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Garcia wants city to solve problems

By Amanda Munson
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HOLYOKE – Mayor Joshua Garcia delivered his State of the City Address last Tuesday night.

Garcia began by thanking the Madame President, the city councilors, school



Mayor Joshua Garcia

committee representatives and many others involved within the city. “Thank you to the city councilors for the chance to talk to you tonight. It’s an honor to work alongside you to care for our city. I want to thank the people of Holyoke. You sent us here to do a job to ensure the city’s long-term financial health, to make smart investments, to make Holyoke a safe, welcoming place. To educate our young people and to have a vision of what the next 10, 20, 50 years should look like here in our community.”

Garcia continued, “In short, you want us to do what

you all do every single day. Solve problems, do right by each other, and your neighbor. Try to leave this city a little better than where we found it. I know I speak for many of the elected officials in this chamber when I say I think we did exactly that. And tonight, I’m here to report that the state of our city is strong and I’m going to propose some ways that we can together make it even stronger.”

Beginning with the city’s fiscal outlook, Garcia stated that the city is living in uncertain political moments. “The partnership we once enjoyed with the federal government is no longer secure and important grant money, money that was going to be used for critical infrastructure was rescinded and there’s likely to be more upheaval in the months ahead.”

Garcia explained that if this succeeds, it means that

See GARCIA, page 10

Robles ‘thankful’ as she takes helm

By Amanda Munson
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HOLYOKE – On May 13, Jacqueline Robles of HCC Police Department was promoted to her new position as police chief and executive director of community safety, after over 22 ½ years of service to the Holyoke HCC community. Coming from a large family involved with law enforcement, siblings and cousins specifically, Robles explained she didn’t know what she wanted to do as a career but looked up to them once she learnt more about their careers.

“I went to college and earned my degree, worked a couple of security jobs and then worked as a Smith College police officer for a couple of years.” Robles soon after applied to the HCC opening but didn’t get it but was persistent and said she knew what she wanted.

“This is where I wanted to be and the position came up again, so I went for it. I knew the first time around I did well and the second time around, I showed I’m not going anywhere and thankfully I was selected and have been here ever since.”



Submitted photo

Jacqueline Robles speaks from the stage of HCC’s Leslie Phillips Theater after she was sworn in as HCC police chief on Monday, May 5.

Speaking about her relationship with the campus community and staff, Robles added that she is proud of the working relationships she’s made over the years and has established. When the opening of the position came around, people around her were rallying for her to get the position, even those who never met Robles were coming up

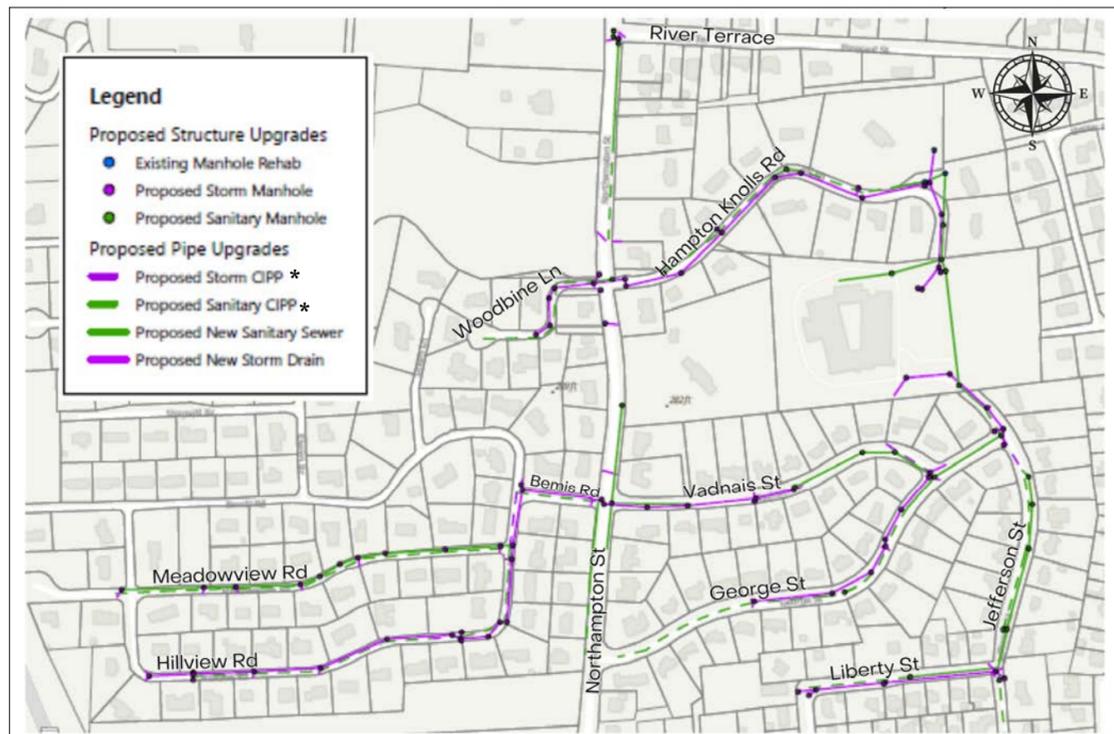
in support.

“I’m a social butterfly by nature so I love going into people’s offices and chatting,” Robles said. “We have a lot of community sponsored events that the college hosts, I am always in the mix. One year we had a Spanish band at one of the events and I was there dancing salsa with my friend. Anything that’s com-

munity involved I appreciate, municipality is a little different, you have a wider range of people you deal with. For the college, it’s a smaller community and graciously, it’s a lot better for me to be out there with people. I love it here and I always have. I always

See ROBLES, page 10

New project will reduce wastewater discharged into CT River



River Terrace CSO-21 Sewer System Separation, Phase A



River Terrace CSO-21 Sewer System Separation, Phase B

By Gregory A. Scibelli
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HOLYOKE – Earlier this week, Mayor Joshua Garcia announced the city would begin a project to create a new sewer separator, which would reduce the amount of wastewater discharge going into the Connecticut River.

Due to excessive storms in recent years, cities along the river like Springfield, Chicopee, and Holyoke have dumped sewage into the Connecticut River.

But the City of Holyoke specifically drew backlash for violating federal and state wastewater discharge permits. The city was fine and eventually led to a consent decree two years ago to remedy the issue.

But, the culmination of that decree came Monday when Garcia shared the River Terrace CSO Sewer Separation project.

“It’s a big project involving thousands of feet of mainline sewer, thousands of feet of storm drains, plus manholes, catch basins and old pipeline abandonment and pavement restoration,” Garcia

said at a press conference on George Street Monday morning, one of at least six roads to be affected. “It’s going to take more than a year, probably much, much longer than that.”

Phase A of the project will cost approximately \$10.5 million and take place near White School.

Phase B of the project will take place in a couple of years and cost about \$12 million, with \$2 million in federal funds going toward that part of the project.

“We have a lot of infrastructure that people don’t see and it’s hard to convince people to spend their dollars, either through rates and/or taxes, on things that they don’t see, but in this case here, what they do see and will see is continued cleanup in the Connecticut River; that didn’t happen by accident,” said Interim DPW Director Mary Monahan. “That happened because ratepayers and taxpayers in these cities have been committing to these cleanups. They may not see the actual project itself, except during the construction phase, but they definitely see the benefits of it.”

City to honor veterans with Memorial Day events

HOLYOKE – The Patriotic Events Committee is honored to host a Memorial Day ceremony on Monday, May 26 at the War Memorial Building located at 310 Appleton Street. The ceremony will begin at 10 a.m.

This ceremony, once known as “Decoration Day”, originated subsequent to the Civil War for the purpose of placing flowers and “decorating” the graves of those brave servicemen who lost their lives defending our country. Since 1868, we have kept this promise to honor those fallen com-

rades from all wars. Please join us and our community in honoring all fallen service men and women at our Memorial Day ceremony. Our very own TSGT Peter Tallman (ret.), will be the keynote speaker for this service.

In addition to our ceremony, the American Legion would like to extend an invitation on their Memorial Day event. Post 325 will host a lunch beginning at noon until 2 pm. Post 351 will be hosting a breakfast from 8 to 10 a.m. and lunch from 12 noon to 2 p.m. All are welcome.

Who will wear the crown?

HOLYOKE – “Ms. Massachusetts” Senior America Pageant will be held on Sunday, May 25 at 1 p.m. Holyoke High School located at 500 Beech St. will host the event. Tickets are \$15. Doors will open at 12:30 p.m.

A reception to follow the pageant will take place at Wyckoff Country Club located at 233 Easthampton Rd. Tickets for the the sit down dinner reception are \$46. Advance tickets only. For more information call Joanne 413-525-7065.

HCC Foundation awards \$364,400 in scholarships

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Community College Foundation has awarded \$364,400 in scholarships to students for the 2025-2026 academic year.

This year, the HCC Foundation awarded 410 scholarships to 379 incoming, current, and transferring HCC students. Some students received multiple scholarship awards. Individual awards range from \$500 to \$5,000.

HCC celebrated this year's recipients and donors at a scholarship reception on May 15.

The HCC Foundation is a 501(c)(3) that works to advance the college's mission, vision, and values. Founded in 1968 as the Friends of Holyoke

Community College, in response to a devastating fire that forced the college to rebuild on a new campus, the Foundation now manages assets of more than \$20 million, the largest community college foundation endowment in Massachusetts.

