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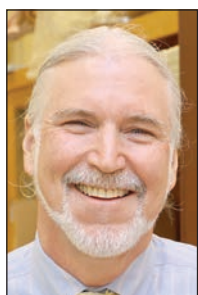
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Biology professor to lead HCC's 76th Commencement

HOLYOKE — Joseph Bruseo, professor of biology and recipient of the 2023 Elaine Marieb Faculty Chair for Teaching Excellence Award, will lead the procession of graduates and give the keynote address at the 76th Commencement of Holyoke Community College on Saturday, June 3.



Joseph Bruseo

Commencement exercises begin at 10 a.m. at the MassMutual Center in Springfield.

A resident of Palmer, Bruseo has been teaching biology at HCC since 2005.

"It is a big honor," said Bruseo. "I know there's a lot of people that are up for this every year. I kind of see it as an award for just doing my job. I don't try to do anything special or above and beyond just to chase an award. Everything is student motivated. Their success is my success."

The Marieb Award, endowed by the late HCC

professor emeritus Elaine Marieb '80, recognizes a full-time member of the faculty for outstanding classroom teaching. Award recipients serve for one year, receive a small stipend for professional development, lead the procession at Commencement, and give the keynote graduation speech.

This year, HCC will confer associate degrees and certificates to more than 600 graduates from the class of 2023.

A handful of students from this year's class will also be featured on stage. Environmental Science major Henry Zucco '23 of Holyoke will be the student orator; Latinx Studies major Mishie Serrano '23 of Westfield will deliver a spoken word performance of original poetry; Veterinary and Animal Science / Veterinary Technician major Kelandra

See HCC, page 4



Mayor Joshua Garcia gives his State of the City address on Tuesday evening at City Hall.

Photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

Garcia: City economy strong heading into FY2024

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE — On Tuesday, May 16, Mayor Joshua Garcia gave his state of the city address at the city council meeting. Throughout the address, he spoke of the strong economy of the city, the city budget for the fiscal year of 2024, and discussed plans for the future of Holyoke.

"Tonight, we can say with confidence that the state of our city is strong," Garcia said in the opening minutes of his address.

Holyoke's economy has improved greatly in recent years. The manufacturing sector has recovered from years of decline and continues to flourish. The mills have opened new industries after a period of stagnation, and the cannabis cultiva-

tion and retail continues to bring about a boom to the local economy. The excise taxes and host fees that industry brings remain a major source of revenue for the local budget.

"We're in a stronger position than we've been in decades," the mayor said.

Keeping this recent growth in mind, Garcia wants to ensure

See ECONOMY, page 10

Garden Tour to highlight eight sites

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE — The annual Garden Tour will be taking place yet again from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, June 10. Those interested in attending can purchase a ticket for \$15 at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2023-holyoke-garden-tour-tickets-613471197867>. This event is hosted by the Holyoke

Preservation Trust and attendees can check-in the day of at Gateway City Arts at 92 Race Street. There they can pick up the map of the different garden destinations around the city as well as the wristbands they need to gain access to the gardens.

Once they have received their maps, residents are encouraged to make their own route through the tour.

"They're free to go in what-

ever order they want to. Start at the bottom of the list, start at the middle, start with some of the gardens that are new," said Olivia Mausel, the treasurer at HPT.

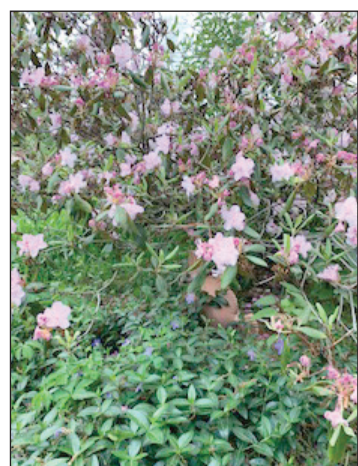
This event will highlight eight different gardens that stand out in the community. Some of them are repeats from last year while other ones are

See GARDEN, page 4

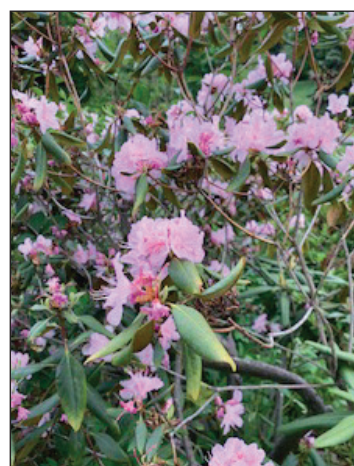


Holyoke's annual Garden Tour takes place on June 10.

Submitted photos



Tickets are now available for the event, which begins at Gateway City Arts.



The event will feature eight unique gardens in the city.

Vote looming on funding new middle school building

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE — The City of Holyoke has long been working toward and debating the process of building a new middle school for the young students in the city. Now this project has come to a head.

The expected vote for the city council finance committee to decide on this project is May 24. From there, the city council would vote on either June 6 or June 20. The MSBA would then vote on June 21 to approve or disprove their portion of the funding. While these dates have been pushed back from what was originally anticipated, the hope is that there will be the final word on whether this project can move forward by June 22.

The total middle school project is estimated to cost

\$85,504,592. Currently, the MSBA is expected to reimburse \$46 million of the cost, leaving the city to cover the remaining \$40 million.

This project has not gone without its obstacles. Four years ago, the city attempted to put forward a vote in order to build two new middle schools. Unfortunately, the original plan would have required a debt exclusion, meaning that the residents of Holyoke would have had to vote to increase their taxes. As a result, this original vote fell through.

"The directive of the Holyoke community was clear, build what we need at the most feasible and affordable option. We plan to deliver," Mayor Joshua Garcia said.

See VOTE, page 10

HCC, Westfield State sign dual-degree nursing agreement

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College and Westfield State University today signed an agreement creating a new pathway for students to earn both an associate's degree and bachelor's degree in nursing by being simultaneously enrolled in both schools.

The concurrent enrollment program is the first of its kind in the Commonwealth and designed to help address nursing shortages by increasing the number of students accepted into a bachelor of nursing degree program and allowing them to earn their degrees faster.

"I think that what we are able to accomplish here will be the standard in the future," Sharale Mathis, HCC vice president of Academic and Student Affairs, said during a signing ceremony today at HCC. "Through this partnership, we will be able to feed that nursing

pipeline and make sure we are putting forward the strongest educated workforce in nursing. This kind of collaboration is needed between associate degree programs and university programs to help fill those critical vacancies in the workforce for baccalaureate prepared nurses."

