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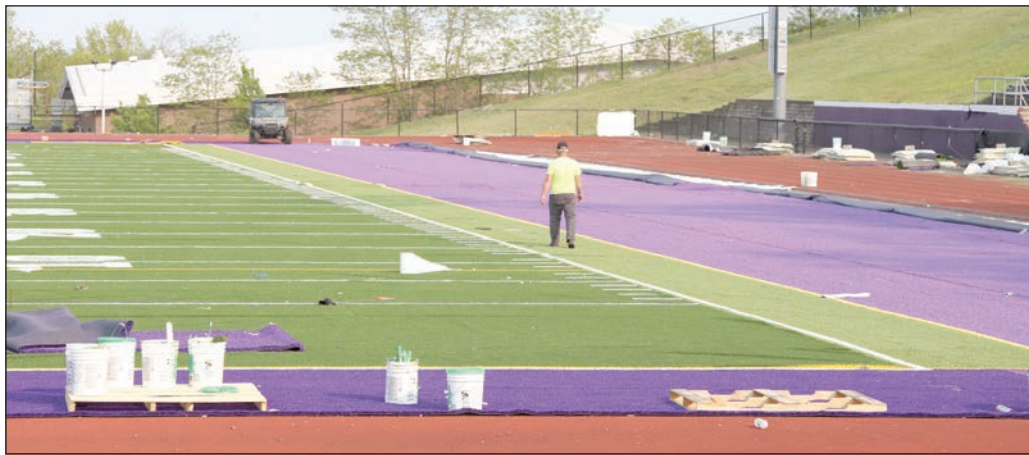
HOLYOKE the Sun

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FIELD FACE-LIFT



Crews work on installing new artificial turf at Roberts Sports Complex at Holyoke High School.



The artificial turf is currently being re-installed at Holyoke High School's Roberts Sports Complex this spring. The new turf field is nearing completion and will be ready in plenty of time for fall sports, including soccer, field hockey, and football. Fall sports get underway in mid-August. The new turf field is a multi-purpose field to be used for football, soccer, and field hockey.

Photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Garcia to present budget, update city

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com



Mayor
Joshua Garcia

HOLYOKE – Mayor Joshua Garcia announced he has called a special meeting of the Holyoke City Council on Tuesday, May 16 at 6:30 p.m. to make his “State of the City” address.

Since taking over as mayor, Garcia has been making the address in order to give a formal update to elected officials as well as the public at large and overall view of the current state of Holyoke.

According to Garcia, he expects to speak for about 30 minutes before yielding to the city council for their regular meeting at 7 p.m.

Garcia is expected to update the people on many of the ongoing projects and endeavors being taken on by his administration and city officials, but his other main purpose will be to present the fiscal 2024 budget.

The proposed budget has

not been placed online or published yet, so Garcia will highlight the main points of the upcoming budget and formally submit it for consideration to the city council.

From there, the city council is expected to hold multiple meetings with department heads and subcommittees in order to evaluate the merits of Garcia's proposal.

Late in June, the city council will need to vote to approve it. If the council fails to approve the budget at its first or second meeting in June, Garcia and the council will have to negotiate changes to the budget and then a special meeting will need to be scheduled for a re-vote, which has happened in the past. It did not happen last year with Garcia's first budget proposal since taking office in November 2021.

See UPDATE, page 12

More funding secured for Veterans' Home

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – State Sen. John Velis announced last week the state's office of Veterans Services has entered into an agreement with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for funding for the Holyoke Soldiers' Home.

The Holyoke Soldiers' Home, which was recently renamed the Veterans' Home in Holyoke, has been in the limelight for three years since 80 veterans of the home died early in the COVID-19 pandemic.

While a lot of the focus of those deaths has been on former Superintendent Bennett Walsh and his role in not preventing the deaths, the overall condition of the facility was also a focus of the state government.

Former Gov. Charlie Baker signed a massive bond bill to fund a new facility. A facility has been designed, and would provide 234 long-term care beds for veterans.

Veterans Affairs has pledged \$263.5 million in funding toward the new facility. The current building is more than 70-years-old.

Thanks to the federal funding, the state will only be responsible for about \$136.5 million for the project.

Velis was pleased to hear the news of the federal funding. Velis, a veteran, and in his second full term in the state senate, has been advocating for the Veterans' Home since the pandemic began.

“The announcement has been a long time in the making and is an important step towards making a new Holyoke Veterans' Home a reality,” Velis, who is Chairman of the Legislature's Veterans and Federal Affairs Committee. “This process started back in the spring of 2021 with the passage of the Legislature's bond bill, and it is truly exciting to see this federal funding come to fruition. This new facility, and this funding, will help ensure that the future residents of the Holyoke Veterans' Home and Veterans across the Commonwealth receive the care with honor and dignity that they have earned in service to our nation.”

As Chairman, Velis cham-

See VETERANS, page 12

SET IT UP



Nathan Luis Jusino competes in a volleyball match for Holyoke High School on Wednesday afternoon against Springfield International Charter School. More Knights sports action is on page 7.

Photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Challengers lining up for city council seats

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – Opposition is going to be huge in elections for the Holyoke City Council and Holyoke School Committee.

Unlike other cities where nomination papers are made available starting in May or June for that year's November election, Holyoke's elected official hopefuls were able to start taking out nomination papers in early January of this year with the general election set for Nov. 7.

If there are more than two candidates per elected seat, a preliminary election would take place on Tuesday, Sept. 26.

One seat that will not be up for election is the mayor's seat. Voters decided in 2015 to change the mayoral term from two to four years. Mayor Joshua Garcia was elected to

See COUNCIL, page 12

Barrett Fishway viewing opens up this weekend

HOLYOKE – The first and most successful fish lift on the Atlantic Coast, the Robert E. Barrett Fishway at the Holyoke Dam, opens for its annual viewing season on Wednesday, May 10, with special Mother’s Day activities on Sunday, May 14. The Fishway is fun for all ages and admission is free.

The Barrett Fishway, owned and operated by Holyoke Gas & Electric (HG&E), consists of two elevators or “lifts” which carry migrating fish up and over the Holyoke Dam. Visitors can watch the lifts in action from an observation deck overlooking the Connecticut River.

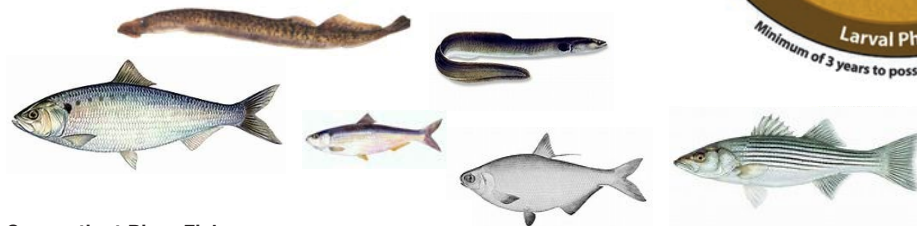
The fishway is open for self-guided tours during regular business hours. In addition, HG&E will provide a guided tour each Saturday and Sunday throughout the season at 1:30 p.m. This tour is free and open to the public. A knowledgeable and friendly guide will take

guests on a forty-five-minute tour of the facility and share information about fish species of the Connecticut River. Additionally, The Barrett Fishway offers free educational programs for schools. Reservations for school groups are required, please visit www.hged.com/ tour for details.

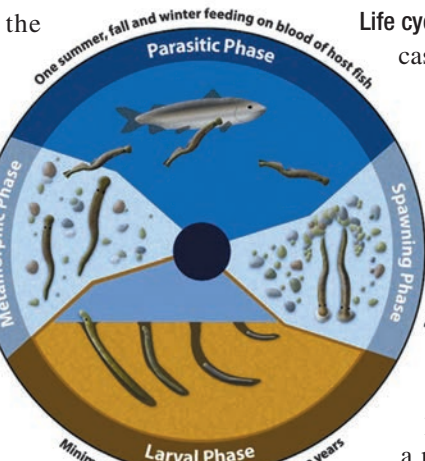
Continuing a decade-old tradition, all mothers visiting the Fishway on Sunday, May 14 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., will receive a free carnation to commemorate Mother’s Day and the spir-

it of re-birth on the Connecticut River.

In addition, the 56th Annual HG&E Shad Derby will be held on May 13, 14, 20, and 21 with a grand prize of \$1,000 in



Connecticut River Fishes



Life cycle of Sea Lamprey

cash for the first-place winner in the senior division (www.hged.com/shad-derby).

Located off Bridge Street (Route 116) in Holyoke, just west of the South Hadley-Holyoke Bridge, the Holyoke Fishway’s 2023 season runs from May 10 through June 18, hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. The facility is closed on Monday and Tuesday, with the exception of Monday, May 29 (Memorial Day) from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

For further information on the Barrett Fishway, visit www.hged.com/fishway or call (413) 536-9460.