Holyoke recipients of scholarships are: Raulisha Agramonte, Nayeliz Almestica Rosario, Elliott Anthony, Ruth Arzuaga Rodriguez, Lyzah Avant, Cedric Ayvazian, Karina Benitez, Zoe Bisbing, Jacob Bissonette, Liushka Borrero Ramos (two awards), Dawne Brown, Alvin Rey Carabuena, Nalani Chen-Sao, Yavier Colon Rivera, Yamilis Conde Estremera, Jalen Cortes, Alajah Devone

(two awards), Brian Diaz (two awards), Jayden Diaz, Dinmariel Ferrer, Jose Gonzalez, Alany Gracia, Misterna Isaac, Jemima Kitsa, Victoria Laboy, Danielle LaPalme, AJ Lassend, Daniela Leal, Maria Lima (two awards), Taisha Martinez, Arthur Mazzu, Deelayni Melendez, Gianni Merced, Jamil Navarro, Ciara Norrington, Bekir Okatan, Eithan Ortiz Viera, Nykesha Perez, Lexyanna Rivera, Lily Rivera, Erykka Rocha, Jacob Rodriguez (two awards), Yariely Rodriguez Gonzalez (two awards), Javier Sanchez, Patrick Sweeney, Sadie Swindell (two awards), Aiden Theriault, Brian Torres, Aleena Valentin, Ayanna Vega.



Submitted photo
Nataly Gonzalez of Easthampton, Erykka Rocha of Holyoke, and Julius Dixon of Springfield celebrate their scholarship awards at the 2025 HCC Foundation Scholarship Reception.

Mall begins Center Enhancement Project

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Mall is proud to announce the start of our Center Enhancement Project to revitalize and refresh the property with a number of improvements. Over the next several months, customers will see enhancements including repaving lots and replacing curbs, updating landscaping, and painting the exterior of the mall. During this time, traffic patterns and available parking areas will be subject to change and traffic will be redirected as needed.

While work is ongoing,

the PVTA bus stop has been temporarily relocated. The stop located in the Yellow Lot near JCPenney has moved to the Lower Green Lot near Best Buy and the outer ring road. This relocation will remain in effect for the foreseeable future.

“We’re excited for this refresh and committed to making investments in the property,” said Kristen Hinckley, Marketing Director. “We appreciate our customers’ patience and understanding as we work to enhance their shopping experience.”

Velis amendment adopted by state senate

Senator John C. Velis to the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget to fund the creation of trainings for mental health clinicians and counselors to treat victims of hate and bias. Velis, who currently serves as the Co-Chair of the Special Commission on Combating Antisemitism, spoke from the Senate floor about the importance of these mental health trainings with different forms of hate on the rise in the Commonwealth.

The amendment, which was adopted Tuesday afternoon, would provide funding to the Department of

Public Health to create a competitive grant program for the development of specialized trauma trainings to be provided to mental health clinicians and counselors to help treat victims of hate and bias. The amendment specifies that each training will be unique to different forms of hate or bias impacting the Commonwealth, rather than a one size fits all approach.



State Senator John Velis

“It has become evident in talking with victims of hate who have come forward to the Commission, including children, that there is a real gap when it comes to providers who are trained to understand, address, and treat these unique forms of trauma,” said Velis, who also serves as the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee of Mental Health, Substance Use, and Recovery. “Hate manifests

in different ways for different groups, and it is essential that clinicians have access to trainings that are culturally sensitive and consider the historical prejudice the group has face.”

The latest Hate Crimes Report from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security found that hate crimes rose to 557 incidents in 2023, up 26% from 2022 and a drastic spike compared to 2018’s total of 351 incidents. Specifically, the report found that there were drastic spikes targeting the Jewish, LGBTQ, and Arabic communities.

‘Celebrate Juneteenth!’ annual event hosted by Wistariahurst Museum

HOLYOKE – On June 19, join Wistariahurst Museum and Genuine Culture in the gardens as we host our annual Juneteenth event, Celebrate Juneteenth! This event commemorates freedom and the country’s second Independence Day through community and celebration. Wistariahurst and Genuine Culture are excited to collaborate once again to bring back this celebration for the third year.

Enjoy activities throughout Wistariahurst’s grounds. Play games in the gardens, get creative with hands-on art projects, and get your face painted. There’s something for everyone, with activities for people of all ages to participate in.

This event will feature performances including lively music from the Young@Heart choir, who “prove you can grow old without growing boring.” The Bethlehem

Baptists will also share song and spoken word performances. DJ Pzo Pete will provide tunes throughout the event that will get you dancing! When you finally work up an appetite after all of this fun and games, we will have local food vendors to satisfy your cravings. White Lion Brewing Co. will be serving up beverages galore with 10 drinks on tap. Souper Sweet will be serving up sandwiches and soups

to guests as well.

Treat yourself by shopping for an array of products from crystals to jewelry. Black owned businesses, makers, and artists will be selling a variety of locally made items. Local organizations will also have tables at the event, giving you the opportunity to learn about their initiatives, and what work they’re doing in the community.

Juneteenth serves as

a poignant reminder of the remarkable resilience of Black lives, symbolizing the challenges and victories of formerly enslaved individuals striving for unity, education, and political engagement during the Reconstruction period. So mark your calendars and bring your friends and family to Wistariahurst Museum on June 19th, 2025 12:00-3:00pm! It’s going to be a day filled with joy, laughter and a whole lot of

celebration. Let’s make memories, honor history, and uplift the voices of the Black community in Holyoke. Best of all, admission to this celebration is completely free and open to the public! We can’t wait to see you there.

Wistariahurst Museum has received a grant from the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency, through its Festivals & Projects grant program to support this event.

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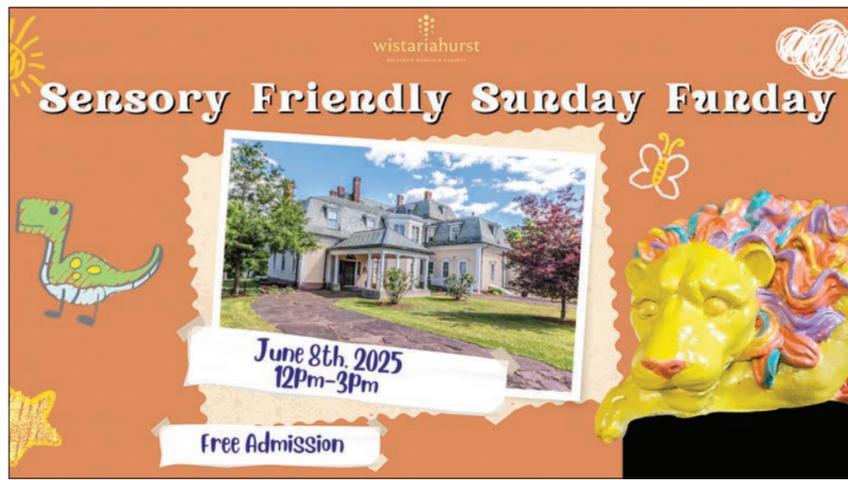
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Museum holding events to celebrate Pride Month

H O L Y O K E – Wistariahurst Museum is celebrating Pride month with informative and celebratory events at the museum. Coming up Wednesday, June 4 from 6 to 7 p.m. is *Becoming Better Neighbors: LGBTQ+ Inclusion and Empathy in Action*, a workshop facilitated by Dr. Nina Tissi-Gassoway (they/she) and Cas Rego-Martin, MPPA (they/he). This workshop will engage participants in interactive learning methods to give them insight and tools on how to support Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, and Queer (LGBTQ) people within their community. Tissi-Gassoway is a Professor of Practice in Higher Education and Social Justice Education and Coordinator for the Social Justice Education program at University of Massachusetts Amherst. Cas Rego-Martin,

MPPA (they/he) is a social justice educator and facilitator based in Western Massachusetts. Rego-Martin is passionate about co-creating brave and joyful spaces with marginalized students and educators. *Becoming Better Neighbors: LGBTQ+ Inclusion and Empathy in Action* will foster understanding and community building- the perfect way to start Pride Month this June.

The following week is the second annual celebration event for the LGBTQ+ community: *Celebrate Pride during our Sensory-Friendly Sunday Funday Passport Series* this summer! Join us on Sunday, June 8 from 12 to 3 p.m. to enjoy lawn games, activities, and support local businesses and artists that are a part of the LGBTQ+ community or allies. Families and guests will be able to interact with fun historical activities



Wistariahurst Museum is holding events throughout June to celebrate Pride Month.

Submitted photo

based around Wistariahurst, and help staff search for our sleepy lion, Winston.

Serenity Lockhart will be leading our first Drag Storytime with a per-

formance afterwards consisting of family-friendly songs everyone will jam to. Holyoke residents may recognize Serenity from her many amazing performances

at Fame Eatery/Lounge, and we're excited to welcome her to Wistariahurst.

Wistariahurst Museum is dedicated to creating more sensory-friendly events for

families with sensory sensitivities in mind. Lights will be dimmed around the inside of the museum, all activities will be low or mess free, and areas will be available with reduced noise levels. Our Sensory Friendly Sunday Fundays are hosted so that everyone in our community can enjoy a celebratory afternoon in our museum and gardens.

These events are free and open to all who want to celebrate Pride at Wistariahurst. These events will foster understanding and celebrate the LGBTQ+ community.