The way it works is simple, she said: When students enroll at HCC for nursing, all they need to do is check a box on their application to indicate they are interested in the concurrent program with Westfield State.

"At that point, they're in," Mathis said. "No additional application is needed for Westfield State."

During their first year at HCC, students will complete their general education courses and health science prerequisites; during their second and third years they will take classes both at HCC and Westfield State to complete their asso-

ciate's degree in nursing. Then, as registered nurses, they will complete their fourth year at Westfield on the way to a bachelor's degree in nursing.

"I think this is the way of the future," said Westfield State University President Linda Thompson. "We really have to look at ways that we educate young people without causing them to feel like they have a burden when they graduate."

According to a Massachusetts Health Policy Commission report, registered nurse vacancy rates in acute-care hospitals doubled from 6.4 percent in 2019 to 13.6 percent in 2022, and employment in nursing and residential care facilities has not recovered since the pandemic and remains below 2018 levels.

Thompson, herself a nurse, noted that she sits on the board for Baystate Health, so understands firsthand the industry needs.

"We are not just desperate for nurses," Thompson said. "We're desperate for every type of profession to work in the healthcare sector, so I do hope this is the first of many opportunities for us."

HCC President Christina Royal agreed.

"This truly is an impressive program," Royal said. "We're so excited to be able to work together to create more ease of access for students. We know that sometimes just the transfer process alone can create extra hurdles for students. I have found in my experience working with Westfield State and President Thompson that Westfield is just as committed to access and equity as HCC, and looking for ways that we can help streamline the process for students and get them onto a full pathway so they can have a tremendous career is what this partnership is going to do."

Weight management program offering new solution

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Medical Center Weight Management Program is excited to begin offering a new solution to people struggling to achieve a healthy weight: the ORBERA weight loss gastric balloon. Designed to manage portion control during a six-month placement period, patients have been shown to lose three times more weight than with diet and exercise alone.

Under the expert care of Dr. Yannis Raftopoulos, Dr. Martin Walko, and the HMC Weight Management Program team, weight loss patients now have another treatment option to help reach and maintain their healthy weight goals.

"A gastric balloon is designed to work together with lifestyle changes. It's not a magic bullet where you put in a balloon and everything is perfect," says Martin Walko, MD, a fellowship-trained bariatric and laparoscopic surgeon. "It's used as part of a program that includes education, proper diet and increased activity."

The non-permanent, minimally invasive gastric balloon is placed during an endoscopic outpatient procedure,

allowing patients to go home the same day. A second endoscopic procedure is performed six months after placement to remove the device. The ORBERA gastric balloon is FDA approved, and is a safe and effective weight loss solution with over 20 years of global experience and real world results. More than 220,000 ORBERA balloons have been distributed worldwide in over 80 countries. Under current guidelines in the United States, candidates for a gastric balloon should have a body mass index (BMI—a weight-to-height ratio) of 30 to 40.

Insurance typically does not cover gastric balloons, making it a self-pay procedure. Holyoke Medical Center has competitively priced the procedure for patients in an effort to make it as accessible as possible for those suffering from obesity.

For additional information regarding the Holyoke Medical Center Weight Management Program, please visit holyokehealth.com/wmp. The practice is located at 11 Hospital Drive, Holyoke, and can be reached at 413.535.4757.

New spine surgery unit at HMC

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Medical Center has expanded services to open The Institute for Minimally Invasive Spine Surgery, led by Dr. Frederik Pennings, an internationally recognized expert in minimally invasive spine surgery.

"We are excited to announce the opening of the new Institute for Minimally Invasive Spine Surgery, under the renowned leadership of Dr. Pennings," said Spiros Hatiras, President and CEO of Holyoke Medical Center. "His expertise will allow us to provide patients throughout the region, and beyond, with the high quality medical care they need."

Dr. Pennings is the only spine fellowship-trained neurosurgeon in the area. He has more than 25 years of training and experience in neurosurgery, with a background that includes multifaceted training, various leadership positions, professional recognition, clinical education, technology development and published research. Prior to Holyoke Medical Center, Dr. Pennings established the Minimally Invasive Spine Center of New England and the MIS spine program at UMass Memorial Medical Center.

Also joining The Institute for Minimally Invasive Spine Surgery is Michael Bennett, PA-C, a neurosurgery

physician's assistant for more than 20 years. Michael brings a wealth of clinical experience to the diagnosis, treatment and recovery of spine surgery patients, while also assisting on advanced procedures. He has been part of Dr. Pennings' team for 13 years.

The experienced spinal surgery team is able to tailor treatments using patient-centered, evidence-based, multidisciplinary care with either traditional open spine surgery or minimally invasive techniques. However, minimally invasive options generally offer important advantages over traditional procedures.

"Minimally invasive spine surgery approaches the spine through much smaller incisions than in an open procedure," Dr. Pennings explains. "It is less traumatic to tissues, so most patients recover more quickly, with less blood loss and lower risk of infection."

Common conditions that may warrant minimally invasive spine surgery include spinal stenosis, scoliosis, lumbar spondylolisthesis, cervical and lumbar disc herniation, and SI joint pathology.

The new Institute for Minimally Invasive Spine Surgery at Holyoke Medical Center is located at 10 Hospital Drive, Suite 101, Holyoke. To learn more or make an appointment, call 413.535.4860.

Annual fireworks at HCC

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.

Public invited to assist with 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. – May 23 at 3 p.m., rain date May 25 at 3 p.m.

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

at 3 p.m.

Forestdale, 304 Cabot St. – May 26 3 p.m. rain or shine

St. Jerome, 125 St. Jerome Ave. – May 27 at 10 a.m. rain or shine



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.

Mayor to celebrate Malcolm X Day

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.

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/1FAIpQLSc6SgTR8wMB6airIAYYYYP-m1AtLzj3JBoZ0vR7Q2RdIQ83BdIQ/viewform?usp=pp_url.

Robert E. 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 educa-

tional 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 spirit 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 cash for the first-place winner in the senior

division (www.hged.com/shadderby).

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.

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. For more information, please call 413-532-5661.

HPS receives \$4,000 grant from Project Bread

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.

Residents challenged to do push-ups

HOLYOKE — This Memorial Day, the city’s Patriotic Events Committee challenges you to complete 22 push-ups.

The 22 push-up challenge is done to promote awareness around veteran suicide and mental health struggles in recognition of the sobering statistic that 22 military veterans in the United States take their lives each day.

Any reason to honor veterans is a good one, according to Jesus Pereira, Holyoke’s Director of Veterans’ Services.