Mayor to celebrate Malcolm X Day with ceremony at City Hall

HOLYOKE – Mayor Joshua A. Garcia, Ward 4 City Councilor Kocayne Givner and a group of community members will mark the birthday of Malcolm X with a ceremony at City Hall on Friday, May 19.

Mayor Garcia will read a proclamation and a speaker will reflect on the life of Malcolm X, an American Muslim minister and human rights activist prominent during the civil rights movement of

the 1960s.

Assassinated in 1965, he remains a highly regarded figure within African-American and Muslim-American communities for his pursuit of racial justice.

The Holyoke observance will be held in the Mayor’s Office starting at 2 p.m. when Mayor Garcia will read a proclamation declaring “Malcolm X Day in Holyoke.”

The public is invited.

Lifeguard classes offered in May

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Parks & Recreation Department is offering a lifeguard Red Cross certification training course at the Holyoke Boys and Girls Club (70 Nick Cosmos Way). The session will take place May 20 and 21 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Applicants must be 16 years of age. Strong swimmers are encouraged to apply. Participants must pass a pre-skills test at the start of class. The cost \$150 for Holyoke residents and \$250 for non-residents.

A Lifeguard Re-Certification Class

will also be offered on May 21. The class will run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Holyoke Boys and Girls Club (70 Nick Cosmos Way). Update your skills while also extending your certification for another two years. The cost is \$100 for Holyoke residents and \$200 for non-residents.

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

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

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LMHC launches Healthy Living Passport Program

HOLYOKE – The City of Holyoke and LMHC 5210 is excited to announce the launch of the Healthy Living Passport Program. LMHC 5210 is a collective of local community and government organizations that collaborate on numerous initiatives and projects to advocate for local health, food access, nutrition and wellness in the Hampden County area. The passport was created with the intention of encouraging residents to attend events throughout the city while promoting the importance of healthy and active living, participating in your community, and making opportunities fun and accessible to all. From May to October, residents who complete 3 eligible activities every month will be entered in raffles, where we will be giving away several gift cards and vouchers. Residents can get their



Passports at the Holyoke Farmers Market from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. located on Heritage Street to participate in this program.

This Explore Holyoke Link shows all eligible activities, how to use the passport, and the raffle entry form. <https://www.exploreholyokey.com/guide/holyoke-healthy-living-passport/>

To partners, business and organizations we invite you to participate in this program by registering your activity/event by filling out the google form below or find us directly on the Explore

Holyoke website. As a site, you can choose to register as a one-day event, several days event or choose to be a permanent location. By participating in this program, you will be provided with stamps and site location posters. This will help promote your event to the residents of Holyoke and encourage them to attend your event. We believe that this program will be a great opportunity for you to showcase your event or location to the residents of the city. This is an additional incentive for residents to participate in what they are already doing and encourage them to get involved.

Use this link to register your site. https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc6SgTR8wMB6airIAYYP-m1AtLzj3JB0Z0vR7Q2RdIQ83BdIQ/viewform?usp=pp_url.

Church tag sale May 20 and 21

HOLYOKE – Our Lady of the Cross Church will hold a tag sale on Saturday, May 20 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday, May 21 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. rain or shine. The event will be held at Our Lady of the Cross Parish Hall, 1140 Dwight St., Holyoke. There will be tons of treasures for all ages. For more information, please call 413-532-5661.

Shredding event set for Saturday

HOLYOKE – The Friends of the Holyoke Senior Center are hosting a Community Shred to benefit the Center. It will be held at the Center, 291 Pine St., Holyoke, Saturday, May 13 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, Rain or Shine, suggested donation \$5 per box, the size of a carton of copy paper. Easthampton Savings Bank is sponsoring the Shredding Company on our behalf.

Dean students inducted into NTHS

HOLYOKE – Earlier this week, 29 students from Holyoke High School Dean Campus were inducted into the National Technical Honor Society, including 14 juniors and 15 seniors. To be considered for this honor, students must maintain an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher. They are also expected to embody seven key attributes: leadership, scholarship, skills, honesty, citizenship, service and responsibility.

The National Technical Honor Society is an educational non-profit that exists to honor, recognize, and empower students and teachers in Career and Technical Education. NTHS serves more than 100,000 active members annually in both secondary

and postsecondary chapters across the country. Since its founding in 1984, nearly a million students have become NTHS alumni. NTHS honors the achievements of top CTE students, provides close to \$300,000 in scholarships annually, and strives to help connect education and industry to build a highly skilled workforce.

Newly inducted Dean juniors include:

Christian Claudio, Natalie Colon, Genesy Cruz, Elijah De Jesus Torres, Anaisha Lopez, Jedreck Morales, Amy Pantaleon Bernal, Elijah Quinn, Jenaye Rodriguez, Isaac Rosado, Felix Santiago, Dayshaliz Torres, Taysha Torres and Yadiel Toro Pabon.

Volunteers needed for grave flagging

HOLYOKE – Every year throughout the Memorial Day Holiday citizens in our community gather in a time-honored tradition in flagging Veterans graves. It's our way of paying tribute to those who have served our country honorably in the Armed forces.

We cordially invite the public to participate. The following cemeteries will be flagged on the dates indicated below:

Calvary 2140 Northampton St 01040 – May 23 at 3 p.m., rain date May 25 at 3 p.m.

Elmwood 2190 Northampton St 01040 - May 23 at 3 p.m., rain date May 25 at p.m.

Forestdale 304 Cabot St 01040 – May 26 3 p.m. rain or shine
St. Jerome 125 St. Jerome Ave 01040 – May 27 at 10 a.m. rain or shine

HPS receives grant from Project Bread to support summer meal program

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Public Schools has received a \$4,000 grant from Project Bread's "Summer Eats" program to support the district's summer meals program. Grant funds will be used to purchase insulated coolers, mobile tables, chairs, and umbrellas for outside seating at the district's five summer feeding locations. The grant will also help cover the cost of printing and distributing promotional flyers so Holyoke families will be aware of the program.

Project Bread is a statewide organization committed to preventing and ending hunger in Massachusetts. The organization's Summer Eats grants

help ensure that all children in the state remain nourished over the summer months when school is not in session.

While HPS has offered summer meals to students for a number of years, this summer the district will be rolling out its brand new—and very colorful—food truck that was purchased as part of a \$500,000 grant from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to help address food insecurity issues throughout the City of Holyoke. The mobile food truck will distribute meals throughout the city, starting with summer feeding sites and then expanding to other community and school locations.

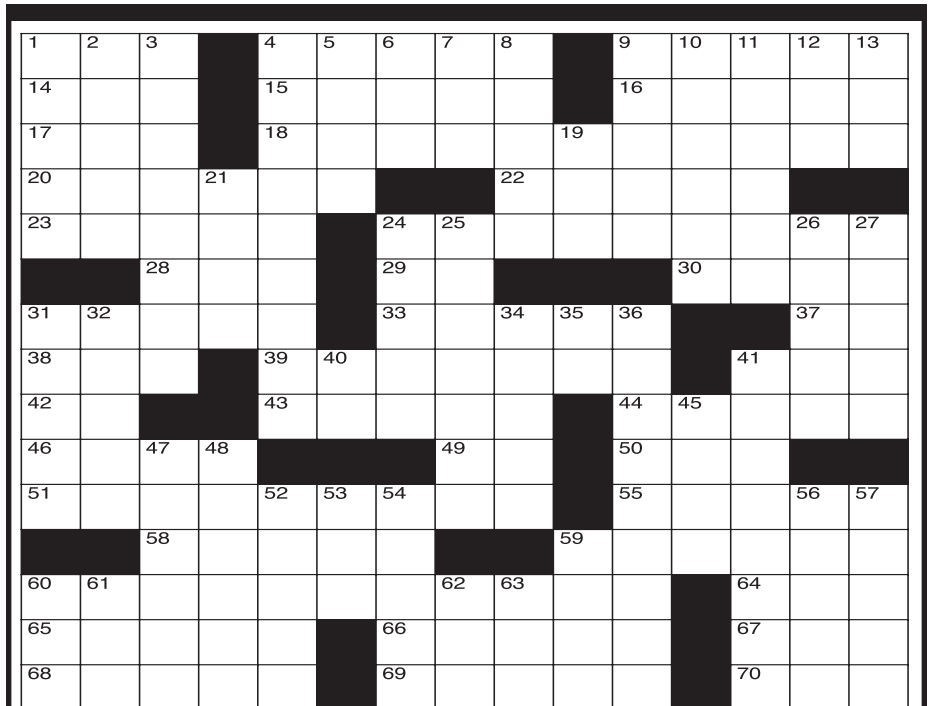
Annual fireworks at Holyoke Community

HOLYOKE – The City of Holyoke will be hosting the annual 4th of July fireworks on Friday, June 30 (with a rain-date of July 7). The event will take place on the grounds of Holyoke Community College, at 303 Homestead Avenue.

Vendors interested in taking part in the event should contact the Parks and Recreation Department before June 16, for a permit application at 413-322-5620.