Becoming Better Neighbors: LGBTQ+ Inclusion and Empathy in Action is funded in part by a grant from the Holyoke Local Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Arts League Exhibition on display

H O L Y O K E – During the month of June, Wistariahurst Museum at 238 Cabot St. in Holyoke will host an exhibition of artwork by members of the Holyoke Arts League (HAL). The museum and gardens are the historic home of the Skinner Family that owned and operated the Skinner Silk Mill, the world's premier silk fabric production facility in the city's Canal District.

We hope you will attend our opening reception and meet the artists who live in Western Massachusetts

and Northern Connecticut on Monday, June 2, from 5-7 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. Throughout the month of June, the exhibition may be viewed free of charge during the museum's open hours, Mondays from 10 a.m to 2 p.m., and Tuesdays from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

This juried show will include entries in oil and pastel, watercolor, acrylic, tempera, gouache and other non-oil wet media, graphite, charcoal, printmaking and other graphic media, sculpture and ceramics.

Submissions are accepted through May 24.

Light refreshments will be served. The Arts League was founded in 1923 and is now celebrating its 102nd year in Holyoke. The League holds artist demonstrations and weekly adult figure drawing sessions. For more information about HAL, visit <https://www.holyoke-arts-league.org> online. You may also address inquiries to holyokeartsleague@gmail.com For more information about Wistariahurst, call (413) 322-5660 or online at info@wistariahurst.org.

Library to hold talk on church fire

H O L Y O K E – There will be a public lecture on the Precious Blood Church Fire of 1875 on Thursday, May 29 at 5:30 p.m. at the Holyoke Public Library.

150 years ago, on the last Thursday in May, a fire engulfed the wooden structure on lower Cabot Street where the Precious Blood Parish held its services while their brick church was being built. Since the church was packed for the evening celebration of Corpus Christi, and the building's doors opened inward, dozens of lives were lost. Holyoke's tragedy received extensive news coverage both locally and nationally and was remembered in the Holyoke Daily Transcript/Transcript-Telegram on its fiftieth and hundredth anniversaries.

On Thursday, May 29, at 5:30 PM, the Holyoke Public Library will host a talk on the fire and its victims by Robert Comeau.

The talk, which is free and open to the public, takes place in the Community



Submitted photo

There will be a lecture on the Precious Blood Church Fire of 1875 on Thursday, May 29 at Holyoke Public Library.

Room and is made possible by a Holyoke Local Cultural Council grant. (For those interested, a May 24 tour related to this event is posted on the website of the Holyoke Preservation Trust).

For questions about the

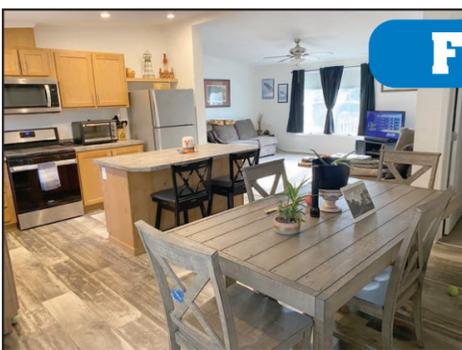
talk at the Library, contact the Holyoke History Room at (413) 420-8107. The History Room will also have materials related to the fire on display on the third-floor mezzanine of the Library through the end of the month.

General public invited to grave flagging tradition

H O L Y O K E – 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 22 and 23 at 3 p.m. rain or shine Elmwood 2190 Northampton St 01040 – May 22 and 23 at 3 p.m. rain or shine Forestdale 304 Cabot St 01040 – May 15 at 4:30 p.m. rain or shine St. Jerome 125 St. Jerome Ave 01040 – May 24 at 10 a.m. rain or shine If you have any questions, please contact Wayne Klinge at klingsw@holyokey.org or 413-322-5630. All are welcome.





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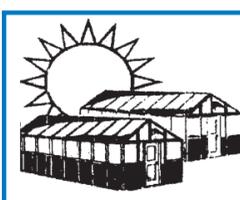


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Guest Column

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor



Will 'DOGE' hurt our Social Security or Medicare benefits?

Dear Rusty:

I am a new AMAC member and have an important question for you and your answer will be greatly appreciated.

My question is: Is the new DOGE effort going to help us, or hurt us, all those living on Social Security and receiving Medicare benefits? Please let us know soon.

Regards: Worried Senior

Dear Worried Senior:

Here at the AMAC Foundation, we offer free access to everyone, the public as well as AMAC members, for our acclaimed Social Security Advisory Service, at which we answer all inquiries from anyone with questions about Social Security and enrollment in Medicare.

As you can imagine, we very closely watch all action in Washington, D.C. which will affect Social Security and Medicare, especially any Congressional legislation being considered. The new Department of Government Efficiency organization is tasked with uncovering and eliminating fraud and waste in all areas of the Federal Government and that includes Social Security and Medicare. But the important thing to remember is that DOGE is seeking only to discover fraud and government waste.

Recently a great deal of visibility has been given to DOGE's efforts to discover potential fraud and waste in the Social Security Administration.

Everything we have seen thus far indicates that DOGE's efforts have identified opportunities for reducing fraud and waste at the Social Security Administration, so our expectation is that DOGE's efforts will tend to help the Social Security Administration become more efficient but not endanger anyone's Social Security benefits.

Indeed, President Trump and the DOGE team have repeatedly said that no cuts in Social Security benefits will occur as a result of DOGE's efforts. Reducing fraud and waste at the SSA would tend to

improve the agency's financial posture and improve their ability to pay full benefits longer. The same is true for Medicare.

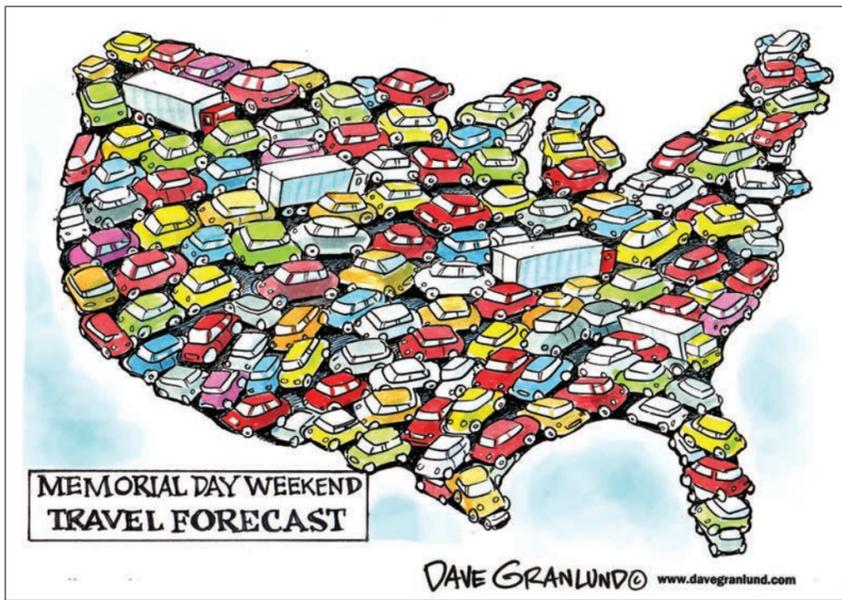
Actually, DOGE is very transparent and posts everything they find on this website: www.doge.gov. A quick look at this website reveals that none of what they have found at the SSA indicates any threat to SS or Medicare benefits.

I suggest that any negative news media and social media accounts of DOGE's activities be taken with a grain of salt. All such articles are largely meant to attract attention to unlikely "doomsday" scenarios. The reality is that our government is over \$36 trillion in debt, and that debt is growing, which is an unsustainable financial path for our country.

DOGE is specifically tasked with eliminating the deficit gap by reducing frivolous government spending and fraud. But reducing crucial benefits for seniors on Social Security and Medicare are not part of DOGE's efforts, nor their goal.

Rest assured that here at the AMAC Foundation we are watching all current DOGE efforts very closely and will vigorously oppose anything which will negatively affect Social Security and Medicare. Indeed, AMAC's stated goal is to strengthen and preserve Social Security for all future generations.

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



Guest Column



Baltimore oriole



By Ellenor Downer

An Oakham couple saw their first Baltimore oriole at their feeder on Monday, May 5.

I saw the first Baltimore oriole for this year on Tuesday, May 13. I heard it singing on two occasions, but I could not locate it. The male oriole's whistling song is often heard while the bright orange and black bird is perched in a tree top. They prefer tall trees in open areas.

The Baltimore oriole is a medium sized icterid blackbird common in eastern North America as a migratory breeding bird. It received its name from the resemblance of the male's colors to those on the coat-of-arms of 17th-century Lord Baltimore. The female weaves a hanging basket

nest. As a child, orioles nested in an elm tree in our yard and my family and I enjoyed watching the orioles from our porch.

Young male orioles don't molt into the bright orange of the adult until the fall of their second year. Until that time they resemble the drab, female plumage. However, females become deeper orange with every molt and some older females are almost as bright orange as males.

Orioles have a long pointed beak with a thick base. The male has a black head with black wings and tail. The wings also have white marks.

The Oakham couple also had a Bald Eagle in their yard. The eagle was eating a

fish while perched on a tree limb.