“We hope you will join us at the War Memorial, 310 Appleton Street, on

Monday, May 29, to celebrate Memorial Day. The 22 push-up challenge will be at 9:30 a.m. followed by complimentary donuts and coffee. Our Memorial Day program will begin promptly at 10 a.m.”

The Patriotic Events Committee encourages anyone and everyone to partake in this event. They hope to see participation by some of Holyoke’s city leaders who will be speaking at our event: Mayor Joshua A. Garcia, Police Captain Matthew Moriarty, City Council President Todd McGee, State Senator John Velis and State Representative Patricia Duffy.

NAMI Walkathon set for May 21

AGAWAM – The National Alliance on Mental Illness of Western Massachusetts will be holding its 23rd Annual Walkathon Celebration, ‘A Journey of Hope and Recovery’ on Sunday, May 21 at The Stanley Park’s Beveridge Pavilion Annex starting at 11 a.m. Registration begins at 10 a.m.

The event is suitable for all ages and abilities and will directly benefit NAMI Western Massachusetts’ continuing efforts to help improve the lives of those individuals living with mental health conditions and their families. The festivities will include guest

speakers, fun activities, raffles, and much more.

NAMI Western Massachusetts is dedicated to Building Better Lives for individuals and families affected by mental health conditions. With your help, NAMI-WM can continue to raise awareness and provide essential education, advocacy, and support programs for people within your community.

For further information please contact our office at 413-786-9139 or visit us at www.namiwm.org/events for pledge and sponsorship forms. Volunteers needed.



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Saturday, May 27th 10am
Installing Flags at St. Jerome Cemetery
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Poetry Corner

Who Has All The Answers...

By Thomas J. Kennedy

Who has All — The Answers
 Keep coming in... Inn
 My mind tires like thread
 Go to bed or may be dead...
 I need level floors but which one!
 Theirs always higher — hi... er
 I hope I am on the Spiritual Wire!

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Guest Column

Should octogenarians tell Social Security they married?



Dear Rusty:

We were married two years ago at age 78 and 81. Do we need to do anything with Social Security?

Signed: Blissfully Happy

Dear Blissfully Happy:

Congratulations on your fairly recent marriage and, yes, there are some things you should do. Specifically, you should contact Social Security to inform them of your marriage, see whether any additional benefits are available and to make any changes needed to your contact information. Here are some things to consider:

If a name change has occurred for one of you, that person should contact Social Security to report the change. A copy of your marriage certificate and other ID will be required, and a new Social Security card will be issued.

If a change of address has also occurred for one or both of you, that must be reported. It's important that Social Security has the correct mailing address, email and contact phone number for every beneficiary.

If there are any other changes to the contact information on file with the Social Security Administration for either of you (e.g., your banking information), the affected person should inform Social Security of the changes needed.

Social Security will evaluate whether any benefit increase is available as a result of your marriage, which may be the case if one of you is entitled to a "spousal boost," an additional amount from the other now that you're married. A spousal boost may be available if one has a monthly Social Security payment which is more than twice the other's benefit. Social Security can answer that question for you when you call.

You can call either your local Social Security office (find the number by visiting www.ssa.gov/locator) or call the national number at 1-800-772-1213 and tell them you need to inform them of your marriage and update your contact information. If you have or if you create an online "my Social Security" account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount, you can initiate changes to your contact information online, but you will need to call Social Security directly via phone to record your marriage and see if any changes to monthly benefits are available. All of this can likely be done without requiring a visit to your local SS office.

It is very important that Social Security be made aware of your new marital status and

to ensure that they have the correct contact information for both of you. Even if the contact information is unchanged for one of you, the other should contact Social Security as described above to update their contact information and to determine if any changes to monthly benefits are appropriate as a result of your marriage. Doing so now will avoid future issues and will make sure you are both getting the correct monthly Social Security payments as a married couple. And if one of you is entitled to a higher spousal amount, you should ask for the increase to be applied retroactively (SS will pay up to six months retroactively). I suggest you call Social Security as soon as possible to inform them of your marriage and make any necessary changes to your contact information.

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Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

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



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 reach-

ing 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

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HOLYOKE
the Sun
TEAM

EDITOR/SPORTS
 Greg Scibelli
thesun@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES
 Wendy Delcamp
wdelcamp@turley.com

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A Quote

OF NOTE

"Life is too deep for words, so don't try to describe it, just live it."

C.S. Lewis

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.

Flowering problems you may encounter this spring



My mom called up last night, disappointed that there is only one bud in her entire clump of Bearded Iris.

I am always one to turn a question into a column, so why don't we get to the bottom of my mother's sparse irises and also delve into why some flowers haven't given us the wow factor this spring.

If once upon a time your irises bloomed strong and now there is barely a blossom to be seen, chances are they are overcrowded. It's time to divide them and replenish their soil.

In our climate, this should be accomplished every three or four years.

Surprisingly, and unlike most other perennials, division of irises should take place in July or August. This will give them ample time to take hold in their new location prior to the ground freezing.

If you have no blooms, feel free to get the job done now!

At first glance the act of dividing irises may appear to be difficult. An overgrown iris patch does look like a maze of thick roots, but take heart, the rhizomes

are shallow rooted and come out of the ground with relative ease.

Start digging at the outer edge of the clump, lifting as you go. Once the entire clump is removed, rhizomes can be pried apart by hand.

The healthiest "fans" of foliage are those the furthest from the center. Leave about 2 inches of rhizome attached to each fan for replanting.

If you are changing your site altogether, keep in mind that irises need at least six hours of full sun a day for optimal flowering. They despise "wet feet," so plant where drainage is good.

If your soil is lean, compost can be added to richen it up. While you're at it, add a sprinkling of lime as well; irises prefer a soil near neutral.

Dig a shallow hole wide enough to



Bearded Iris

fit the rhizome. Make a ridge of soil in the hole for it to sit on so that its fibrous roots can hang down.

The top of the rhizome should be level with the soil surface and exposed, not buried. This goes for bark mulch as well; keep it clear or blooms may be sacrificed.

If your irises hardly flower but aren't overcrowded and are planted where they receive enough sun, assess your planting depth and adjust if necessary.

Many gardeners remarked that their Forsythia didn't usher in spring last month as usual. Very few blossoms but lots of green foliage.

Presently, my Japanese Rose (Kerria japonica), usually a showstopper, looks just about the same and I hear so do some types of Azaleas.

Why? I am guessing that the buds were killed by the one really cold, minus 17 night. Sometimes, if we have a few inches of snow when temperatures dip, you will see blossoms on the forsythia down low, where the snow insulated the buds on those low branches.

Lots of folks are sad when a tulip patch that bloomed prolifically the year before, doesn't do so well the year after. Why is that?