We encourage everyone to come early to enjoy the music and food from a variety of vendors as well as many children's activities. The event begins at 6 p.m., with the fireworks display scheduled to start at dusk.

If you have any questions, please call the Mayor's Office at 413-561-1600.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Midway between south and southeast
4. Fathers
9. Wine grape
14. Al Bundy's wife
15. Organic compound
16. Venezuelan state
17. Interest term
18. Experts
20. Central cores of stems
22. Smooth and glossy
23. One-time S. Korean city
24. One from Damascus
28. Short message at the end of an email
29. It cools your home
30. Oh, God!
31. Intestinal pouches
33. Men
37. Popular English soccer team (abbr.)
38. Former CIA
39. Arrange in steps
41. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
42. The Great Lake State
43. Dog-___: to mark a page
44. Stop moving
46. Ancient Dead Sea region
49. Of I
50. Clerical vestment
51. Songs sung to a lover
55. Charges
58. Popular design program manufacturer
59. Where to park a boat
60. One who values reason
64. Slang for cigarette
65. Sailboats
66. Actress Zellweger
67. Screen material
68. Country music legend Haggard
69. Puts together in time
70. When you hope to arrive

CLUES DOWN

1. An involuntary and abnormal muscular contraction
2. Philly's rail service
3. Leaves a place
4. No longer be a part in
5. Guitar players use them
6. Cease to exist
7. General's assistant (abbr.)
8. Shaking of the earth
9. Strong winds
10. For each one
11. A bog
12. The creation of beautiful or significant things
13. Affirmative
19. Pie ___ mode
21. Nonclerical
24. Inspirational football player Hamlin
25. Learning environment
26. Khoikhoi peoples
27. Bring out or develop
31. Shows up
32. Theatrical device
34. Loads
35. Popular Hollywood alien
36. Distinguishes
40. College dorm worker
41. Secondary or explanatory title
45. Resembling wings
47. One who delivers a speech
48. In the middle
52. Loop with a running knot
53. Airborne (abbr.)
54. Beloveds
56. Ordain
57. Breed of small cattle
59. Very small period of time (abbr.)
60. Revolutions per minute
61. They ___
62. Longtime ESPN anchor Bob
63. A place to stay

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 11

Poetry Corner

Happiest of Happy Mothers Day

By Thomas J. Kennedy

*Yes Mothers - All who dedicated
Time - Sacrifice caring for . . .
Your Love and Trust schaving me.
Happy Mothers Day Mom . . .
Your Kindness - Sweeter than perfume!!!
Happy Mothers Day!*

CHECK OUT ALL THE

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Guest Column

Survivor benefits and spousal benefits are not the same



By Rusty Gloor

Dear Rusty: I will be 70 in August and will file my application for benefits in May. I know I'll get my maximum possible amount at age 70, but I need you to clarify things I have read. Per an award-winning TV host, author,] and host of a money podcast "if the higher-earning spouse delays until age 70 to claim Social Security, that guarantees the survivor the biggest possible benefit." But then I read in a different article that if a person delays beyond their full retirement age to obtain a higher personal benefit like I have, my spouse's benefit would still be based on my FRA benefit amount. I am confused about which statement is the correct version.

Confused About My Spouse's Benefit

Dear Confused:

I'm not surprised that you are confused about these seemingly contradictory statements. It is, indeed, quite logical and common for a widow or widower to think they must apply for a "spousal benefit" from their

deceased spouse. And while that's technically true, those of us who live in this often confusing world of Social Security jargon would say the widow or widower is applying for a survivor benefit, not a spousal benefit. What's the difference? Well, when you're speaking with a Social Security representative or an advisor, the term "spousal benefit" means something entirely different than the term "survivor benefit."

The two articles you mention are, I believe, referring to two different types of Social Security benefit. The term "survivor benefit" is typically used to describe benefits available to a surviving spouse when the higher earner dies, but the term "spousal benefit" is typically used to denote benefits available to a lower earning spouse when both partners are still living. I agree this is confusing and that distinction was apparently not clear in the articles you read. Therefore, to clear your confusion:

If the higher earning spouse dies and has delayed claiming until age 70, that does, indeed, "guarantee the surviving spouse the biggest possible benefit." The survivor's benefit is based on the full amount the deceased was receiving at death.

If both spouses are living and the higher-earning spouse delayed until age 70 to claim, their living spouse's benefit, when the higher-earning spouse claims, will be a maximum

of 50% of the higher-earning spouse's Full Retirement Age amount. A living spouse's benefit is based on their partner's FRA amount, regardless of when their partner actually claimed.

So, in your case, your wife's spousal benefit from you while you are both living will be based on your FRA entitlement, even though you waited longer to claim. But if you die first, your wife's survivor benefit as your widow will be based on 100% of the amount you were receiving at your death. In effect, both statements you referred to in your question are true considering that they refer to two different benefit types. It is a terminology distinction which frequently causes misunderstanding.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature American Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association, NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. 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.



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A Quote

OF NOTE

"Inspiration comes from within yourself. One has to be positive. When you're positive, good things happen."

Deep Roy

One of Congress's most important jobs has gotten much harder



By Lee Hamilton

In the pantheon of writings about Congress, California Rep. Katie Porter's new book will almost certainly draw attention for her unvarnished takes on the institution and her colleagues. In "I Swear: Politics is Messier Than My Minivan," Porter finds plenty of targets, including her fellow House members, staffers, lobbyists – and how a seat in Congress is increasingly out of reach for ordinary Americans.

"Congress is full of multimillionaires for the same reason that the NBA is full of tall people," Porter – a single working mother – writes.

"It's easier to get recruited and win with such advantages."

That's all good fodder for commentary, but the line that really drew my attention is one that probably won't get much notice. "As I see it," she writes, "the real work of Congress is civic education."

I agree.

Nowhere in the Constitution does it say that the job of members of Congress is

to educate their constituents, colleagues or Americans as a whole, but the plain truth is that they can't be effective as representatives or as politicians on Capitol Hill unless they do. Serving as trustworthy sources of facts and analysis ought to be a key part of every legislator's responsibilities, both in their chambers and at home.

There are any number of reasons for this. The issues Congress deals with are often complicated and full of nuance, but even on some of the most basic facts, there's widespread misunderstanding. No, foreign aid is not a significant part of the U.S. budget; it's less than 1%.

No, undocumented immigrants aren't disproportionately responsible for crimes, compared to native-born Americans. No, China doesn't own more than half of U.S. debt; in fact, the largest foreign holder of the debt, at least as of late last year, was Japan, but even it pales in comparison to the almost 22% of that debt held by the federal government itself (Social Security is a big player) and the 20% by the Federal Reserve system.

My point here is not to bombard you with facts, but to say that they matter when policy is being formulated. That's especially true in Congress, where the starting point for reaching some sort of compromise on any given issue is being able to agree on a common set of facts. To build consensus, you have to clear misperceptions out of the way – in such

a politically diverse body it's hard enough to hammer out an agreement when everyone agrees on the basics, but it's impossible when the players can't even find common ground on the facts.

This holds equally true when members of Congress and political candidates try to explain their positions or build support for them with the public. Voters are inundated with "information" – some of it reliable, much of it not. Our system asks them to sort through it and arrive at conclusions about what's best for their communities and the country as a whole. Legislators have access to a broad array of trustworthy information and analysis, and in an ideal world would play a key part in helping ordinary Americans work through and understand the issues in front of them.

But, of course, we don't live in an ideal world. Lots of powerful groups – some legitimate, some malign – seek to manipulate public opinion and they're very good at it. Even worse, some members of Congress and of state legislatures in recent years have shown themselves less interested in purveying facts than politically convenient misinformation. For politicians who are dedicated to communicating the facts and what they mean for policy, the sheer cacophony of misleading information and trolling by their colleagues makes things much more difficult.

See CONGRESS page 6

Letters to the Editor Policy

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.

in my BACKYARD
By Ellenor Downer

The ovenbird gets its name from the type of nest it builds, which looks like a Dutch oven.

They place the nest on the ground and it has a domed roof over the nest of grasses and rootlets. The entrance is a small slit.

The female lays three to six white eggs with brown and gray marks. They inhabit mature deciduous or mixed forests. They eat insects, worms and spiders. They walk on the ground and fallen branches and poke under leaves looking for food.

An Oakham resident has ovenbirds in her yard. She hears them making a sharp “chip” call.

The ovenbird is six inches long and has an olive-brown back. Its breast and belly with white with heavy dark stripes. The ovenbird crown is orange bordered by two dark brown stripes.



Dutch oven

Barred owl

An Oakham resident saw a barred owl in her yard on April 28. She said in an email, “I had a surprise visitor this evening, a beautiful barred owl sat on my deck railing for quite a while. He looked all around before flying up to a maple tree. He sat in the tree for several minutes before going into the woods at the edge of my yard. I finally saw what he was after. He was tracking a squirrel.” The owl and squirrel went tree to tree.