Worthington birds

I received an email from a Worthington resident. He said, "For years the red breasted grosbeak has returned to my feeder in the first week of May. I was thinking he was late this year, but yesterday afternoon (on May 7) one arrived."

He also said, "About a week ago I heard a wood thrush, but not since. I am nervous about bird populations. I know scholars say they are declining, and this year I am seeing very few robins, making for a silent spring." He also commented he hoped there were plenty

See BIRDS page 5

Rhododendrons 101

I was never all that fond of rhododendrons. Indeed, they are pretty when in flower, but the other 11 and a half months of the year I find them a bit uninteresting.

As I write, however, I am staring out my window at pink rhododendron buds that before long will burst into bloom. The shrub is on the massive side, and each year a multitude of bees and our resident hummingbirds frequent the blossoms.

For this reason, I am rethinking my stand: when sited appropriately and cared for well, this shrub is deserved of a place in the average landscape, if just for its flowers alone.

Please enjoy a column from the archives that will give you some pointers to help you achieve just that!

Where in the yard should a rhododendron be placed? Most rhododendrons look better when grouped with other shrubs in a border or foundation planting.

Before doing so, however, consider the ultimate size of the variety you have cho-

sen and position it the proper distance away from buildings and other plants. Petite two foot tall container plants may grow upwards of seven feet tall in just ten years!

In our locale, siting in partial shade is best; morning sun and afternoon shade make an ideal combination. Too much sun will result in rhodies with yellow leaves. What kind of soil do rhododendrons prefer? Most of us know that rhododendrons are acid-loving. They require a soil pH of 5.5. Adjust your pH if necessary by adding agricultural sulfur or ferrous sulfate, not aluminum sulfate. Soils that are light and well-drained and have a high organic matter content are desirable, especially if the humus is acidic, say from oak leaves or pine needles.

How should they be planted? Never sink a rhododendron too deeply - plant the root ball level with the ground or even an inch or two above it. Water the newly planted rhododendron well the entire first season.

Since they have very fine roots, it will take a while for the roots to grow from the existing root ball into the surrounding soil. If the root ball dries out during this period it will be hard to rewet and the plant may die. Should this happen, drip water from your hose for several hours until the root ball is rehydrated.

What else can be done to keep rhododendrons healthy? Since rhododendrons are shallow-rooted, keep cultivation at the base of the plant to a minimum. To prevent weeds and conserve soil moisture, consider using a coarse mulch.

If your soil is fertile, extra nutrients are rarely nec-

See GARDEN, page 5

Memorial Day 2025

Another year has passed and more of our servicemembers too. Now we should thank them for sacrifices made for me and you.

Is it too much to ask we take a minute to salute them?

This one day to, regardless of religion, and say amen.

Since the Revolutionary War and even today.

Thank you is little enough to say.

So as you walk past the flag draped grave.

Think of the the veterans' sacrifices they gave.

The duty they served our country to keep us all free.

Let us not forget they have done for you and for me.

- Earl Bonett

The Holyoke Sun welcomes election letters to the editor

The Holyoke Sun welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to *The Holyoke Sun*, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to thesun@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Friday's

newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspa-

per plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in *The Holyoke Sun*.

the HOLYOKE Sun

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

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

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

Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

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



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Children's Museum hosting artmaking party

HOLYOKE – The Children's Museum at Holyoke and The Color Collaborative are thrilled to invite families to a special Imagined Worlds Artmaking Party on Saturday, May 31 from 12 to 2 p.m. This free community event, held outside the museum, or inside the museum if raining, promises an afternoon of hands-on creativity, connection, and fun—including pizza! Youth artwork will influence the design of a large-scale mural on Dwight Street in Holyoke.

Imagined Worlds is a traveling youth mental health and public art initiative designed by The Color Collaborative. The project invites youth to reflect on the question: "What would a world look like where you would feel happy and safe?" Using an art thera-

py-informed art activity, the program encourages young participants to express their hopes and dreams through collaborative artmaking. The results are not only beautiful, but powerful tools for emotional wellness, empathy, and community pride.

"We're excited to bring this project to Holyoke and to collaborate with such a beloved institution," said Sharon Leshner, Artistic Director of The Color Collaborative. "We're always looking forward to seeing what youth create and how their artwork will add to the neighborhood for years to come."

The event is part of a broader initiative that brings together artists, therapists, educators, and families to support youth mental health through public art.

Finished artworks may travel to other communities or be displayed locally as part of a larger Imagined Worlds exhibition.

"This event reflects our mission to support whole-child development through joyful, creative play," said DJ Tucker, Executive Director at the Children's Museum at Holyoke. "We're proud to partner with The Color Collaborative to uplift youth voices and bring community-driven art to life right here in downtown Holyoke."

This event is made possible thanks to the generous support of the Beveridge Family Foundation, The Irene E. and George A. Davis Foundation, M&T Charitable Foundation, the Carlos Vega Fund, Valley Creates of the Community

Foundation of Western Massachusetts, Summerlin Floors, and Clayton Insurance.

Whether you're a young artist, a family looking for a fun day out, or a community member passionate about youth mental health, Imagined Worlds promises to be a memorable and meaningful experience for all.

Free middle school rowing program for Holyoke youth

CHICOPEE / HOLYOKE – Holyoke Rows is offering a free middle school rowing program for Holyoke and Chicopee youth.

Learn to row and enjoy being outdoors on the Connecticut River.

The programs are Mondays and Wednesdays

or Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 to 5 p.m. from April 28 through June 6.

Holyoke Rows is located at 25 Jones Ferry Rd in Holyoke.

To learn more, visit www.holyokerows.org to sign up. For more information, please call 413 320-3134.

Library hosting genealogy classes

HOLYOKE – Led by professional genealogist Hillary Schau, Jumpstart Your Genealogy is aimed at helping any genealogy researcher navigate and manage both paper records and the wealth of sources now available online.

It will be offered

Thursdays, May 1, 8, and 15 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. in the Holyoke Public Library Computer Classroom.

People just starting their family histories and those who wish to restart research they have set aside should find the class particularly helpful, as will those

who want to dig deeper into records.

Irisneri Alicea Flores, a professional genealogy consultant with expertise in Spanish language genealogy records, will assist.

Seats are limited, so please pre-register 413-420-8107.

BIRDS, from page 4

of robins my way. Yes, there are.

The Worthington resident also saw a bear. He said, "A bear reached up 7.5 feet and got the bottom of my feeder. I saw him in the dim light of a motion light, full height as he was doing it. A real monster that my 40 lb dog chased off."

Brimfield birds

A Brimfield resident said, "Last week in the yard the first ruby-throated hummingbird (male), phoebe and a house wren were seen."

He said, "In Warren it looks like the ospreys are incubating eggs." He also said, "I have several black swallow-tailed butterfly chrysalises in my garage that I need to get into the daylight now that the weather seems to be more spring like. Last year, he and his wife overwintered three and they all emerged and flew away.

Peregrine falcon cameras

Peregrine falcons are the fastest birds on Earth. They live throughout the world, including right here in Massachusetts! Several web cameras allow the public to witness falcons during breeding season.

Some site in Massachusetts with web cameras: Clock Tower of the Custom House, Boston nesting for over 20 years <https://marriott.ozolio.com/mwc-pulse-boston/>

Fox Hall Dorm UMass Lowell nesting since 2007 <https://www.uml.edu/falcons/>

DuBois Library UMass Amherst since 2003 years <https://www.library.umass.edu/falcons/>

Bird experience

The Brimfield resident sent the following email. "I had an interesting experience earlier today, May 12. We have a love seat that is tucked under a which hazel shrub and behind a winterberry holly. There are

other small trees and shrubs nearby and there is a feeding station about 15' away. While sitting very still I began to hear bird's wings flapping close by, then I could feel the air moving near my head."

He continued, "Then the bird landed briefly on the top of my head. Of course I couldn't see the bird. As soon as it left my head I turned my head slowly but couldn't see any birds behind me. I have a very healthy hear of hair for an old coot and I think the bird might have been looking for nesting material.

I suspect it was a titmouse because several had been back and forth to the feeder before this happened."

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

GARDEN, from page 4

essary.

Rhododendrons planted in less than ideal soil can benefit from a balanced fertilizer intended for acid-loving plants. Apply it in early spring; never add fertilizer past June or you will encourage succulent growth that is apt to be winter killed.

After large-flowered rhododendrons are done blooming, they can be deadheaded quite easily. Simply hold on to the center of the spent flower cluster and bend it forward. Deadheading will keep your shrub looking tidy as well as prevent excessive seed formation.

Plants that spend energy making seeds have less ener-

gy for next year's flowers. If pruning is needed it can be accomplished at the same time as deadheading; any later and you may sacrifice flower buds.

Since flowers are the plant's main attribute, don't risk it.