Tulips are bred more for their flowers and less for longevity in the garden. Some species are more apt to return than others, namely Darwin Hybrids, Emperor, and the more diminutive wild-flower tulips, Greigii and Kaufmanniana among other, less known species.



Tulips

Planting at the proper depth (for tulips usually 3 times the height of the bulb) in a sunny location with good drainage will get you off to a good start, and then we leave it up to Mother Nature to ensure adequate moisture in late winter/early spring, followed by a dry summer.

Fingers crossed for repeat blooming in year two and beyond. Hoping early flower woes will give way to a summer's worth of flowers.

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.

GARDEN, from page 1

new. There will be vegetable, flower, and fruit gardens for people to enjoy, as well as some personal recipes for attendees to collect at different sites.

"We try to cover everything to appeal to those attending," said Mausel. "There's vegetable gardens, flower gardens, and fruit and a blueberry garden."

Each garden will have balloons or flags, as well as a Garden Tour sign so that event participants can easily locate them. Gardeners will also be present on site, as well as a few HPT volunteers, for any questions that attendees have.

There will also likely be a raffle that event attendees can enter when they check in at Gateway City Arts.

The annual Garden Tour started three years ago, amidst the times when the pandemic was first starting out. Mausel believes that this event gave community members a wonderful opportunity to get outside and see the city.

"It was an interesting way for people to get out...we needed to be out and socialize and it allowed people to take a

deep breath of fresh air," said Mausel.

Each garden being highlighted this year was selected by members of the HPT. Participants could also submit their gardens to the HPT if they were interested in showing their own garden to the community. Those who were interested in having their gardens be a part of the Garden Tour are encouraged to try again next year. The HPT looks forward to seeing all the different gardens people are willing to display.

"Every garden is unique in its own way," said Mausel. "People like to have individual gardens, with what plants work for them and what they're comfortable doing."

Overall, this is a relaxing way for residents to get out and see their community in a way they do not usually get to.

"It is an interesting way to see a neighborhood. We don't always get a chance to look at people's gardens, sometimes they're behind the house or on the side. It is very peaceful and relaxing," said Mausel. "It is just a very comfortable and casual way of inquiring about somebody's garden."

HCC, from page 1

Hurd '23 of Amherst, the Student Senate president, will present the class gift; and Liberal Arts major Luis Pinto-Jimenez '23 of Holyoke will offer a recognition of student ornamentation.

For those who cannot attend in person, HCC will stream the Commencement ceremony live over the Internet. The live stream will be available through a link on the main page of the college website, www.hcc.edu, where other details about this year's Commencement can also be found.

The ceremony will be American Sign Language interpreted.

Bruseo earned his bachelor's degree in biology from Rutgers University in his home state of New Jersey before going on for a master's degree in wildlife management from Frostburg State University in Maryland and a Ph.D. in biology from Bowling Green State University in Ohio.

Along the way, and before coming to HCC, he worked as a small mammal

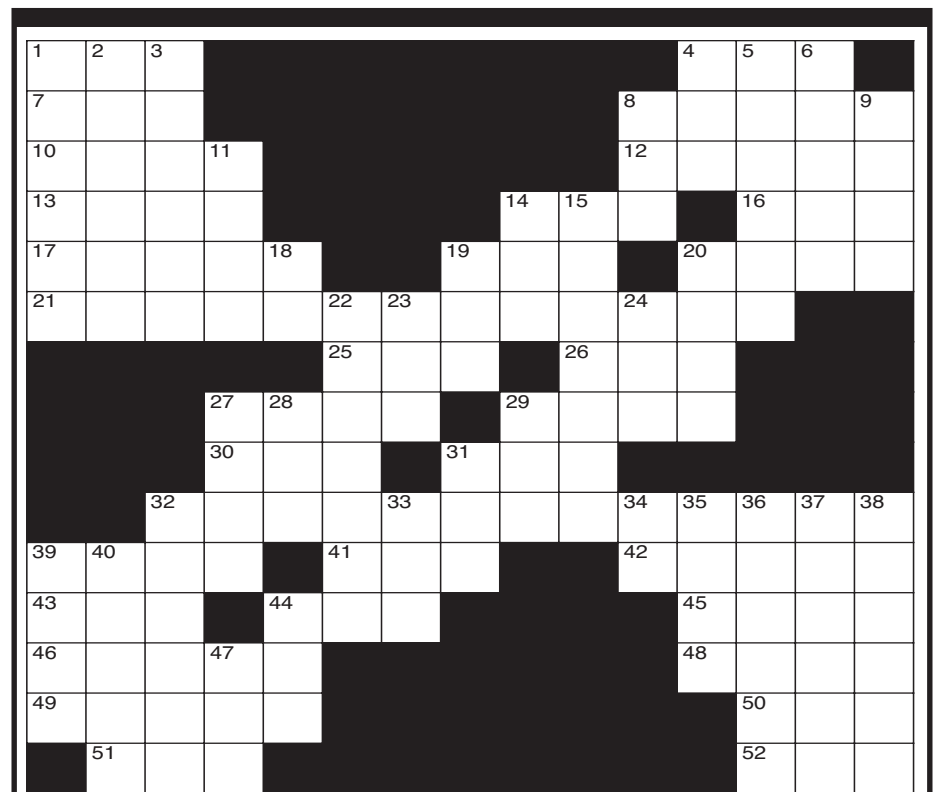
biologist at Wildlife International and a lab coordinator at Amherst College.

In a preview of his speech, Bruseo shared that he had a rough start himself in college.

"I always relate to students that, in my first undergrad year, I ended up withdrawing from my general bio course because I was gonna fail it. I took it again the next semester and got an A," he said. "So, I tell them, you try your best. Not everyone is at the same point of readiness. Learning is a building process. You go step by step."

"Particularly at a community college, there's a wide diversity of learning styles, students with outside commitments," he said. "You're always juggling. Everyone is in a different spot. Some need more work. Others are a little more self-sufficient, but, in the end, you kind of get everybody going in the same direction."

And on June 3, he will certainly be getting everyone going in the same direction as he leads the procession into the MassMutual Center for Commencement.