Hummingbirds

The same resident sent me an email on May 3 to say she got her first hummingbird on May 2. A friend in Barre told her that her neighbors already had hummingbirds so the Oakham resident put out feeders.

She was glad she already had her feeder up when the first hummingbird appeared.

She said, “For the first time in 31 years of living here, I got my first bluebirds. I bought mealworms and set up my first tray feeder ever. I cannot get over all the birds who have gone to the tray feeder who have been ground eaters, morning doves, juncos and even a robin.

Leucistic rose breasted grosbeak

A Palmer resident sent a photo of a Leucistic rose breasted grosbeak at her feeder. The grosbeak, a male had a lot of white feathers, but it did have the rose colored splash on its breast. This phenomenon causes the partial loss of all types of pigmentation and causes white coloration, white patches, spots or splotches.

Baltimore orioles

An Oakham couple had Baltimore orioles at their suet feed-

er this week. They were going to get some oranges to put out for the orioles as well. I put out an orange this week.

The next morning I found one half of the orange on the ground and another on a rock about ten feet from the holder where I put the orange halves. I think it was the work of a grey squirrel or squirrels as I have lots of them.

Wood stork

I received a note in the mail from a Palmer resident, who saw a wood stork. She wrote, “Two mornings in a row, I saw a wood stork fly and land in some bushes on the cove at Lake Thompson in Palmer. Imagine my surprise – white bird with black wing tips – wood stock is from Florida.” She said she opened her “Journal” to she who the bird person was and there was a picture of a heron and my address.

Other birds

The Oakham resident, who has the oven birds, saw two hooded mergansers on Long Pond a few weeks ago.

Originally, I planed to put out my hummingbird feeder the weekend of April 29 and 30, but it was so cold I decided to wait. Instead, I put the feeder out this past Saturday and I spotted hummingbirds on Sunday.

This Monday I saw a catbird. I also have not seen any dark-eyed juncos lately. I think they have all headed north to their nesting grounds.

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.

in the Garden
by Roberta McQuaid

Mid spring questions for the Garden Lady

Lisa, who has a beautiful daffodil collection in Palmer, wrote in with this question for the Garden Lady: “I planted a Rugosa rose bush that has encroached on a planting of ‘Barrett Browning’ Daffodils. For the first year in over a decade, I had no blossoms at all! I want to move them out of the way of the rose bush but I don’t know if it is the right time or not. Can I lift and divide them now or should I wait?”

Thank you for your question! It is the perfect time to move your daffodils!

One thing to keep in mind, however, is that the bulbs will likely be in the ground deeper than you think. I actually use a spade when I have to dig mine up, so that is it a straight, up and down slice.

I start four or five inches all the way around the clump and then carefully lift it out entirely, foliage intact.

Usually, it is pretty easy to tease the bulbs apart by hand, separating them by size. The biggest ones I replant at the same depth they were planted prior, with ground level at the point where the foliage turns pale.

See GARDEN, page 6

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PROJECT BREAD



Velis highlights behavioral health funding

HOLYOKE – As the Senate Committee on Ways & Means released its FY24 Budget proposal today, State Sen. John Velis (D-Westfield) highlighted the record funding included in the package for behavioral health initiatives. Building off the Mental Health ABC Act of last session, the budget invests over \$1.3 billion to support a spectrum of behavioral health services and prevention programs for adults and children.



State Sen. John Velis

“As Mental Health Awareness Month continues, this budget proposal emphasizes the Senate’s steadfast commitment to supporting individuals struggling with mental health issues and substance use disorders,” said Senator Velis, who is Senate Chair of the Mental Health, Substance Use, & Recovery Committee.

The budget proposal includes \$597.7 million for Adult Support Services, including assisted outpatient

programming, and \$316.3 million for Department of Mental Health hospitals and community-based services.

Much of the additional funding is focused on recommendations from the Behavioral Health Advisory Commission, including \$100 million for a loan repayment program for behavioral health workers, \$25 million for scholarship programs and another \$25 million to support currently unpaid clinical hours that are required for internships, field placements, and apprenticeships.

“A lot of this focus is on our behavioral health workforce and how we can encourage more folks to get into these fields and retain them,” said Senator Velis. “But another major part of this is about making investments in areas where folks are feeling the impact of this crisis the hardest. That is why the Senate budget also makes a major com-

mitment in the behavioral health needs of our most vulnerable populations, with a key focus on our schools and students. We have a lot to do in the behavioral health space and I am proud of these investments as chairman.

The Senate budget proposal also includes:

- \$25 million for emergency department diversion initiatives for children, adolescents, and adults, a \$15 million increase over the FY 2023;
- \$19.2 million for student behavioral health services across public colleges, K-12 colleges, and early education centers; and
- \$119.3 million for children’s mental health services, including \$1 million for universal mental health screenings in schools.

Senators have until Friday, May 12, to file amendments to the budget proposal, which will then be debated by the Senate later in May. Velis noted that he looks forward to working with his colleagues to improve the legislation even more.

Biking Committee holding meeting

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Biking and Pedestrian Committee will hold a meeting Monday, May 15, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Holyoke Public Library to discuss the importance of bike racks in the city, bikeability and walkability. Craig Della Penna of the Norwottuck Network will be the guest speaker.

The Norwottuck Network is a nonprofit corporation that supports the build-out and operation of the Mass Central Rail Trail, the longest rail trail in New England.

Participants will also have an opportunity to take a survey seeking input on the new Beyond Walls murals.



CONGRESS, from page 4

This does not mean, however, that they should just throw up their hands. In the end, representative democracy is a dialogue between citizens seeking to make good judgments and elected officials determined to help them do so.

Politicians who are devoted to understanding the facts that underlie complex issues and then to explaining them to the public perform a vital service in our democracy. Those are ones who deserve our respect and support.

Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O’Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

GARDEN, from page 5

The general rule of thumb for distance from one another is twice the width of the bulb apart. This can vary depending on the variety.

A sprinkling of balanced fertilizer mixed in with the soil in the planting hole and thorough watering will get them off to a great start, hopefully with flowers for many years to come!

A question about sowing annual flowers came in from Melinda, who is introducing her young daughters to flower gardening. “I have never had much luck planting flower seeds directly in the ground. Either the rain washes them away or they come up too close. Is it too late to start a few easy flowers indoors?”

I love that you are sharing your love of gardening with your chil-

dren! My mom did that with me and it shaped my career path, for sure.

I would so eagerly anticipate planting our garden every year! (Happy Mother’s Day, mom!) Certainly it isn’t too late to get a head start. I would recommend sowing easy to handle annuals, plants like zinnia, marigold, calendula and bachelor’s button.

They don’t take long to germinate and would be a manageable size by the end of the month, ready to be moved into the garden after the danger of frost has passed.

Generally, I fill up six-packs with moist potting soil and press two seeds per pack into the soil and cover slightly.

I like to keep them warm to start, but once the seeds sprout, I try to have them outside for most of the time, so that they don’t get too leggy in the

house. If both seeds sprout, I’ll separate them at planting time.

One variety that does not need to be started indoors is the sunflower, if you try, usually the plants will end up spindly and tall and difficult to transplant. Simply sow these in place, thinning to at least a foot apart.

My friend would always allow the seeds to mature on the plant and let them fall where they may, creating a colorful and eye-catching vegetable patch!

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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Yomar Rodriguez pitches for the Knights.



Raul Lopez Ofray gets ready to field a ground ball.

Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Holyoke offense picks up for win

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

CHICOPEE – Even though the Holyoke varsity baseball team was leading rival Chicopee High School by eight runs entering the bottom of the seventh inning, first-year Purple Knights head coach Dave Guzman wasn't very comfortable standing in the first base dugout.

The Pacers scored an unearned run in their final at-bats, but the Valley Central Division contest ended with a double play and the Purple Knights celebrated a 9-2 victory at Szot Park in Chicopee, last Wednesday afternoon.

"I always preach to my players that you have to play the entire seven innings

See **BASEBALL**, page 8



Adrian Centeno-Feliciano goes for a block.



Adrian Centeno-Feliciano goes for a point.



Willie Lopez Morales tries to hit the ball past his opponent.



Jeduar Colon Lanauasse hands down a spike.
Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Gedeon Ortiz-Torres goes low to keep play going.

Knights boys volleyball team sweep Pacers

HOLYOKE – The Knights boys volleyball team is just a couple of wins away from qualifying for the state tournament. Last week, the Knights took care of visiting Chicopee 3-0. The Knights won straight sets 25-15, 25-15, and 25-17. Willie Lopez Morales had 10 kills while Jeduar Colon Lanauasse had 20 digs and five kills. Holyoke is 7-6.



Nelson Figueroa gets a soft bump.

Robie takes modifieds win at Monadnock

WINCHESTER, N.H. – Modified super star Brian Robie won Sunday's 80-lap NHSTRA Modified feature at Monadnock Speedway, first setting fast time in time trials, and then leading the final 54 laps of the afternoon's main event to top the second annual Duel at The Dog biggie.

