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- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

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PLEASE REMEMBER TO RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

Read or Subscribe to The Holyoke Sun:
www.sun.turley.com

Golf outing to be held in June

WEST SPRINGFIELD – The Parish Cupboard, a food pantry and hot lunch program located in West Springfield will be holding a fundraiser on Saturday, June 1 with it's annual golf outing.

This event brings together golfers of all levels to raise money for the Cupboards mission. The tournament is a noon shot gun start Scramble event. Registration begins at 11 a.m. Lunch, dinner, a swag bag, contests, prizes and raffles are all part of the event.

Golf is \$125 per person. To attend the dinner only is \$30. Sponsors and prize donors are also needed to make the event successful.

A tournament sponsor is available for \$1500, which includes a foursome. Silver Tee sponsors are available for \$125 and Gold Tee sponsors are available for \$250.

For more information contact Bob at the Parish Cupboard at 413-794-7969 or email parishcupboard@aol.com.

WAGE, from page 1

salaries to the compared communities.

While the majority of the council was in support of this wage increase, with only Councilor David Bartley voting against, several councilors did raise concerns about potential budgeting issues within the city.

"We can't just keep going up, up, up, up, we need to see on the other side where we are cutting because we, at the end of the day, have a finite amount of money," Councilor Kevin Jourdain said.

While the council agrees that these raises are deserved by the workers, they are also supporting the increase as management is purporting that they can afford it. However, councilors point out that may not always be the case.

Many councilors were concerned that Holyoke may be facing budgeting issues for their fiscal year 2025 budget. Now that the city is out of ARPA funds, many are worried about how they will balance the budget.

Councilor Linda Vacon was concerned that too many budget increases could mean an increased tax bur-

den on residents.

"If we get to the point where we just can't put more tax burden on our residents to fund a budget that is growing much more rapidly than their income," she said. "For the last few years we've had our residents telling us that they're maxed out on the property taxes and many are having to look to find alternate living situations."

The study conducted that the union used to argue for increased wages did compare Holyoke to other communities, including Chicopee and Agawam.

Some councilors pointed out potential issues with comparing salaries in Holyoke to those of other communities.

"I do want to make the point that you also have to do a comparison of the financial capacity of our city versus these other cities," Jourdain said.

He pointed out that Agawam has a much larger levy and tax base than Holyoke. Chicopee is also in a different place financially than Holyoke, as they were able to put \$10 million of their ARPA money into their stabilization account.

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Children were welcome to create drawings with sidewalk chalk provided to them.



The food truck Fritura Latina sold food at the Holyoke Public Library Mini-Golf event.



A variety of mini-golf holes were set up around Holyoke Public Library.

LIBRARY, from page 1

the quietest section of the library but today it is pretty happy and full of life.”

The library has been putting on this event annually since 2016. It was originally put on by the Friends of the Holyoke Library in an effort to create a more family-friendly fundraising event

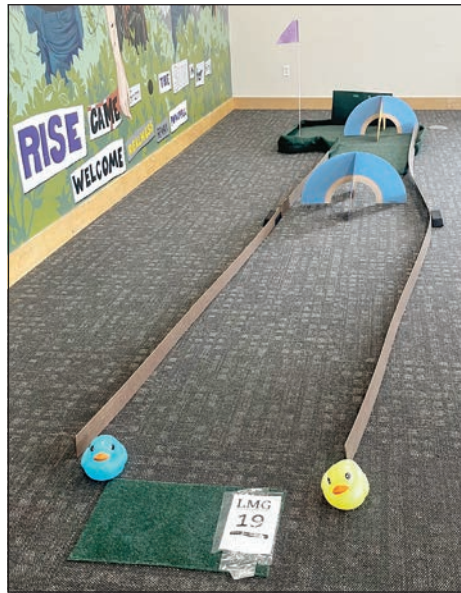
for the library.

“They just were sick of doing auctions and cocktail parties so they said, ‘what can we do that’s a fundraiser that’s different and brings more people to the library?’” Kocsmiersky said.

Since then the event has been a big success for the library, bringing in families from all around Holyoke to enjoy a day of fun.



Local Author Laura Louise had a meet the author table by the hole she sponsored at the Holyoke Public Library Mini-Golf event.



A practice mini-golf hole was made available in the community room for those who wanted to practice before beginning the game.



Nayroby Rosa from One Holyoke helped to run the human foosball game that One Holyoke created.



Maisie Mahoney putt her ball into the eighteenth hole. *Turley photos by Quinn Suomala*

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