- | | | | |
|--|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| CLUES ACROSS | 27. Ridge of jagged rock below sea surface | CLUES DOWN | 23. Clumsy person |
| 1. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.) | 29. Helsinki neighborhood | 1. Unit of angle | 24. Belonging to us |
| 4. Chinese philosophical principle | 30. Farm resident | 2. Headgear to control a horse | 27. Canadian flyers |
| 7. Branch | 31. Ocean | 3. Clots | 28. Greek goddess of the dawn |
| 8. Jewish spiritual leader | 32. Where ballplayers work | 4. Follows sigma | 29. Snakelike fish |
| 10. Slang for requests | 39. Unable to hear | 5. A woman who is the superior of a group of nuns | 31. Unhappy |
| 12. "So Human Animal" author | 41. Cool! | 6. Greek units of weight | 32. Fruit |
| 13. Rocker Billy | 42. Cape Verde capital | 8. Radio direction finder (abbr.) | 33. Not good |
| 14. British Air Aces | 43. One point north of due east | 9. Systems, doctrines, theories | 34. Zero degrees Celsius |
| 16. Type of tree | 44. Kilo yard (abbr.) | 11. Stony waste matter | 35. Goo Goo Dolls' hit |
| 17. "Tough Little Boys" singer Gary | 45. Middle Eastern nation | 14. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo! | 36. Crawls into the head (folklore) |
| 19. State attorneys | 46. It yields Manila hemp | 15. Hostile to others | 37. Legally responsible |
| 20. Goddess of fertility | 48. People operate it (abbr.) | 18. U.S. State | 38. Move in a playful way |
| 21. Localities | 49. Regenerate | 19. Not wet | 39. Regarded with deep affection |
| 25. Beloved singer Charles | 50. Not healthy | 20. Something one thinks up | 40. Partner to flowed |
| 26. Clue | 51. Chinese sword | 22. Where beer is made | 44. Native American tribe |
| | 52. Mild expression of surprise | | 47. Head honcho |

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 9

Pynchon Point clean-up set for this weekend

WESTFIELD – Volunteers along the Westfield River and its streams will gather on Saturday, May 20 in the Agawam area. This year’s Westfield River Watershed Association’s (WRWA) cleanup was postponed from April due to weather and high river conditions. “We hope folks enjoy the lovely spring day while helping clean up the watershed,” said WRWA President Mark Damon.

Teams of volunteers from various communities along the watershed will gather at 9 a.m. and then move out to preselected sites. Damon, who is coordinator for the Westfield area cleanup encourages families, individuals and community groups and teams to participate. “We invite everyone, including young families and teens, to join us as we clean up our local river and its streams and banks so that they are safe for everyone to enjoy.”

Sheryl Becker, coordinator of the Agawam site and WRWA Board member, invites everyone to come out for the morning and support the work the late Agawam activist Jack Coughlin did every day. “Jack was a tireless and constant supporter of the environment. He especially picked up discarded plastic ‘nips’ bottles. We are happy to honor his memory by carrying on his work this way.” Becker coordinates volunteers at Pynchon Point to clean up that area. “We find all kinds of garbage from old tires and bike parts to plastic water bottles and snack wrappers as well as plenty of those ‘nips.’ The kids (and adults, too) love how good their section of Westfield River looks when they finish—and they can



A trash clean-up at Pynchon Point will take place on Saturday, May 20 beginning at 9 a.m.

Submitted photo

point to what they did with such pride.” Mark Damon is appreciative for the groups that participate. “Besides individuals who just show up at one of our gathering points, we get Scouts, youth groups, teams from businesses and organizations, and students from the local schools and colleges. We’ve been doing this clean-up for about 30 years. Schools like Agawam High send crews almost every year.” Damon, who teaches at Westfield State University invites his students to join in. “The kids from the sports teams really help out by moving some of the bigger items we find.”

WRWA encourages people to come

and join them for the morning at 9 a.m. Volunteers in Agawam will meet at the Pynchon Point parking lot near the South End bridge circle on River Road. WRWA will distribute gloves and trash bags and offer safety tips, then send off site teams. Note that most of the clean-up is done from shore—no river wading needed. Organizers target watershed sites in Westfield, Russell, Huntington, West Springfield and Agawam. Assignments are generally completed by 1:00 p.m. or earlier.

Everyone is welcome; children must be supervised by an adult. WRWA will arrange with local communities for

pickup of trash and debris recovered at each site. For questions, contact Mark Damon regarding Westfield locations at 413-977-1577, markjdamon@gmail.com or Sheryl Becker for Agawam area sites at 413-374-1921, sherylearth69@gmail.com.

The Westfield River Watershed Association was established in 1953 to protect and improve the natural resources of the watershed, as well as to expand recreational and other land use opportunities for people’s enjoyment and for sound ecology. For updates and to learn more, visit www.westfieldriver.org or visit our Westfield River Facebook page.



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USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF CHUCK ROAST or STEAKS..... **\$4³⁹** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST 10 LB BAG **\$1⁷⁷** lb

USDA INSP. FROZEN CHICKEN LEG 1/4s..... **50¢** lb

USDA INSP. FROZEN CHICKEN THIGHS TRAY PAK **59¢** lb

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Knights score big win

HOLYOKE – Last Thursday afternoon in a make-up game, Holyoke softball handily defeated Paulo Freire 19-1 in five innings. The win, along with victories over Granby and SICS in the last week have brought Holyoke to 10-7 and the Knights will make tournament for the first time in over a decade. The Knights completed the regular season against Southwick on Wednesday.



Jenialis Camacho makes an off-balance play on a grounder.



Jaycalee Santos collects a throw down to second on a steal attempt.

Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Tryanna Ayala hits a grounder.



Alexis Letellier swings and connects for the Knights.



Kylie Blaha hits second and watches the play to advance.



Ava Tellier makes a strong return.



Sam Rodriguez goes for a hit.

Holyoke tennis swept by Amherst

HOLYOKE – Last Thursday afternoon, Amherst Regional defeated Holyoke girls tennis 5-0. The girls tennis team is now 1-11 this season.



Maura Dulude gets both hands on this hit.



Ava Tellier goes low to keep the volleyball moving.
Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

New England Mutiny offense shines in opener

By **Tim Peterson**
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW – The United Women’s Soccer National semifinal and final matches were held at historic Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow last July. This year’s U.W.S. championship weekend is scheduled to take place 3,000 miles west in Los Angeles, California.

The New England Mutiny players didn’t get to compete for the championship trophy on their home turf last summer. They’re hoping to make the six-hour plane ride to the west coast in July.

The Mutiny didn’t have very much trouble dispatching Worcester Fuel FC, 7-1, in the season opening match before a large crowd at Lusitano Stadium, last Saturday night.

“All of the players worked very hard, and we got the result that we wanted,” said Hope Santaniello, who graduated from Agawam High School in 2021. “Our hope for the future is to win the championship title this year. We really want to bring home the trophy for Joe (Ferrara).”

Ferrara, who’s the Mutiny General Manager, has put together a roster full of talented soccer players. Santaniello is one of 13 players from Western Massachusetts.