Other winners on 2023 opening weekend at the storied quarter-mile speedbowl included Tim Wenzel after a post-race inspection was concluded awarding him the win in the NHSTRA Late Models, Cole Littlewood, who wired the Outlaw main, and Gordon Farnum, who rocketed to victory lane in the Mini Stock feature, something he did a dozen times a summer ago. On Saturday's event, Colton Martin took the Pure Stock victory. Owen Zilinski led all the way to score the Young Guns victory. Steve Miller, last summer's Six Shooter champion at Claremont, led all the way Sunday to earn his first career Monadnock victory.

Sunapee's Robie a former track Modified champion here set fast time with a blistering circuit of 12.660 seconds Sunday, the fastest of four sub-13 drivers in the 18-car field. By virtue of a top-four redraw, Sammy Rameau and Aaron Fellows sat on row one as the 80-lap main went green.

Rameau, who like Robie has impressed in past victories here, jumped all over the opening lead and set fast time the first 25 times around. But then Robie, from row two, took control and never looked back.

Fellows, strong in third until the victim of the second – of five – cautions, would return to notch a top ten finish, but with Robie and Rameau setting a blistering pace, it was Kimmy Rivet, methodical all afternoon as she marched forward from row five, earning an impressive



Brian Robie took the win in last Sunday's modified event. Submitted photo

third-place finish.

Kenny Thompson led the first 20 go-rounds of the Late Model feature but Ryan Bell, firing from row three, then took charge and outran 2022 Monadnock champ Tim Wenzel and Thompson into victory lane. In a post-race inspection, Wenzel was awarded the win.

Farnum, who sold his championship Mini Stock ride only hours before Sunday's feature gave it one last dash to victory lane. Cole Littlewood led all the way to win Sunday's Outlaw main just ahead of Steve Bly. Littlewood's brother Justin won the same event a year ago.

Monadnock Speedway will return to action on Msy 20, when it begins its 2023

Saturday night racing series as it hosts Military Appreciation Night, with a seven-division card of racing.

Results:

May 6 event

Pure Stocks: Colton Martin, Zach Zilinski, CJ Johnson, Chris Davis Carlos Grenier, Chris Conroy, Teagan Edson, Mike Douglas, Dominick Stafford, Tim Taft, Trevor Carey, Chris Bingham, Jim Rhodes, Aaliyah Tacy, Matt Croteau, Ricky Melcher

May 7 Event:

Young Guns: Owen Zilinski, Adrian Smith, Emma Blake, Markus O'Neil, Kailyn Hubbard, Hunter Douglas

Six Shooters: Steve Miller, Michael, Yraton, Jacob Scott, Steve Miller Jr., John Thibodeau, Zach Zilinski, Andrew Scott, Tyler Scott, Garrett Barry, Rozwell Mason

Mini Stocks: Gordon Farnum, Louis Maher, Jon Fultz, Kevin Clayton, Chris Sontag, Robert Williams, Cameron Sontag, Patrick Houle, Skyler Shippee, Greg Millette, Reagan Buffum, Matt Lambert, Kyle Templeton

NHSTRA Outlaws: Cole Littlewood, Steve Bly, Phil Meany, John Meany, Leighton Lutz

NHSTRA Late Models: Tim Wenzel, Kenny Thompson, Hillary Renaud, JD Stockwell, Chris Emerson, Isabella Minchella, Kevin McKnight, Dan Robinson, Chris Castor, Robert Hagar

NHSTRA Modifieds: Brian Robie, Sammy Rameau, Kim Rivet, Tyler Leary, Geoff Rollins, Scott Zilinski, Jeff Battle, Adam Lapoint, Eric Leclair, Aaron Fellows, Nathan Wenzel, Nancy Muni-Ruot, Brian Chapin, Cole Littlewood, Josh Carey, Blair Culhane, Cory Plummer, Joel Belanger

Run for Rice's 5K Road Race set for June 3

WILBRAHAM – The 11th annual "Run for Rice's 5K Road Race" will be held on Saturday, June 3 at 9 a.m. This popular, family-friendly 5K road race begins at Christ the King – Epiphany Church, 758 Main Street, Wilbraham, and winds through a flat, fast course in surrounding neighborhoods, ending at Rice Fruit Farm across the street from the start. Pre-registration fee for runners and walkers is \$20, while day-of-race registration is \$25.

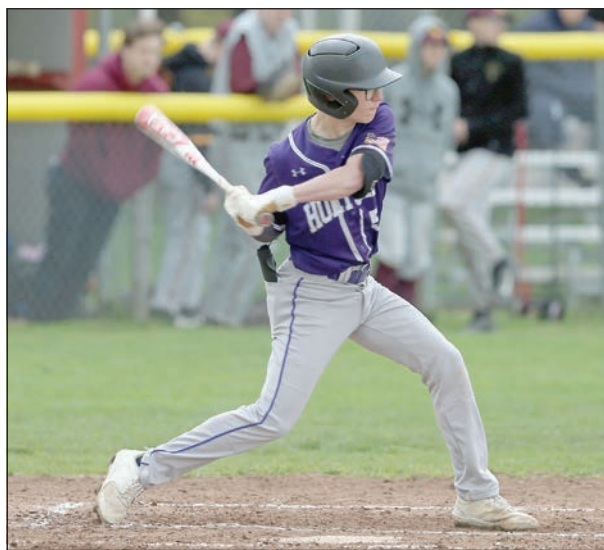
Ages 18 and under registration is \$15 including day-of registration. The first 150 registered runners by May 20 will receive our famous race t-shirt featuring the "Running Apple" logo, and all registered runners will receive a free Rice Fruit Farm ice cream with their bib number on day of race only.

Cash prizes will be awarded in several categories, and all proceeds benefit the Rice Nature Preserve maintenance fund of the Minnechaug Land Trust.

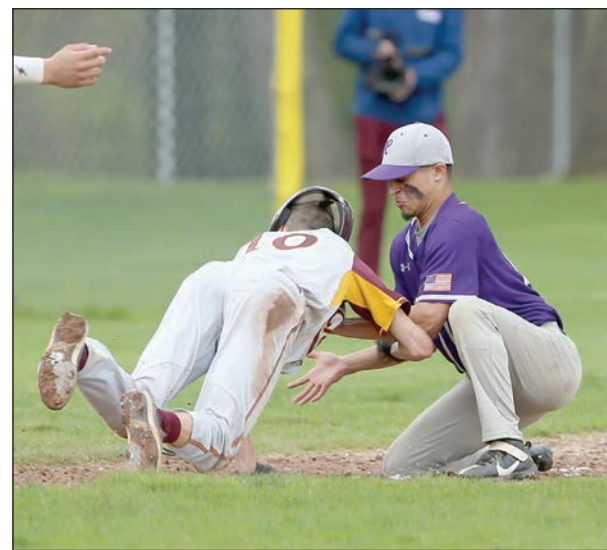
Race day registration will be open from 7:30 a.m. until 8:45 a.m. On-line registration now available at RunSignUp.com, and paper registration forms can be downloaded at the Minnechaug Land Trust website www.minnechauglandtrust.org.



Nathan Pok winds up for a throw to first.



Pablo Tapion takes a swing.



Devan Santos goes for the tag.

Photos by David Henry

BASEBALL, from page 7

because you never know what's going to happen in a game," said Guzman, who had been an assistant baseball coach at Holyoke High School from 2008-2018. "A team can get hot with two outs in the final inning and score seven runs. We did finish the game with a double play, which was fantastic."

Following the road victory, the Purple Knights had a 5-7 overall record, and they were tied for first place in the league standings with Agawam with a 3-1 mark.

"We're a very young team this year. Our starting infielders are either freshmen or sophomores," Guzman added. "I think we'll be a very good baseball team in the next couple of years."

The duo of senior righthander Yomar Rodriguez and junior righty Marty Phillips held the Pacers to just two runs (one earned) on five base hits.

"Yomar is our ace. He has pitched very well all season long," Guzman said. "Marty also pitched well in relief."

Rodriguez, who was the winning pitcher, hurled the first four innings. He didn't allow any runs on just three hits with four strikeouts and three walks. Phillips gave up two runs on two base hits over the final three frames. He had two strikeouts and walked one.

The Pacers (3-8, 2-2), who lost the first meeting of the regular season to the Purple Knights, 7-1, didn't play very well defensively in last Wednesday's home game.

Holyoke took advantage of five errors in the second inning to take a 4-0 lead.

Two runs crossed the plate following throwing errors by the catcher. Another run scored following a throwing error by the third baseman.

Holyoke sophomore third baseman Darwin Jimenez accounted for the other run with a line drive single into left field.

Chicopee senior lefty Brady Burnett retired the first two batters that he faced on ground ball outs in the third inning before suffering an arm injury.

Burnett was able to stay in the game. He traded places with junior first baseman Caleb Morrissette. The righty walked the first three batters that he faced before ending the two out rally with a strikeout.