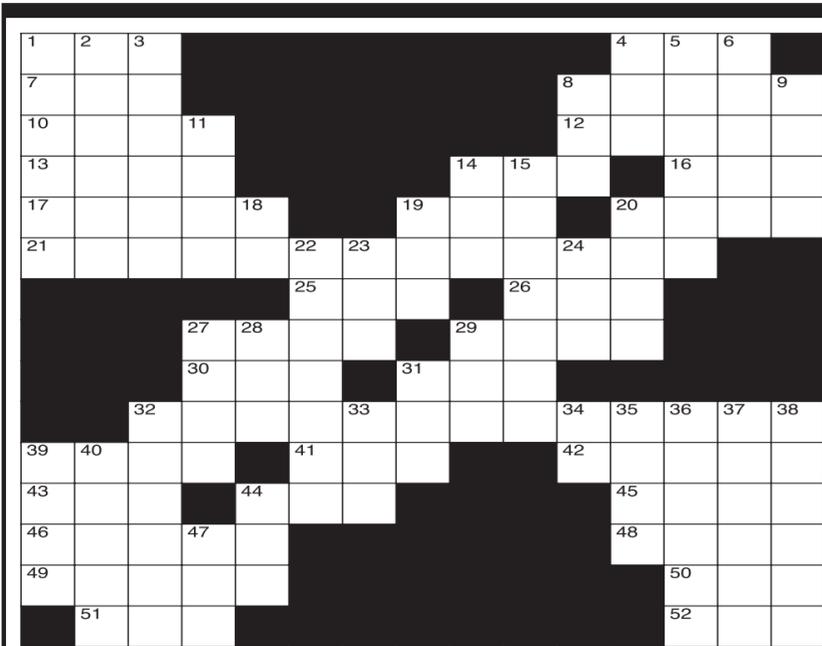
How do I deal with large areas of winter kill? This spring has brought with it some seriously damaged rhododendrons. My guess would be that this came as a result of excessive wind and a few days of very chilly late winter weather.

Although I addressed this question over a month ago, readers are still concerned about their rhododendrons and other ericaceous plants such as azaleas

and leucothoe, that also have large areas of brown leaves and dead branches. Oftentimes, dead stems that are cut back to well within the shrub, to a point of active growth, will respond with new growth that will rejuvenate the rest of the plant.

I am hopeful that this is the case for my readers.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 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.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
4. British thermal unit
7. Afflict
8. Refrain from harming
10. Galls
12. Leg bone
13. Rhine tributary
14. Recipe measurement
16. Chap
17. Useful book
19. Mountain Time
20. Snakelike fishes
21. Places where people live
25. US, Latin America, Canada belong to
26. Periodical
27. A type of sense
29. A way to get possession of

30. Everyone has one
31. Body art
32. Mr. October
39. Abba __, Israeli politician
41. Head movement
42. Jeweled headdress
43. VCR button
44. A way to change color
45. Basketball move
46. Upright stone slab
48. Forest-dwelling monkey
49. Pulsate steadily
50. Negative
51. Sino-Soviet bloc (abbr.)
52. Unit of work

CLUES DOWN

1. Island

2. Pittsburgh ballplayer
3. Chemical compound
4. Indicates density of data (abbr.)
5. Mesas
6. Wild, long-legged sheep
8. Engine additive
9. "CSI" actor George
11. Stony waste matter
14. Thyroid-stimulating hormone
15. Pores in a leaf's epidermis
18. Digraph
19. Married woman
20. Peripheral
22. Northern Italy city
23. Klutz
24. Type of tree

27. Witnessed
28. Popular breakfast food
29. __ Mahal
31. BoSox legend Williams
32. Professional drivers
33. Atom or molecule type
34. The Constitution State
35. Chest to store clothes (Scottish)
36. Type of solution
37. Speaker
38. Specifying
39. Formerly (archaic)
40. Wiseman and Krom are two
44. The bill in a restaurant
47. Tennis shot

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 9

Blessed Sacrament Parish

Rev. Duy Le
frduyle@blessedsacramentholyoke.org
 1945 Northampton St., Holyoke
 PARISH RECTORY: 413-532-0713
 OFFICE HOURS:
 Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 Friday 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 WEEKEND MASSES:
 Saturday 4 p.m.
 Sunday 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
 DAILY MASS AND ROSARY
 Monday - Friday: ROSARY 6:15 a.m.
 Monday - Friday: MASS 6:45 a.m.
 Legal Holidays: ROSARY 7:30 a.m.
 Legal Holidays: MASS 8 a.m.
 ROSARY AND MEDITATION
 Monday Evening: 6 p.m.
www.blessedsacramentholyoke.org
 Facebook: @bspholyokema

First Baptist Church

Pastor Theresa Temple
 1976 Northampton St., Holyoke
 (413) 533-7728
firstbaptistchurchholyokey@comcast.net
 Facebook: First Baptist Church of Holyoke, MA
 HOURS: Sunday worship service (winter hours) at 10:30 a.m. (summer hours) at 10 a.m.
 Wednesday Bible Studies, one at 11 a.m. and one at 5:30 p.m.

Our Lady of the Cross Catholic Parish

Pastor: Fr. Albert Scherer, OFM Conv.
 Email: pastor@ourladyofthecross.com
 Holy Cross Ave., Holyoke
 Parish Offices are located at: 15 Maple Street, Holyoke (413) 532-5661
parish@ourladyofthecross.com
 OFFICE HOURS:
 Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
 WEEKEND MASSES:
 Saturday 4 p.m.
 Sunday 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m. (Polish), and 10:30 a.m.
 DAILY MASS:
 Monday - Saturday 8:30 a.m.
 Legal Holidays Mass 9 a.m.
 Reconciliation (Confession)
 Monday - Saturday 8 a.m.
 Saturday 3:15pm
 Anytime by Appointment
 DEVOTIONS
 Monday - Saturday
 Divine Mercy Chapel - 7:50 a.m.
 ROSARY 8:05 a.m.
www.ourladyofthecross.com

CHURCH DIRECTORY



Your Community Church

St. Peter's Lutheran Church

Rev. Debora Stein
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 Office: stpetersholyokey@gmail.com
 Pastor: revdebma@gmail.com
 Website: www.stpetersholyokey.org
 Social media:
facebook.com/stpetersholyokey
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 Thursday 2 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. (Call first)
 WORSHIP:
 Sundays at 9:30 a.m. (also on Facebook Live) & Thursdays at 7 p.m.
 Other: Prayers with Pastor - Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. - on Facebook Live.

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The Rev. Canon Joel Martinez
 485 Appleton St., Holyoke
 413-532-5060
Office@StPaulsholyoke.org
StPaulsholyoke.org
 Instagram:
stpaulsepiscopalchurch_holyoke
 OFFICE HOURS:
 Tuesday - Friday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 Days and Hours of Services:
 Sunday: 8 a.m.
 Sunday: 10 a.m.
 Sunday: 5 p.m. (Spanish)

Community Artists and Artisans host Sunshine Village

By Christina Gioscia
Correspondent

AGAWAM – At Agawam Public Library on May 14, club members and attendees gathered for May’s Agawam Community Artists and Artisans meeting. The club and Sunshine Village collaborated to create a welcoming atmosphere where all are encouraged to enjoy refreshments, chat with a fellow community member, or look at the artwork on display. Sunshine Village has also organized a free raffle for one lucky winner to get a Sunshine Village beach towel. There is a fused glass piece on display, by Kathy Glists, it’s a beautiful bright red glass plate.

Club President Ceil Rossi and Treasurer Karen Conkey touted the mission of the ACAA.

“Our association has a mission to bring art into the community, so we do a lot of different things. It’s not just about the artists in the room, it’s about getting other people that might not even know they’re artists, but who love art, to experience it,” says Conkey.

“I wanted to showcase what else is out there besides our art. Sunshine Village had their art here last month and I thought it was very impressive,” Rossi said.

Robin Fernandes and Carolyn Maloney, who are both on the Agawam Community Artists and

Artisans Board of Directors, said they are pleased with the current composition of the club

“I like the diversity of the club because there are so many areas and expressions that are kind of represented as part of the membership,” Fernandes said.

Maloney and Fernandes promoted the program Art with a Heart. Art classes are held for anyone to attend and 100 percent of the profits are donated to Parish Cupboard which provides groceries and meals to individuals and families in need in West Springfield, Agawam, and Feeding Hills.

CEO of Sunshine Village Gina Kos was the featured presenter and was pleased to come to the ACAA to promote what Sunshine does.

“Ceil Rossi was kind enough to invite Sunshine Village to come in to the artists and artisans community to highlight what Sunshine Village does, in particular our Agawam program and our community based day services which is full of artists who long to be entrepreneurs,” Kos said. “And we hope that we’ll be able to find some partnerships for our artists to sell their homemade goods. Sunshine Village is an incredibly special place. It’s full of clients who bring with them their unique abilities and talents that they’re able to share with not only the employees, but really our community. One of the best



Turley Photos By Christina Gioscia

Agawam Community Artists and Artisans attendees and club members, CEO and President of Sunshine Village Gina Kos, Community Relations Manager of Sunshine Village Corinne Dumont, and Sunshine Village associates during the meeting May 14.

things about Sunshine Village is the community support we get as an organization that translates to support for our clients. It opens doors for jobs and volunteer opportunities. We promote the abilities of people with disabilities. What we want people to see is that our clients, people who have intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities, people who are on the autism spectrum can be meaningful, contributing members of our community, and that there are so many of our clients who are artists, whose talent is immeasurable, and we’re here to showcase that.”

Rossi, thanked Kos for coming to do her presentation.

Kos has worked at Sunshine Village for 34 years. She shares that Sunshine Village was founded in 1967 by a group of parents who wanted a better life for their

children. Since then Sunshine Village has developed into a place where people with physical, developmental and intellectual disabilities as well as people on the autism spectrum can come to find their passion, build a career, and foster friendships.