Other players from the region include Julia Robak (Chicopee), Brianna Romaniak (Belchertown), Ela Kopec (Ludlow), Alexis Legowski (South Hadley), Avery Klingensmith (Belchertown), Brooke

See **MUTINY**, page 8

Jimmy Blewett scores the wins in modified event

STAFFORD SPRINGS, CT – Stafford Speedway hosted the 51st Annual NAPA Spring Sizzler on Saturday, May 13 with feature events for the SK Modified, Late Model, and SK Light divisions along with two 15-lap last chance qualifiers for drivers to earn starting positions in the NAPA Spring Sizzler 100-lap main event. Jimmy Blewett scored the checkered flag in the 40-lap SK Modified feature his second career win at Stafford and first since the 2005 NAPA Fall Final. Tom Fearn was the winner of the 30-lap Late Model feature and the SK Light feature saw a photo finish with Brian Sullivan making a last lap pass on Tyler Chapman and winning the race by inches or .005 seconds. Matt Swanson won the 15-lap Last Chance Qualifier for the NAPA Spring Sizzler.

In the 40-lap SK Modified® feature event, Jimmy Blewett led the field to the green and he began to set the early pace with Michael Christopher, Jr. going around Cory DiMatteo to take second behind Blewett. Chris Jones was fourth in line in the early going with Keith Rocco quickly moving from seventh at the start up to fifth. Christopher made a move to the inside of Blewett on lap-6 but wasn't able to make the pass. Christopher then came under attack from DiMatteo on lap-7 but he was able to hold off that challenge.



Jimmy Blewett wins the SK Modified event at Stafford Speedway last weekend. Submitted photo

With 10 laps complete, the order was Blewett in the lead followed by Christopher, DiMatteo, Stephen Kopicik, and Rocco. Anthony Bello was sixth followed by Jon Puleo, Noah Korner, Mikey Flynn, and Todd Owen. Bello was black flagged on lap-15 and he had to report to pit road for dumping fluid. David Arute was shown the black flag on lap-20 for fluid also while Blewett and Christopher were still the tow lead cars with DiMatteo,

Rocco, and Kopicik giving chase. Marcello Rufrano was the car on the move in the first half of the race, taking 11th on lap-22 after starting shotgun on the field in 28th. The caution flew with 24 laps complete for a spin by Rich Gautreau that collected Rufrano, who pulled off the track and behind the wall, ending his great run.

Blewett took the lead back under green with Christopher in second. Kopicik and DiMatteo were wheel to wheel for

third place with Rocco and Korner right behind them. Kopicik took third on lap-26 with Rocco taking fourth and Korner fifth as DiMatteo slid back to sixth. Christopher's car dropped off the pace on lap-29 and he pulled on to pit road just as the caution flew for spins in turn 4 by Dylan Kopec and Tom Bolles.

Blewett took the lead back under green with Rocco moving up to second, but before a lap could be completed the caution came out for Rich Gautreau, who hit the wall in turn 4.

Blewett took the elad back under green with Rocco in second. DiMatteo and Kopicik ran wheel to wheel for a lap before DiMatteo got clear into third place. Korner took fourth with Kopicik sliding back to fifth while up front, Rocco was applying heavy pressure to Blewett for the lead.

Korner's car dropped off the pace on lap-37 and he limped back to pit road after running in fourth place. This promoted Kopicik to fourth and Mikey Flynn to fifth as Blewett was still in command over Rocco and DiMatteo. Blewett slowly stretched out his advantage over Rocco in the closing laps and he picked up his second career SK Modified win at Stafford, his first since the 2005 NAPA Fall Final. Rocco came home second with DiMatteo, Kopicik, and Flynn rounding out the top-5.



Hope Santaniello controls the ball. Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Jenna Kalwa sends a pass forward.



Alexis Legowski of South Hadley goes after the bouncing ball.



Avery Klingensmith of Belchertown gets set to pass.

MUTINY, from page 7

Samborski (Chicopee), Calleigh Foley (Ludlow), and Sophia Syocurka (Ludlow).

Foley and Syocurka will be juniors on the Ludlow girls varsity soccer team in the fall. The duo normally play for the academy team, but they were called up to the U.W.S. team for the season opener.

Laura Gouvin of Monson is also listed on the Mutiny roster. She did not play against Worcester.

Before the start of the regular season, Ferrara named Mauricio "Toto" Coimbra as the Mutiny head coach.

"Everyone is a little bit nervous before the first game of regular season, but we got off to a great start tonight," said Coimbra, who's a former member of the Western Mass. Pioneers. "I've coached at the youth level, but it's very special to win my first game at this level. I think it's going to be a very exciting season."

Coimbra took over the coaching duties from Brian Linnehan, who was hired as an assistant women's soccer coach at Bryant University.

Coimbra is aided by assistant coaches Jill Kochanek, Ciro Viviano, and Federico Molinari, who's also the head coach of the Western Mass. Pioneers.

Santaniello, who's a forward, scored a pair of goals during the first half, which gave her team a 2-0 halftime lead.

During the 24th minute, Santaniello lined a shot over the head of Worcester Fuel goalie Lilliana Mantoni into the back of the net.

About 15 minutes later, Cat Berry sent a forward pass into the box and Santaniello finished off the play by shooting the ball into the left corner.

"I'm very happy for Hope," Coimbra said. "I think she's a great soccer player, and she has a very bright future. She shoots the ball mainly with her right foot, but she scored one of her goals in tonight's match with her left foot."

After playing soccer for two seasons at the University of Rhode Island, Santaniello has decided to enter the NCAA transfer portal. The portal allows Division 1 athletes the opportunity to transfer to another school without having to sit out a year.

"I decided to leave U.R.I. for personal reasons," Santaniello said. "I just want to keep growing as a soccer player. In order for me to do that, I felt like the best thing was transfer to another school. I just want to find the right school, which will help me get to the next level."

Berry, who's from Hingham, will be a senior on the University of South

Carolina women's soccer team in September. She'll be heading back to Columbia, South Carolina in the middle of June to train with her college soccer team.

"Cat is a great soccer player and she's going to have a successful career in the future," Coimbra said. "We're very lucky to have her on our team. We enjoyed watching her play in tonight's match."

Ferrara is hoping that Berry will be able to return to Ludlow if the Mutiny do make the playoffs.

"The atmosphere at the stadium is always great," Berry said. "I just love playing soccer with this group of girls. It was a great way to start our season."

Berry, who's the fifth all-time leading goal scorer at the University of South Carolina with 24 career goals, took over the spotlight at the second half. She finished last Saturday's match with a total of four goals. A couple of her goals came on amazing shots that not very many goalies would be able to stop.