With two outs in the bottom of the third, Chicopee junior centerfielder Henry Ryczek beat out a tapper up the first base line for an infield hit.

Ryczek was one of the bright spots for the home team, as he finished the game with four base hits, which were all singles.

Then pinch hitter Cyair Charles, who's a sophomore, followed with a walk, and Burnett had another infield hit. It should've loaded the bases, but Ryczek, who rounded third base too far, was tagged out following a rundown.

The Pacers did load the bases with one out in the next inning.

Junior catcher Xavion Maldonado and senior second baseman Caleb Fontaine drew walks, while junior shortstop Zach Oldenburg reached first base following a fielding error by the

third baseman.

Rodriguez escaped that jam with a strikeout and a foul pop-up caught by freshman first baseman Justin Rivera.

The Purple Knights scored four more runs in the fifth inning.

The biggest hit of that frame was a two-run single by sophomore second baseman Raul Lopez-Ofray.

Holyoke's other two runs scored on errors.

Trailing 8-0, Chicopee got on the scoreboard in the bottom half of the inning following a Burnett sacrifice fly to center field, which brought home Ryczek.

Holyoke got that run back when senior right fielder Anibal Diaz-Ofray scored on the back end of a double steal play with two outs in the sixth inning.

The Pacers scored an unearned run in the seventh before the Purple Knights turned a nifty 4-6-3 double play ending the ballgame.

The Chicopee players did celebrate a 10-7 home victory over Granby two days later.

Pioneers U19, U15 take part in tournament

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW – Two girls soccer teams representing the Western United Pioneers had the opportunity to compete in the third annual USL Academy Cup, which was held at the Tournament Sportsplex in Tampa Bay, Florida, from March 30-April 2.

It was the first time that the Western United Pioneers participated in the event.

“The tournament was run very well, and it was a great experience for our girls,” said Joe Ferrara, who’s the Director of Soccer Operations for the Western United Pioneers. “I’ve received a lot of positive feedback from both the parents and the players.”

The Western United Pioneers U19 and U15 soccer teams took part in this year’s Academy Cup matches because the Western Mass. Pioneers, which is a semi-pro men’s team, is a member of the USL (United Soccer League).

“The USL Academy is a youth platform for professional teams within in the USL system,” said Ferrara, who’s also the Pioneers General Manager. “Having the Pioneers gives us the rights to have the USL Academy teams.”

Federico Molinari coached both the U19 and the U15 teams at the USL Academy Cup. He has been coaching the Pioneers men’s soccer team for the past ten years. He’s also the club’s Director of Coaching.

“It was a great experience coaching the two soccer teams. The players worked very hard at the Academy Cup,” Molinari said. “It was also the first time that we combined two age groups together. We really didn’t know how the other teams down there were going to be, but both of our teams competed very well against them.”

The U-19 girls’ team, which was made up of players born in 2006 and 2007, finished with a 1-2-1 record.

“Players who were born in 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007 were eligible to play for the U19 team,” Ferrara said. “Our U19 team was one of youngest teams down there. We played mostly against 05 players. Our club currently doesn’t have a 05 team and the majority of the 04 players are in college and they would be ineligible to play in the tournament.”

The U19 team lost their first two matches 1-0 against teams from West Virginia and Tennessee.

“We hit the post three times in our first two games,” Molinari said. “The other team had a shot hit off the post, but the ball went into the net.”

After playing a 1-1 tie against a team from Miami, Florida, the Western United Pioneers finished the tournament by posting a 4-3 victory over a team from New Jersey.

“Overall, the U19 team had a very good showing,” Ferrara added. “We played against older teams from the

south, who have been playing together for a few years. Our two teams only had five or six training sessions.”

Twelve of the U19 players attend a high school located in the region.

Those players are Mia Carvalho (Ludlow), Sophia Scyocurka (Ludlow), Calleigh Foley (Ludlow), Emma Ellis (Ludlow), Brianna Ribeiro (Belchertown), Fallon Clancy (Belchertown), Brooke Burrows (Belchertown), Christina Ritter (Agawam), Ava Chevalier (Tantasqua Regional), Tess Chevalier (Tantasqua Regional), Claire Poindexter (Minnechaug Regional), and McKenzie Murray (Minnechaug Regional).

The U15 team, which was made up of players born in 2008 and 2009, finished the tournament with a 0-1-3 record. All three of their draws were scoreless.

Twelve members of the U15 squad also live in the Turley Publications coverage area.

They are Audrey Afonso (Ludlow), Aneysha Donais (Ludlow), Kacie Klimek (Ludlow), Valentina Molinari (Ludlow), Payton Dersarkisian (Ludlow), Ava Friese (Ludlow), Zorah Wray (Minnechaug Regional), Madison Boulanger (Chicopee), Maeve Carter (Chicopee), Makenna Sacco (Hampden), Carson Humphries (Hampden), and Isabel Moreau (Belchertown).

“I’ve coached the 09 players in the past,” Molinari said. “The 09 players had

to adapt to playing with the 08 players. It was also the first time that the U15 team played in a tournament outside of New England. They got to see a different style of soccer.”

Because the Academy Cup matches took place in the afternoon, the Western United Pioneers players didn’t have a lot of time for sightseeing while they were down in Florida.

“Our games were in the middle of the day, which made it difficult to do anything else,” Ferrara said. “We did go out to eat together as a team a couple of nights. It was a fun experience for the players.”

Ferrara is also the League Commissioner of United Women’s Soccer and is the owner of the New England Mutiny.

Both the Pioneers and the Mutiny play their home matches at historic Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow.

Ferrara is hoping a few of the Western United Pioneers girls’ soccer players join the Mutiny in the coming years.

“That’s our plan,” he said. “I’m always looking for the local soccer players to play for the Mutiny.”

Rich Friese, who’s from Ludlow, was also a member of the coaching staff at this year’s Academy Cup.

Ferrara is looking forward to having several of the Western United Pioneers teams compete in the 2024 USL Academy Cup.

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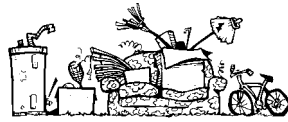
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HOME IMPROVEMENTS, REMODELING Kitchens, baths. Ceramic tile, windows, painting, wallpapering, siding, decks. Insurance work. Fully insured. Free estimates. (413)246-2783 Ron.

HOME REPAIR & REMODELING for all your interior & exterior needs. Carpentry, woodworking, porches, patios, windows, doors, painting, drywall, siding, landscaping, clean-outs. Competitive pricing, References. Please call Brendan (413)687-5552

LANDSCAPING

A+ ROZELL'S LANDSCAPING & BOBCAT SERVICE

Excavator Services
Overgrown property?
Extreme Brush Cutting!
Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal
Lawn/Arborvite Installed
Loam, Stone, Mulch, Sand
Storm Clean-up
Small Demolition/ Junk Removal
Insured
Josh Rozell 413-636-5957

SERVICES

****ALL SEASON**** Specializing in shrub trimming, pruning, design, deliveries, loader, backhoe, insured. Professional. Please call Bob (413)537-5789 (413)538-7954.

MATT GUERTIN LANDSCAPING

Serving Wilbraham & Ludlow
Spring clean-up and lawn repair
Weekly mowing and yard maintenance
Landscape installation and restoration
Shrub trimming, pruning, and mulching
Call or text **413-266-9975**
Insured - Commercial and Residential

LAWN & GARDEN

A.A.A. ROTOTILLING Time to till gardens, flower beds wherever. Be safe grow your own. Operator fully vaccinated. Call Bob (413)626-1927.

PLUMBING

GREG LAFONTAIN PLUMBING & HEATING Lic #19196 Repairs & Replacement of fixtures, water heater installations, steam/HW boiler replacement. Kitchen & Bath remodeling. 30 years experience. Fully insured. \$10 Gift Card With Work Performed. Call Greg (413)592-1505

PRESSURE WASHING

HOT WATER PRESSURE WASHING We use brushes and state of the art equipment. We remove grime and mold from homes, patios, fences, walkways, all decks, concrete & driveways. Senior Discounts. For free estimates call Bill (413)519-9800.

SERVICES

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BOB ROBILLARD'S RUBBISH REMOVAL Attics, Cellars, Garages cleaned, Pools/Hot Tubs Removed. Family owned/operated since 1950 (413)537-5090

TREE WORK

DL & G TREE SERVICE. Everything from tree pruning, tree removal, stump grinding, storm damage and brush chipping. Honest and Dependable. Fully insured. Now offering a Senior Citizen and Veteran discount. Call today for free estimate (413)478-4212

TUNE-UP

SNOWBLOWER & LAWNMOWER TUNE UP & REPAIR
A&M TUNE-UPS
Push Lawnmowers, Riding Mowers and Small Engine Repair.
Work done at your home.
Call Mike (413) 348-7967

STUMP GRINDING

DL & G STUMP GRINDING Grinding stumps of all sizes, insured & certified. Senior discounts. Call Dave (413)-478-4212

HELP WANTED

EXPERIENCED LANDSCAPER IN THE LUDLOW AREA Wanted call Joe (413)348-8273

TOWN OF WILBRAHAM ADULT SERVICES LIBRARIAN P/T EMERGENCY DISPATCHER (2)

STAFF ACCOUNTANT Looking to fill several vacancies in the Town of Wilbraham. For application and more information please visit www.wilbraham-ma.gov. Open until filled, review of application begins immediately. EOE

HEALTH CARE

LIVE IN AIDE FOR AN ALERT 96 YEAR OLD WIDOW 40 plus hours per week, constant care not needed. CNA certification desired. Call (413)789-6017

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ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

You will find, **mystical success...**
In the CLASSIFIEDS!