“We help people find their passion,” Kos said. She shares information about Sunshine Village’s community-based day services which is a program that provides pathways for clients to develop their career goals.

“What all these programs do in a nutshell is help people live their lives to the fullest,” Kos said.

For more information about Sunshine Village visit, www.sunshine.us. For more information about upcoming events at Agawam Public Library visit, agawam-library.org.



CEO and President of Sunshine Village Gina Kos and Treasurer of Agawam Community Artists and Artisans Karen Conkey.



Paper Festival to take place June 7

HOLYOKE – The inaugural Holyoke Paper Festival is set to bring a one-day celebration of art, paper, and place to downtown Holyoke on Saturday, June 7 at the De La Luz Soundstage, 114 Race Street.

This new event celebrates Holyoke’s unique identity as The Paper City, once producing an estimated 80% of the writing paper used in the U.S. during the late 1800s. Today, artists and community members continue to be inspired by Holyoke’s history of innova-

tion, its vibrant arts scene, and its powerful connection to the Connecticut River and the land of the Pocumtuc, Agawam, and Nonotuck peoples.

Festival attendees can look forward to a full day of programming including a fine art exhibition, interactive workshops, guest speakers, local tours, and more—all highlighting the legacy and future of paper as a creative medium. Entries to the art exhibition have been received from artists across the country, underscoring

Holyoke’s national significance in paper and printmaking culture.

The Holyoke Paper Festival is made possible by support from MassDevelopment, the Holyoke Local Cultural Council, Holyoke Community College, and local business and property owners.

To learn more about the festival or to get involved as a sponsor, volunteer, or donor, visit www.holyokepaperfestival.com for the latest updates and details.

HCC awarded \$500K grant to train MAs

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College has received a \$500,000 state grant to train medical assistants to work in area hospitals.

The grant to HCC is part of \$6.8 million in workforce development grants to 15 organizations that were announced this week by the Healey-Driscoll Administration. The Senator Kenneth J. Donnelly Workforce Success Grants are funded by the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development and administered by the Commonwealth Corporation through the state’s Workforce Competitive Trust Fund.

With the \$500,000 grant to HCC, the college will provide training and placement services to 60 unemployed and underemployed participants and incumbent workers for medical assistant positions. The college’s partners in the grant include Baystate Medical Center and Valley Health Systems/Holyoke Medical Center.

Jeffrey Hayden, HCC vice president of Business and Community Services, said

the grant seeks to help alleviate the increasing industry demand for credentialed medical assistants.

“It’s an area of need,” said Hayden. “Medical assistants work in doctor’s offices. Often, they are the ones who come and take your medical history, they run the scheduling, and, on the critical care side, they are also there on hospital floors, doing similar types of work.”

Hayden said HCC has been training medical assistants for Baystate and Valley Medical Center for many years, and the grant will allow that work to continue.

“We see this as an opportunity for somebody to get an entry-level job in healthcare and then come back to us for more education and training and make it a career,” said Hayden. “It’s similar to the work we do with CNAs (certified nursing assistants). We want to see them climb up the ladder. That can be in administration, it can be in nursing, or it can be in some other allied health field.”

Altogether, the 15 grant recipients will provide train-

ing and placement services to more than 1,100 individuals in Massachusetts. HCC was one of only three community colleges in the state to receive awards. The others were Greenfield Community College (\$417,997 for 48 early childhood educator positions) and Quinsigamond Community College (\$499,610 for 60 certified nursing assistants). HCC and GCC were the only institutions in western Massachusetts to receive grants.

“The Workforce Success Grants continue our commitment to supporting our workers and providing access to good-paying jobs and long-term career success,” said Governor Maura Healey. “By providing job training and upskilling for underemployed and unemployed jobseekers, we are helping unlock potential, strengthening competitiveness, and connecting our world class talent with innovative companies across the state.”

The HCC medical assistant training program is expected to begin in September 2025.

Habitat for Humanity to participate in ‘Women Build 2025’

WEST SPRINGFIELD – What if picking up a hammer could change a life – including your own?

Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSHFH) understands real change happens when we act. Therefore, the nonprofit organization is challenging individuals, teams, and local companies to sponsor “Women Build 2025.”

Women Build is more than just a volunteer event—it’s a call to action. It empowers women to better their communities and shine a light on the challenges families face when decent housing is out of reach. Participants gain hands-on experience constructing a home for a local family, while actively addressing the need for affordable housing. The work is vital. The impact is lasting.

“While Women Build centers on the inclusion and empowerment of women, it welcomes volunteers of all genders and gender identities,” said Aimee Giroux, GSHFH executive director. “It’s about breaking down stereotypes, learning new skills, building together, and most importantly—having fun while making a difference.”

Women Build 2025 offers five levels of sponsorships, ranging from \$250 to \$10,000. For more information, see attached flyer or visit habitatspringfield.org/women-build

GSHFH is a housing ministry dedicated to strengthening communities by empowering low-income families to change their lives and the lives of future generations through homeownership and home repair opportunities. This is accomplished by working in partnership with diverse people, from all walks of

life, to build and repair simple, decent, affordable housing. Habitat’s mission to provide homeownership opportunities to low-income families is unique as it requires partner families to work alongside the community that is reaching out to help them. GSHFH has helped roughly 100 local families realize their dream of homeownership over the last 38 years.

For more information, contact Aimee Giroux, executive director, at giroux@habitatspringfield.org or (413) 739-5503 x1007.



Veterans Services to lead grave restoration

HOLYOKE – The Veterans Services is honored to host a Graves

Restoration Event on Saturday, June 7 at the Elmwood Cemetery locat-

ed at 2190 Northampton Street. The event will begin at 10 a.m. Rain Date will be on June 14.

This event is to restore and preserve our deceased veterans markers so that they are kept in a presentable form for posterity.

Tools and supplies will be provided. There are no hazardous chemicals (to humans, animals or environment) used in the process of restoration.

If you have any questions, please contact Wayne Klinge at klingew@holyoke.org or 413-322-5630. All are welcome.



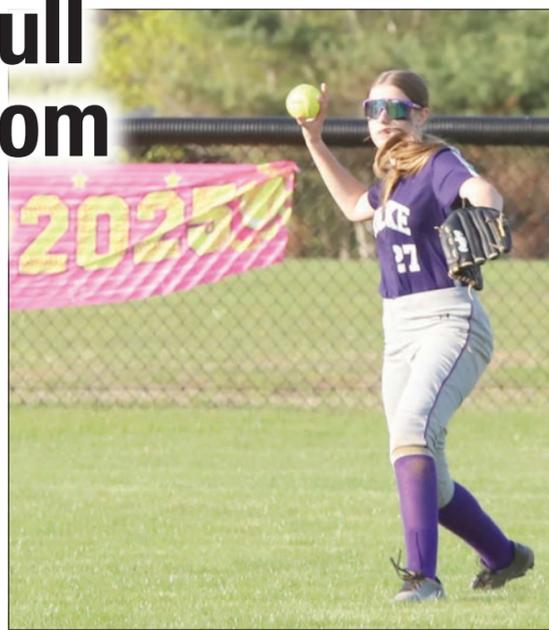
SPORTS



Catcher Samantha Rodriguez blocks a ball in the dirt.

Rams pull away from Knights

GRANBY – Though Holyoke put up some early runs, Granby did not stop scoring and an eight-run fourth inning sealed a mercy-rule win for the Rams 19-4 over Holyoke last Monday evening. The Rams pounded out 15 hits. Cassie Flaherty had five RBI while Mabel Carillon drove in three runs. Granby finishes the regular season with a 12-6 record while Holyoke, which got three RBI from Janiya Lagoy, fell to 5-13.



Grace Bechard fires a throw to the infield.

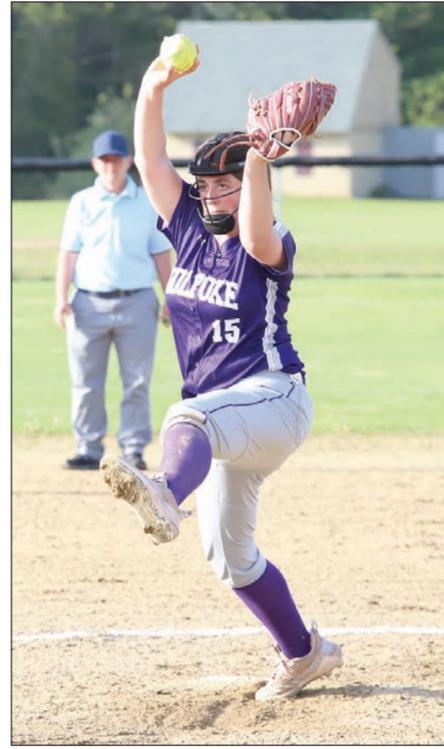


Jade Maldonado throws to first for an out.



Janiya Lagoy relays a throw to first.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Kylie Blaha sends a pitch home.

Knights fall to Granby, Southwick

HOLYOKE – Unfortunately, there will be no state tournament this season for Holyoke High School boys volleyball. Though the Knights have managed to make the state tournament a few times since it began, the Knights will fall short of that threshold with a 6-11 regular season. The Knights lost two of their final three matches to Granby and Southwick. They did beat SICS, but failed to finish in the top 32 of the crowded Division 2 state tournament picture.