"We definitely could've scored a few more goals in the first half," Berry added. "We just wanted to come out at the start of the second half and put the game away. I took advantage of my opportunities. Hearing the roar of the crowd here at Lusitano is very special."

Berry, who has two more years of

eligibility remaining at South Carolina, will most likely be drafted by a N.W.S.L. team after she graduates.

"Playing at that level is something that I've dreamed about my whole life," Berry said. "It would be awesome to play for a professional soccer team in the future."

Chandler Pedolzyk also scored a second half goal for the Mutiny. Jenna Kalwa, who's the women's soccer coach at the University of Saint Joseph in West Hartford, Connecticut, was credited with the assist.

Down at the other end of the field, Kopec, who was the Mutiny starting goalie, only had to make three saves. She was replaced in goal by Robak with ten minutes remaining in regulation.

The members of the Mutiny defensive unit are Sofia Weber, Laci Lewis, Megan Cunningham, and Kinsman.

"This is just an awesome environment to play a soccer match," said Cunningham, who's the Mutiny captain. "We also have a lot of returning players this year, which is a great thing."

The Mutiny will be playing a couple of road matches before returning home to face the Albany Rush on June 10. Their other two home matches during the regular season will be against Sporting CT (June 24) and CT Rush (July 8).

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD23P0986EA
Estate of:**

Paul Richard Bebo
Also known as: Paul Bebo
Date of Death: 03/26/2023
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Michael J Murphy of Ludlow 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: Michael J Murphy of Ludlow 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 06/08/2023.

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: May 11, 2023

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
05/19/2023

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD22P1485EA
Estate of:**

John F Chevalier
Date of Death: 06/13/2022
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for S/A - Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Maggie

Chevalier 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: Maggie Chevalier of Holyoke MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve 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 06/06/2023.

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WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M. Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
Date: May 09, 2023

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
05/19/2023

**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. SU23A0199AD

In the matter of: Elizabeth Priscilla Lasseter
CITATION
G.L. c. 210, §6

TO: Chriscilla Lasseter-Forcier

Lyle Seymour any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth.

A petition has been presented 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 indigent. 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

**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: Chriscilla Lasseter-Forcier

Lyle Seymour any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth.

A petition has been presented 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 receiving TAFDC, EACDC, poverty related veteran's benefits, Medicaid, and SSI. The Court will determine if you are indigent. 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
Hampden Division
Docket No. HD23P0581EA
Estate of:**

David B. Hannah
Date of Death: 11/24/22
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Derek Hannah of Warren, MA.**

Derek Hannah of Warren, 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 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.
05/19/2023

**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: Chriscilla Lasseter-Forcier

Lyle Seymour any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth.

A petition has been presented 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 receiving TAFDC, EACDC, poverty related veteran's benefits, Medicaid, and SSI. The Court will determine if you are indigent. 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
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield MA, 01103**

Docket No. HD23P0904GD
In the matter of: Nathaniel Dyer Polanco
Of: Holyoke, MA
RESPONDENT
Alleged Incapacitated Person

CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Vibra Hospital of W Mass of Springfield, MA** in the above captioned matter alleging that **Nathaniel Dyer Polanco** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Magdelis Machado of Springfield, MA** (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding.

If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 05/31/2023. This date is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M. Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
Date: May 02, 2023

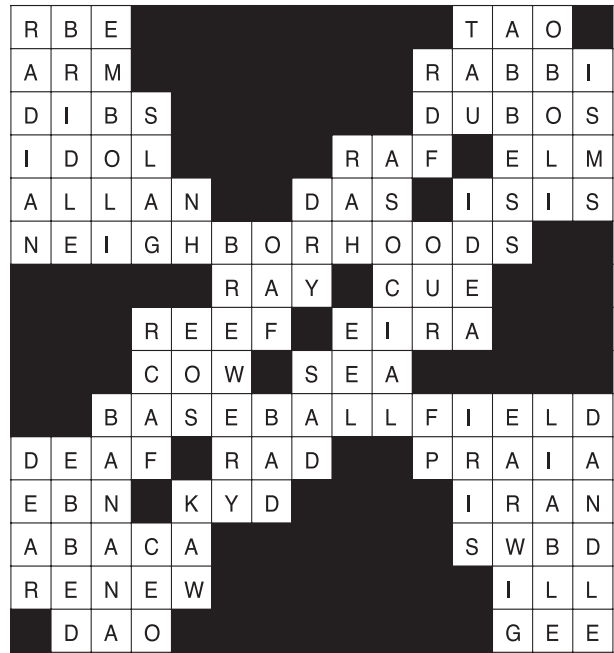
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
05/19/2023

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

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In The News

VOTE, from page 1

The city finance team, the mayor's office, and the school building committee have all worked to ensure that this project can be carried out without a debt exclusion, and they have been successful.

"We can build this school without a debt exclusion override...we can build a new middle school within the parameters of our current city budget," Garcia said.

Erin Linville, Chief Financial and Strategy Officer, agreed.

"That was the critical piece, to show that the city can afford to build a new middle school within the existing debt limits without sacrificing services or other

needs in other areas of the community," she said.

If both the city council and the MSBA approve the funding for this project, it could be underway by the fall.

The city has worked with the Model School program while designing the middle school.

"The model school program is a program that the Massachusetts School Building Authority has established to adapt and reuse the design of other successfully reconstructed schools. Model schools are efficient in design and easy to maintain and can be built more quickly and with less money than if you were starting from scratch," Linville said.

With plans in place, the next five

weeks will be crucial for the progression of this project. It is up to the elected officials to decide where this project will go from here.

Garcia believes deeply that this new middle school would be crucial for the young students in the city.

"We cannot reach our full potential until we guarantee a world-class education for all our students," he said.

Linville, as well, looks forward to the success of this project.

"I feel really excited that we are at this stage of the process and really hopeful for what it could mean for the future of Holyoke students, families, and staff members," Linville said. "It would definitely allow us to better meet the students'

educational and social-emotional needs if we're able to get this new building built."

In his State of the City address on Tuesday, May 16, the mayor asked for the city council to push the vote through for this project.

"We're ready to make a life-changing investment in our students," said Garcia. "The path before us is one of unity, collaboration and redemption. And it's a path toward a goal we're all actively working toward and a goal that is well within our reach. That goal is local control of our schools. I encourage every member of our council to please vote to authorize this funding. Please give me the unanimous support so that we can show our young people that we care about their future."