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

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

DEADLINES: QUABBIN & SUBURBAN - FRIDAY AT NOON
HILLTOWNS - MONDAY AT NOON

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	Base Price \$26.50	22	Base Price \$27.00
23	Base Price \$27.50	24	Base Price \$28.00
25	Base Price \$28.50	26	Base Price \$29.00
27	Base Price \$29.50	28	Base Price \$30.00
29	Base Price \$30.50	30	Base Price \$31.00
31	Base Price \$31.50	32	Base Price \$32.00
33	Base Price \$32.50	34	Base Price \$33.00
35	Base Price \$33.50	36	Base Price \$34.00
37	Base Price \$34.50	38	Base Price \$35.00
39	Base Price \$35.50	40	Base Price \$36.00

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____
Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Number of Weeks: _____ X per week rate = \$ _____
Credit Card: MasterCard VISA Discover Cash Check# _____
Card #: _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____
Amount of charge: _____ Date: _____

Quabbin Village Hills
Circulation: 50,500

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Circulation: 9,800

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Circulation: 59,000

Buy the Quabbin Village Hills or the Suburban Residential ZONE for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word. Add \$10 for a second Zone or add \$15 to run in ALL THREE ZONES.

First ZONE base price _____ Includes additional words
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x Number of Weeks _____
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Run my ad in the following ZONE(s):
 Quabbin
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OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Suffolk Probate and Family Court**
24 New Chardon Street,
Boston, MA 02114
(617)788-8300
Docket No. SU23A0199AD
In the matter of:
Elizabeth Priscilla Lasseter
CITATION
G.L. c. 210, §6

TO:
Chrisilla Lasseter-Forcier
Lyle Seymour
any unnamed or unknown
parent and persons inter-
ested in a petition for the
adoption of said child and
to the Department of
Children and Families of said
Commonwealth.

A petition has been pre-
sented to said court by:
**Sabrina Seymour of
Mattapan, MA
Lyle Seymour of
Mattapan, MA**

requesting for leave to
adopt said child and that the
name of the child be changed to
Elizabeth Priscilla Seymour
If you object to this
adoption you are entitled to
the appointment of an attorney
if you are an indigent
person.

An indigent person is
defined by SJC Rule 3.10.
The definition includes but is
not limited to persons receiv-
ing TAFDC, EACDC, poverty
related veteran's benefits,
Medicaid, and SSI. The Court
will determine if you are indig-
ent. Contact an Assistant
Judicial Case Manager or
Adoption Clerk of the Court
on or before the date listed
below to obtain the necessary
forms.

IF YOU DESIRE TO
OBJECT THERETO, YOU
OR YOUR ATTORNEY
MUST FILE A WRITTEN
APPEARANCE IN SAID
COURT AT **Boston** ON OR
BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN
THE MORNING (10:00 AM)
ON: **06/26/2023**.

WITNESS, **Hon. Brian
J. Dunn**, First Justice of this
Court.
Date: April 21, 2023

Vincent Procopio
Register of Probate
05/12, 05/19, 05/26/2023

**PUBLIC
HEARING NOTICE**

The Holyoke Planning
Board will hold a Public
Hearing on **Tuesday, May
23, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.** via
Zoom.com ID: 836 3939
8493; CALL IN *67 646 558
8656 to hear, pursuant to the
Holyoke Zoning Ordinance
an Increase in Sign Size for
El Chinchorro Boroiqua, at
187 South Street (Parcel 009-
09-008), submitted by Pioneer
Valley Signs, LLC

The complete application
may be viewed through the
Holyoke Planning Dept M-F,
9a.m.-4 p.m.

Applicant: Lisa Young
Planning Board:
Mimi Panitch
05/12, 05/19/2023

**City of Holyoke
Office of Purchasing
536 Dwight Street, Room 3
Holyoke, MA 01040
Invitation to Bid 2023-34E
Fire Stations
HVAC upgrade**

The project is being bid
for a Mechanical General
Contractor. The project con-
sists of installation of new
high efficiency gas boilers
in Fire Station No. 6 and
removal of the existing boil-
ers including piping etc. It
also involves the installation
of ductless cooling systems

in Fire Station No. 3 & No.
6. Phasing and Sequence of
Work: Work shall commence
immediately upon receipt
of the notice to proceed and
continue unabated until the
project is complete. The work
shall be complete by August
30, 2023. Sealed propos-
als will be received in the
Purchasing Office, Holyoke
City Hall, 536 Dwight Street,
Room 3, Holyoke, MA 01040
until **2:00 PM on May 31,
2023**, in which they will be
publicly opened and read.
The City reserves the right to
reject any and all bids.
05/12/2023

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Suffolk Probate and Family
Court**

24 New Chardon Street,
Boston, MA 02114
(617)788-8300
Docket No. SU23A0198AD
In the matter of:
**Gabriel Joseph Lasseter
CITATION
G.L. c. 210, §6**

TO:
Chrisilla Lasseter-Forcier
Lyle Seymour
any unnamed or unknown
parent and persons inter-
ested in a petition for the
adoption of said child and
to the Department of
Children and Families of said
Commonwealth.

A petition has been pre-
sented to said court by:
**Sabrina Seymour of
Mattapan, MA
Lyle Seymour of
Mattapan, MA**

requesting for leave to
adopt said child and that the
name of the child be changed to

Gabriel Joseph Seymour
If you object to this
adoption you are entitled to
the appointment of an attorney
if you are an indigent
person.

An indigent person is
defined by SJC Rule 3.10.
The definition includes but is
not limited to persons receiv-
ing TAFDC, EACDC, poverty
related veteran's benefits,
Medicaid, and SSI. The Court
will determine if you are indig-
ent. Contact an Assistant
Judicial Case Manager or
Adoption Clerk of the Court
on or before the date listed
below to obtain the necessary
forms.

IF YOU DESIRE TO
OBJECT THERETO, YOU
OR YOUR ATTORNEY
MUST FILE A WRITTEN
APPEARANCE IN SAID
COURT AT **Boston** ON OR
BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN
THE MORNING (10:00 AM)
ON: **06/26/2023**.

WITNESS, **Hon. Brian
J. Dunn**, First Justice of this
Court.
Date: April 21, 2023

Vincent Procopio
Register of Probate
05/12, 05/19, 05/26/2023

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Suffolk Probate and Family
Court**

24 New Chardon Street,
Boston, MA 02114
(617)788-8300
Docket No. SU23A0197AD
In the matter of:
**Abraham Job Lasseter
CITATION
G.L. c. 210, §6**

TO:
Chrisilla Lasseter-
Forcier
Lyle Seymour
any unnamed or unknown
parent and persons inter-
ested in a petition for the

adoption of said child
and to the Department of
Children and Families of said
Commonwealth.

A petition has been pre-
sented to said court by:
**Sabrina Seymour of
Mattapan, MA
Lyle Seymour of
Mattapan, MA**

requesting for leave to
adopt said child and that the
name of the child be changed to

Abraham Job Seymour
If you object to this
adoption you are entitled to
the appointment of an attorney
if you are an indigent
person.

An indigent person is
defined by SJC Rule 3.10.
The definition includes but is
not limited to persons receiv-
ing TAFDC, EACDC, poverty
related veteran's benefits,
Medicaid, and SSI. The Court
will determine if you are indig-
ent. Contact an Assistant
Judicial Case Manager or
Adoption Clerk of the Court
on or before the date listed
below to obtain the necessary
forms.

IF YOU DESIRE TO
OBJECT THERETO, YOU
OR YOUR ATTORNEY
MUST FILE A WRITTEN
APPEARANCE IN SAID
COURT AT **Boston** ON OR
BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN
THE MORNING (10:00 AM)
ON: **06/26/2023**.

WITNESS, **Hon. Brian
J. Dunn**, First Justice of this
Court.
Date: April 21, 2023

Vincent Procopio
Register of Probate
05/12, 05/19, 05/26/2023

**City of Holyoke
536 Dwight Street #3
Holyoke, MA 01040-5078
(413) 322-5650
Request for Proposals
#2023-32PD
Lease Space**

The City of Holyoke is
seeking sealed proposals for
the acquisition by lease of a
minimum of 1,700 square feet
of mixed-use office and edu-
cational space located near
the Police Department.