Contact the Sports Editor

Want to submit a team photo, pass along a potential story idea, or just find out how to get a copy of that great photo of your young athlete? Please send all sports-related press releases and information to Sports Editor Greg Scibelli at: sports@turley.com or call, 1-413-283-8393.

Volleyball Hall welcomes new members to board

HOLYOKE – The International Volleyball Hall of Fame (IVHF) is pleased to announce the appointment of three new members to its Board of Directors: Jesus Prieto (Puerto Rico), Cody March (Pacific Northwest, USA) and Alejandro Castillo (Mexico).

“The International Volleyball Hall of Fame is proud to welcome Jesus Prieto, Cody March and Alejandro Castillo to our Board of Directors,” said IVHF President Steve Bishop. “Their passion, experience, and commitment to volleyball will be invaluable as we continue to honor the sport’s history and celebrate its greatest players, coaches, and officials.”

Prieto brings a wealth of financial and administrative experience to the board. Holding a BS in Business Administration from the University of Detroit and an MBA in Accounting and Finance from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Prieto’s professional career includes roles at Arthur Andersen, Ernst & Young, and as an Audit Partner at Kevane Grant Thornton LLP. Beyond his professional achievements, he has been actively involved in civic and professional



Jesus Prieto



Cody March



Alejandro Castillo

organization and contributing significantly to the volleyball community. Notably, he founded the Torrimar Volleyball Club, served as Treasurer and Scholarship Program Coordinator for the Federacion Puertorriquena de Voleibol, and held financial roles in the Confederacion Norte, Centroamérica y Caribe de Voleibol (NORCECA) and Federation Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB).

“Thanks to Steve Bishop, George Mulry and the rest of the IVHF board,” said Prieto. “My life in the volleyball community keeps getting better. I am truly looking forward to working with this fine group of people to help honor, recognize and preserve volleyball.”

March brings a wide scope of experience to the IVHF Board, having served in various leadership roles within USA Volleyball. He is currently the Executive

Director of the Columbia Empire Region and has been instrumental in the growth and development of volleyball in the Pacific Northwest. March has demonstrated a keen ability to foster community engagement and partnerships within the volleyball sphere. His dedication to the growth and accessibility of the sport has significantly impacted the Pacific Northwest region.

“I am humbled & honored to serve on the Board of Directors for the International Volleyball Hall of Fame,” said March. “I look forward to working with such a forward-thinking group so dedicated to this organization, and I hope I can meaningfully contribute to the Hall’s continued growth and advancement. I’m grateful for the Board’s trust in me and I am deeply appreciative of this opportunity.”

Castillo is a bilingual

and multicultural marketing professional with a background in business. He served as a national referee in Mexico for nearly 20 years, is a TV analyst for collegiate indoor and beach volleyball in Mexico and has been a driving force behind the sport’s popularity there. He is the founder of the Plus Volleyball platform, with outlets on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube, which features more than 300 interviews with volleyball guests from more than 40 different countries. He will serve as the co-chair of the IVHF International Media Advisory Council (IMAC), a new endeavor to expand the global reach of volleyball.

IMAC plays a crucial role in capturing and sharing stories of volleyball’s legends and greats along with evaluating and developing criteria for the induction process across all categories, ensuring a fair and transparent selection of inductees that reflects the global nature of volleyball. Composed of respected members of the international volleyball media community, IMAC brings diverse perspectives and a wealth of experience to their advisory role.

“I’m very honored to be appointed as a Board

Member of the IVHF,” said Castillo. “I truly love the history of our sport and am committed to preserve it and share it.”

“We are thrilled to welcome Jesus, Cody and Alejandro to the IVHF Board,” said IVHF Executive Director George Mulry. “Their passion for volleyball and their extensive experience will be invaluable as we continue to expand the reach of the Hall of Fame and promote the sport around the world.”

The IVHF also recognizes the significant contributions of outgoing board member Rob Slavin. Slavin served on the IVHF Board and its Executive Committee as Treasurer for many years and has been instrumental in the Hall of Fame’s success.

“We are grateful to Rob for his dedication and service to the IVHF,” said Mulry. “He has made a lasting impact on the Hall of Fame and the sport of volleyball.”

The IVHF is committed to honoring the sport’s history and celebrating its greatest players, coaches, and officials. With the addition of Jesus Prieto, Cody March and Alejandro Castillo to the Board, the IVHF is poised for continued growth and success.

Classifieds

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For more information and to apply, contact Fr. Stephen Shanahan at (774) 315-3107 or by email: brstephenofstjoe@yahoo.com. holyroodguild.com

The Town of Huntington is seeking a **FULL-TIME HIGHWAY TRUCK DRIVER/EQUIPMENT OPERATOR/LABORER.**

Applicants must possess at least a Massachusetts Class D driver's license. Class A or B CDL with Air Brake Endorsement is preferred. Must possess or be able to obtain 2B or higher & 4G Hoisting Engineer's licenses within 6 months of hire. \$22.00 to \$28.79 per hour based on qualifications. Application and complete job description are available online at www.huntingtonma.us or by emailing admin@huntingtonma.us. Position is open until filled. Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

HELP WANTED

The Town of Huntington is seeking a **PART-TIME ASSISTANT TAX COLLECTOR.**

18 hours per week to be worked Monday through Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. \$20.00 to \$22.00 per hour based on experience. Application and complete job description are available online at www.huntingtonma.us or by emailing admin@huntingtonma.us. Position is open until filled. Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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FOR RENT



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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



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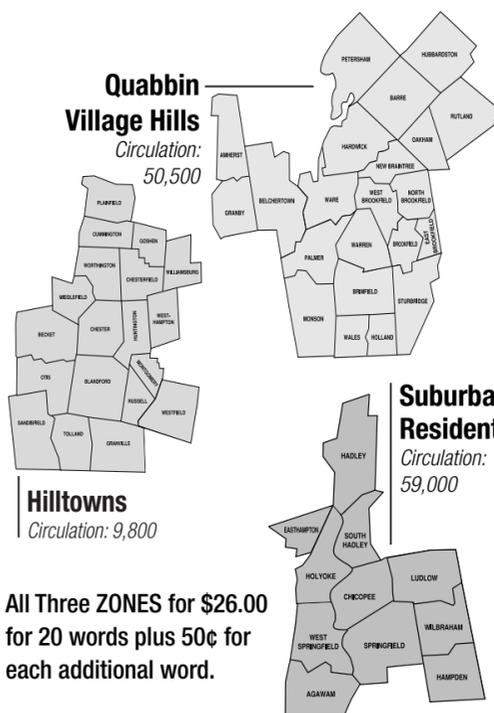
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28	Base Price \$26.50	Base Price \$41.00	Base Price \$41.50
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31	Base Price \$26.50	Base Price \$47.00	Base Price \$47.50
32	Base Price \$26.50	Base Price \$49.00	Base Price \$49.50
33	Base Price \$26.50	Base Price \$51.00	Base Price \$51.50
34	Base Price \$26.50	Base Price \$53.00	Base Price \$53.50
35	Base Price \$26.50	Base Price \$55.00	Base Price \$55.50
36	Base Price \$26.50	Base Price \$57.00	Base Price \$57.50
37	Base Price \$26.50	Base Price \$59.00	Base Price \$59.50
38	Base Price \$26.50	Base Price \$61.00	Base Price \$61.50
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Public Notices

City of Holyoke Notice of Public Hearing

The DGR Committee of the Holyoke City Council will hold a public hearing to hear a special permit application of Holyoke Retail, LLC at 1504 Northampton Street to construct a drive through facility as accessory to proposed retail bank per 7.1.6.5. Hearing will take place on **Monday, June 2nd at 6:30 pm** at Holyoke City Hall 536 Dwight Street and can be accessed remotely via www.zoom.us: Meeting ID 825 4698 9565 Meeting Passcode 001946 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 with same Meeting ID and Passcode. For a copy of the application or to provide comments, please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org or by phone 413-322-5525.

DGR Chair
Kocayne Givner
05/16, 05/23/2025

City of Holyoke Notice of Public Hearing

The Holyoke License Board will be holding a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, June 4, 2025, at 5:15 pm**. You can join via Zoom.com; ID 83974921923; CALL IN: *67 646 558 8656 or in person at City Hall 536 Dwight Street in the Old Tax Collector Office, regarding the application for a **New Seasonal Beer & Wine Off Premises License for Almonte Market Y Deli One, LLC, 551 South Bridge Street** pursuant to M.G.L. Ch.138.

Applicant:
Almonte Market Y Deli One, LLC
License Board:
Jose Correa, Chairman
05/23, 05/30/2025

CITY OF HOLYOKE PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Holyoke Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, June 10, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.** via Zoom.com ID: 836 3939 8493; Call in *67 646 558 8656 to hear a Special Permit to exceed fence height (Sec 4.6.3.2) for a temporary fence for construction purposes as indicated in the plans as received for MIFA/The Victory Theatre, 81-89 Suffolk Street (012-06-06), submitted by Matthew Jacobs, of Barr and Barr, Inc. (2025-16).

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

APPLICANT: Barr and Barr, Inc. c/o Matthew Jacobs
PLANNING BOARD:
Mimi Panitch, Chairperson
05/23, 05/30/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD25P1068EA Estate of:

Evelyn Marjorie Cavanaugh
Also known as:
Evelyn M Cavanaugh
Date of Death: 02/03/2025
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 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: **Michael J Murphy of Holyoke, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the

bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/16/2025. 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 19, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
05/23/2025

LEGAL NOTICE CITY OF HOLYOKE GAS & ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT GAS CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTOR S ECONDARY CONTRACT

Sealed bids for the above contract will be received by Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept until **2:00 p.m. June 11, 2025**, at the Office of the Manager, 99 Suffolk St, Holyoke, MA, at which time bids will be publicly opened and read.