ECONOMY, from page 1

that not all of the city's economic prospects are focused in one industry. He promises to keep in mind the long-term financial hopes of the city of Holyoke and to work toward a sustainable future. Holyoke already has a variety of industries that have an impact around the world, and Garcia plans to help that to continue to flourish.

"It is no exaggeration to say that Holyoke is indeed on the world's stage," Garcia said. "These industries are also growing and contributing to our tax base, whether through tax payments and, some of which, through pilot agreements that we can focus on negotiating."

The mayor also believes that the unique assets of Holyoke, such as the Holyoke dam and canals, could attract new industries and assets in the future. Already there are companies who are interested in the hydropower capabilities of those dams and canals. Future businesses should have great opportunities

in this city.

"You can thrive here and you can most certainly grow here," said Garcia. "Holyoke may be a small city but ever since our founding we've always punched above our weight. Our local economy has had an influence around the world and our cultural events draw thousands, from the region and beyond to our community."

This strong financial position gives the city the opportunity to improve critical services, invest in the city's capital, and to plan for the future.

This improvement is thanks to the work of the city council, the mayor, and the people of Holyoke themselves.

Moving forward, the mayor hopes to continue to strengthen the city's internal financial controls.

"That remains my number one priority," he said. "This city of Holyoke faces many challenges and our ability to face any of them relies heavily on having our financial house in order."

Due to this, in the FY2024 budget the mayor will be funding a new posi-

tion, a chief financial administrative officer. This position will help to keep the city progressing forward. The creation of the position is consistent with recommendations made by the Massachusetts Division of Local Services. Holyoke is still functioning within an antiquated financial system and the CFAO will help the city to change that.

"The position will be filled by an expert in municipal finance, whose main responsibility is to streamline our internal processes. CFAO will make sure revenues are getting collected and appropriately posted and will present us with a more precise financial forecast and manage a capital plan," Garcia said.

Additionally, the budget presented this year is in a surplus of about \$1.2 million. This proposed budget has many implications for the city of Holyoke. One of them being that, for the first time in fifteen years, the local police department should be fully staffed. Furthermore, the city will have a renewed ability to make capital investments and improve quality of life for residents.

ARPA funds for this year have allowed the city to upgrade the IT infrastructure. City Hall, the DPW building, the City Hall Annex, and the council chambers will also be receiving upgrades.

"When all said is done, we'll have made \$10 million of capital upgrades all at no additional cost to the Holyoke taxpayers," the mayor said.

Plans are also in place to push for building a new middle school.

"All of these investments, as worthy as they are, will mean very little for the future prosperity if we don't act to make one more very crucial investment. It is time that we build this new middle school," Garcia said.

The city still has more work to be done in the future, including the implementation of a solution for lifting the natural gas moratorium, but the mayor has faith that the city will make it through.

"Together, between the mayor's office and the council, I know we'll be able to weather this and get the things we need to do done," he said.

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ADULT WRITING + SPEECH CLUB MEETING: English based. All levels of English welcome. Date and Time: Tue, May 23, 6:30PM-7:30PM.
Location: Ludlow Public Library.

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Baystate makes major changes on masking policy

SPRINGFIELD – In conjunction with the end of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Emergency on May 11, 2023, which coincides with the end of the Federal Public Health Emergency, Baystate Health is announcing major changes regarding masking:

According to a news release, masks will now be optional for visitors (also referred to as care partners), as well as staff which includes in patient care areas at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, Baystate Franklin Medical Center in Greenfield, Baystate Noble Hospital in Westfield and Baystate Wing Hospital in Palmer as well as at all medical practices and outpatient services.

However, the use of masks, other personal protective equipment and isolation precautions for patients who have COVID-19 or other contagious diseases will not change.

While masks are now optional, they will be available for visitors to use at their own discretion. Also, if patients prefer, they can request that caregivers wear a mask while delivering clinical care.

All visitors must adhere to Baystate Health infection control practices that are in effect throughout the health system, including self-screening for COVID-19 symptoms, using signage at entrances and must be free of any COVID-19 symptoms. If a visitor self-screens positively for symptoms or a diagnosis of COVID-19 infection in the past 10 days, they will not be allowed to enter the facility.

“The health and safety of patients, families and staff members is Baystate’s top priority,” the release states.

“Care partner visitation guidelines balance preventing the spread of COVID-19 with the needs of our patients and their

loved ones. A care partner may be a relative, partner, friend or anyone the patient chooses to have at their side during care. The number of care partners welcomed will depend on the area of the hospital and patient circumstances.”

As a reminder, visitation policies include:

- Two visitors at a time for inpatients
- One visitor at a time for adult Emergency Department

- Two parents/guardians at a time for Pediatric Emergency Department parents/guardians at a time for Baystate Children’s Hospital

- Two visitors at a time for patients in the ICU

- Two care partners allowed in the exam room, and 2 parents/care partners are allowed in pediatric exam room in outpatient centers and practices

- Children ages 5-18 must be accompanied by an adult if visiting

- Hospice/End-of-Life patients are exempt from restrictions

- One care partner for surgical patients may remain with patient through admission and accompany them into pre-op area/after the patient departs to the procedure room, the care partner may remain in the waiting area during the procedure/surgery

- One care partner may be allowed in the PACU for visitation during extended period of post-operative care/a care partner may enter the PACU when the patient is ready for discharge to assist with the discharge process and receive discharge instructions with the patient/if the patient is admitted, the care partner will follow the general visitation guidelines.

Also, for OB/GYN patients and visitors:

- In Labor and Delivery, up to two designated care partners in room during delivery and up to two hours immediately after delivery/one care partner may remain for the duration of the hospital stay and come and go throughout the day/one additional care partner may visit during visitation hours, and both care partners can be at the bedside together

- For prenatal/ultrasound appointments, one support person/care partner allowed

- In the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and Continuing Care Nursery (CCN), both parents may visit the newborn together.

And, for COVID positive patients:

- Two visitors at a time for inpatients
- No care partner in the Adult Emergency Department unless a designated exception applies

- No children under 14 unless a designated exception applies.

- Visiting hours remain 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Baystate Health will continue to monitor public health data alongside our own rate of employee infections regarding COVID-19. To ensure ongoing staff and patient safety, there may be a need to reinstate the mask policy should a surge of cases occur, the release states.

In addition, Baystate Health is regularly evaluating its visitation policy in accordance with the Governor, CDC, and DPH who are monitoring the constant evolution in our region which guides our updates. Visitation is at the discretion of Baystate Health.

For the latest information on masking and to see all exceptions for visitation, including obstetrics, go to baystate-health.org/patients/visiting.

CONGRESS, from page 4

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.

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.

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