Proposals will be received
in the Purchasing Office,
Room 3, Holyoke City Hall,
Holyoke, MA until **12:00
PM, EST on 5/26/2023** in
which time they will be pub-
licly opened.

Documents are avail-
able electronically by email
request at: morrowj@holyoke.org.

The City of Holyoke
reserves the right to reject any
and/or all bids.
04/28, 05/05, 05/12/2023

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD23C0138CA**

In the matter of:
**Shadai Mari Mota Puello
CITATION ON PETITION
TO CHANGE NAME**

A Petition to Change
Name of Adult has been filed
by **Shadai Mari Mota Puello
of Holyoke, MA** requesting
that the court enter a Decree
changing their name to:

**Shaddai Mari Puello
IMPORTANT NOTICE**
Any person may appear for
purposes of objecting to the
petition by filing an appear-
ance at: **Hampden Probate
and Family Court before
10:00 a.m. on the return day
of 06/01/2023**.

This is NOT a hearing
date, but a deadline by which
you must file a written appear-

ance if you object to this pro-
ceeding.

WITNESS, **Hon. Barbara
M Hyland**, First Justice of
this Court.
Date: May 04, 2023
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
05/12/2023

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD23P0917GD**
In the interests of
**Nahira Aimar Rosario
of Holyoke, MA
Minor**

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

1. **Hearing Date/Time:**
A hearing on a Petition for
Appointment of Guardian of
a Minor filed on **05/03/2023**
by **Glorimar Rosario Torres
of Holyoke, MA** will be
held **06/05/2023 08:30 AM
Motion**. Located: **Judge
Doyle - In Person: 50 State
St., Springfield, MA 01103
Courtroom 2 - 4th Floor**

2. **Response to Petition:**
You may respond by fil-
ing a written response to the
Petition or by appearing in
person at the hearing. If
you choose to file a written
response, you need to:
File the original with the
Court; and

Mail a copy to all inter-
ested parties at least five (5)
business days before the hear-
ing.

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

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

5. **Presence of the Minor
at Hearing:** A minor over age
14 has the right to be pre-
sent at any hearing, unless the
Court finds that it is not in the
minor's best interests.
Date: May 3, 2023

Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
05/12/2023

**LEGAL NOTICE
CITY OF HOLYOKE
GAS & ELECTRIC
DEPARTMENT
SPECIALTY
CONSTRUCTION
& FACILITIES
MAINTENANCE ANNUAL
CONTRACT**

Sealed bids for the above
contract will be received by
Holyoke Gas & Electric
Dept. until **2:00 p.m., May
30, 2023** at the Office of the
Manager, 99 Suffolk
St., Holyoke, MA 01040, at
which time proposals will be
publicly opened and read.

Bid Deposit:
A Bid Deposit in the
amount of \$20,000.00 must
accompany all bids and may
be in the form of a certified,
treasurer's, or cashier's check
payable to HG&E from a
responsible bank or trust
company; cash; or a bid bond

from a licensed surety pay-
able to HG&E.

Prevailing Wage Rates:
Rates, which are to apply
to the work, are set by the
Mass. Dept. of Labor &
Industries.

A Certificate of Eligibility
from the MA Division of
Capital Asset Management
& Maintenance, as well
as an Update Statement are
required.

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

Additional information
may be obtained from:

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

Please mark sealed enve-
lopes, "**Bid for Specialty
Construction and Facilities
Maintenance Contract**" and
address them to:

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

05/12/2023

**NOTICE TO
CONTRACTORS
The City of Holyoke
536 Dwight Street #3
Holyoke, MA 01040
(413) 322-5650
Invitation to Bid
2023 - 33E**

**Intersection Improvements
at Westfield Road (Route
202) & Apremont Highway**

MassDOT prequalifica-
tion of contractors with the
class of work as, TRAFFIC
SIGNALS, for the project
with an estimated Total
Project of \$461,000.00 will be
required.

Documents may be
obtained electronically by
email request at morrowj@holyoke.org

NOTICE
ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

**PUBLIC NOTICES
ARE NOW ONLINE**

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

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

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

S	S	E		D	A	D	A	S		G	A	M	A	Y
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In The News

COUNCIL, from page 1

his first term in November 2021 and will be up for re-election in two years.

But seats on the city council are gearing up for battle, especially with some candidates who were ousted from the council in 2021.

Among those with certified papers already are Ward 5 Councilor Linda Vacon and Ward 6 Councilor Juan Anderson-Burgos. Guy O'Donnell has certified papers and will be a challenger

to Vacon in Ward 5. According to the city's clerk Brenna Murphy McGee's current tally, William Diaz has also pulled papers for Ward 5, possibly forcing Vacon to defend her seat in a primary as well.

Two residents have pulled papers for the Ward 2 council seat. Carmon Yolanda Ocasio is certified and will make the ballot while Ashley Stackow has taken out papers. The current Ward 2 councilor is Wilmer Puello-Mota, who is still facing legal issues stemming from child pornography, obstruction, and forgery

charges in Rhode Island. His case is still pending.

In Ward 7, Meagan Blanche Magrath-Smith is certified and Nicholas Duclos has papers out. Council President Todd McGee, who currently holds that seat, is not running for re-election.

Councilor David Bartley has taken out papers to retain his Ward 3 seat, as has Ward 1 Councilor Jenny Rivera and Ward 4 Councilor Kocayne Givner. At-Large Councilors Jose Maldonado Velez, Kevin Jourdain, Israel Rivera, and Tessa Murphy-Romboletti have taken out

papers for re-election. The other current at-large councilors are Joseph McGiverin and Peter Tallman, and they have not taken out papers as of this week.

Former City Councilors Howard Greaney and Michael Sullivan have taken out papers. Greaney was ousted during the last election while Sullivan ran unsuccessfully for mayor.

Nomination papers are due on Aug. 1. The city clerk's page on the city website updates the candidate list regularly and there are also links for mail and absentee ballots.

UPDATE, from page 1

Garcia will also likely discuss the state of the Holyoke Public Schools, which have been buzzing with activity. As mayor, Garcia is also chair of the School Committee, which technically has no power due to state receivership.

There have been calls from city councilors and other officials to return control of the schools to the city. Those calls were renewed when Gov. Maura Healey took office, though she has no power to force the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education commissioner to return

power to the city.

The city does have one of its own serving as receiver/superintendent with Anthony Soto taking over two years ago.

The schools are also in the process of securing MSBA funding for a new middle school. The city would also have to find part of the cost.

Garcia could also touch efforts on economic development throughout the city, the 150th anniversary celebration, and the status of cleaning up city streets and neighborhoods with the Flex Squad.

The city council meetings can be streamed online or on public access for residents.



Reconstruction is underway at the Veterans' Home in Holyoke. Federal funding was recently secured for the project. *File photo*

VETERANS, from page 1

pioneered the passage of the \$400M state bond bill last session that ultimately resulted in this federal grant from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs State Home Construction Grant Program. After passage of the bond bill, the state was able to apply for the VA Construction Grant Program and received conditional approval last year. The Holyoke Veterans' Home has now officially entered a Memorandum of Agreement with the VA and will receive the rest of the \$263.5M in future fiscal

years. The remaining \$136.5M for the project will come from the state.

The reconstruction of the Holyoke Veterans' Home is currently underway and coincides with the ongoing rebuilding of the Chelsea Veterans' Home. In total, the Holyoke project includes 234 long-term care beds, nursing support, and community spaces for Veterans.

The Veterans' Home went through the name change on March 1, according to Velis' office. The name change was made to reflect all branches of the Armed Forces using the services of the home versus just soldiers.

Blossom & Grow

WITH A LIFESTYLE THAT'S ALL ABOUT FRIENDSHIPS AND COMMUNITY



Feel the warmth and light of spring at Day Brook Village Senior Living. Fill your calendar with the company of loving friends, hearty, delicious meals and engaging activities that help you feel your best.

CALL 413-561-7959 TODAY TO SCHEDULE YOUR VISIT AND LEARN MORE.



298 Jarvis Avenue
Holyoke, MA 01040
413-561-7959
www.daybrookvillage.org



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18 Different All Organic Double Ground Premium Mulches
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LaFlammes GREENHOUSES

Family Owned & Operated for 3 Generations

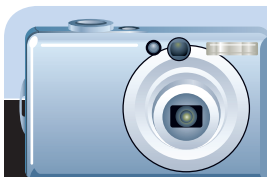
Mother's Day
MAY 14th!
Gorgeous
Hanging Plants

- Rose Bushes
- Geraniums
- Annuals
- Perennials
- Vegetable Plants
- Herbs
- Memorial Day Pots
- Potting Soil



OPEN 7 DAYS • Mon.-Sat. 8am-7pm • Sun. 8am-6pm

863 Montgomery Street, Chicopee, MA • 413-533-8680



Send Us Your Photos!

TheSun@turley.com