Bid Deposit

A Bid Deposit equal to \$75,000 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 payable to HG&E.

Prevailing Wage Rates

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

Additional information may be obtained from:

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

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

Please mark sealed envelopes, "Bid for Gas Construction Contractor Secondary Contract" and address them to:

James M. Lavelle, Manager
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept
99 Suffolk St
Holyoke, MA 01040
05/23/2025

City of Holyoke Notice of Public Hearing

The Holyoke License Board will be holding a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, June 4, 2025, at 5:15 pm**. You can join via Zoom.com; ID 83974921923; CALL IN: *67 646 558 8656 or in

person at City Hall 536 Dwight Street in the Old Tax Collector Office, regarding the application for a **New Seasonal All Alcohol Off - Premises License for Homestead Grocery Mart Inc. DBA Circle K Holyoke, 625 Homestead Ave.** pursuant to M.G.L. Ch.138.

Applicant:
Homestead Grocery Mart Inc.
License Board:
Jose Correa, Chairman
05/23, 05/30/2025

City of Holyoke Notice of Public Hearing

The Ordinance Committee of the Holyoke City Council will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, June 4, 2025 at 6:30pm** to hear a special permit application of Mass Cannabis Growers Cooperative LLC at 1 Cabot St., Holyoke (048-01-010) to permit a marijuana cultivation facility. Meeting will take place at Holyoke City Hall 536 Dwight St. and can be accessed remotely via www.zoom.us: Meeting ID 897 1975 5178 Meeting Passcode 181295 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 with same Meeting ID and Passcode. For an electronic copy of the application or to submit a comment for this public hearing, please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org or by phone 413-322-5525.

Ordinance Chair
Israel Rivera
05/16, 05/23/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket Number HD25C0161CA In the matter of: Somebo Ne

CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME
A **Petition to Change Name of Adult** has been filed by **Somebo Ne of Holyoke, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: **Sombo Ne**

IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/11/2025.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

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

Date: May 14, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
05/23/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD25P1051EA Estate of:

Bobby Joe Stovall
Also known as: **Bobby Stovall**
Date of Death: 03/17/2024
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR FORMAL
ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Vivian E Robinson of Enfield, CT** requesting that the Court en-

ter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Vivian E Robinson of Enfield, CT** 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 06/12/2025. 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 15, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
05/23/2025

ATTENTION: PUBLIC SURPLUS AUCTION

The City of Holyoke will be holding a **SURPLUS AUCTION. This AUCTION will run May 26, 2025 through June 3, 2025.** The Auction will be run through **GOVDEALS**. To Access live auction please use the following URL: <https://www.govdeals.com/holyoke>

The Auction will be live starting at 8AM, EST on 5/26/2025.

The Auction will end at 4PM 6/3/2025. Please follow all directions provided by the auctioneer as to payment, pick up etc. All sales are final and all items are **SOLD AS IS!!!**

PEOPLE INTERESTED IN BIDDING ON ITEMS MUST DO SO ON THE AUCTION SITE. The city follows Ch.30B and all applicable MGL for the disposition of Surplus Items.
05/23/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD24A0084AD In the matter of:

Gianni Ray Whalen
CITATION
G.L. c. 210, §6

TO:
Carlos Castillo
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:

Alicia Whalen of Ludlow, MA
Natasha Jackson of Ludlow, MA

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

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 Springfield ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON: 06/13/2025.

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

Date: April 30, 2025
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
05/09, 05/16, 05/23/2025

Wistariahurst Retaining Wall Rehabilitation REBID IFB 2025-33W REBID

Sealed bids for Wistariahurst Retaining Wall Rehabilitation (Rebid), Holyoke, MA will be received on **June 12, 2025** at the City of Holyoke Office of Procurement, 536 Dwight Street, Room 3, Holyoke, Massachusetts 01040, Attn: Jaime Morrow, Chief Procurement Officer until 2 PM prevailing time, at which said Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. All bids shall be submitted within a sealed envelope addressed to the "City of Holyoke Office of Procurement, 536 Dwight Street, Room 3, Holyoke, Massachusetts 01040, Attn: Jaime Morrow, Chief Procurement Officer" and titled "Wistariahurst Retaining Wall Rehabilitation (Rebid), Contract # 2025-33W" REBID.

The Wistariahurst Retaining Wall Rehabilitation Project consists of the rehabilitation of a section of historically significant masonry retaining wall on Pine Street. The project consists

of reconstruction of the existing historical masonry wall, removal and reinstallation of wrought iron fence and coping, earthen excavation to subgrade, construction of a steel-reinforced cement concrete strip footing, installation of perforated pipe subdrain, and restoration of adjacent areas including repair of a 5-foot-wide asphalt sidewalk and loaming & seeding. The project is anticipated to include 442 linear feet of continuous wall rehabilitation and sidewalk replacement from the intersection of Pine Street and Hampshire Street, northward along Pine Street.

All potential bidders should be able to provide references for projects which included mortared stacked stone wall construction or reconstruction and Bidders must have completed one (1) comparable wall construction or reconstruction project within the last seven (7) years. Reference and contact information must be provided for all projects submitted by the bidder to demonstrate said experience.

Contractors must be MassDOT Prequalified in the Category of Highway-Construction. This contract has an estimated value of \$744,560.00

A non-mandatory Pre-Bid briefing will occur on May 22, 2025 at 10:00 AM EST at the Wistariahurst Museum, 238 Cabot St., Holyoke, MA 01040, by the south end of Pine Street retaining wall.

Bidding procedures shall be in accordance with the provisions of Bidding procedures shall be in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 30, Section 39 M as amended. The city is using Federal funds to support this project. Respondents must be eligible to receive Federal Funds and will be screened for eligibility. No electronic submissions will be accepted. The city reserves the right to reject any and all bids if in the best interest of the city.
05/23/2025

Community Outreach Meeting

Diablo Man LLC, a proposed cannabis microbusiness, is giving notice of a Community Outreach Meeting at **73 Sargeant St. UNIT 1-2 Holyoke, MA 01040**, it's proposed location, at **5:15 pm on June 17, 2025**. There will be an opportunity for the public to ask questions or email: diablolmanprerolls@gmail.com.
05/30/2025

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

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- Do you want to work in your community helping local businesses connect with their customers?
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Basic computer skills are required. Previous print sales experience is preferred but we will train the right candidate.

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Send resume & cover letter to:

Turley Publications, Inc.

Jamie Joslyn
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Palmer, MA 01069
Email: jamie@turley.com

The Holyoke Sun OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

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Education Board establishes more pathways for aspiring teachers

METHUEN – The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education voted unanimously this week to establish alternative assessments to the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure (MTEL), creating a broader range of pathways for aspiring teachers that will ultimately strengthen and diversify the state’s educator workforce.

“Massachusetts leads the nation in education, and we’re proud to have the best teachers in the country,” said Governor Maura Healey. “These additional licensure assessments will open doors for aspiring educators,

remove unnecessary barriers, and help us build a stronger, more inclusive educator workforce.”

“These new regulations give candidates more ways to demonstrate their content knowledge while still upholding high standards,” said Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll. “By approving alternative assessments to licensure, we’re supporting talented individuals who have the passion and skills to lead in the classroom but may not have performed well on the MTEL.”

The Board’s action this week makes MTEL alternatives permanent. Since

2020, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has used a pilot program to offer 26 alternative assessments for educator licensure. The assessments were intended to expand access to the teaching profession, allowing prospective teachers to demonstrate competencies in different ways while maintaining high standards for subject matter knowledge, communications and literacy skills.

The Department contracted with the National Center for Analysis of Longitudinal Data in Education Research (CALDER) at the American

Institutes for Research to conduct a multiyear evaluation of the MTEL alternative assessment pilots. According to their recent evaluation, overall, candidates who took the alternatives are performing similarly to teachers who passed traditional MTELS and are more diverse than those who took traditional MTELS.

“In Massachusetts, our diversity is our strength. Research shows us students perform better when they have teachers who look like them and understand where they come from,” said Education Secretary Patrick A. Tutwiler. “The Board’s

action this week represents an important step toward ensuring every classroom has excellent, diverse educators while also improving student outcomes.”

The Board had sent regulations proposed by the Healey-Driscoll Administration out for public comment in February, for which DESE received more than 90 comments from students, families, educators and advocacy groups. In response to public comments, the final regulations incorporate an expanded list of prerequisite license options for the new Media Arts Endorsement. This now includes Radio

and Television Broadcasting, Engineering Technology, Drafting, Information Support Services and Networking, Programming and Web Development, and Painting and Design Technology.

In addition to adding a new Media Arts Endorsement, the final regulations include new flexibilities for obtaining professional licensure, and the ability to apply the Bilingual Educator Endorsement toward the Sheltered English Immersion Endorsement requirement.

For more information about alternative assessments, visit DESE’s website.

Yoga class offered at Stanley Park

WESTFIELD – Yoga will be starting for the 2025 season on Thursday evenings beginning May 8 through Aug. 21 from 6 to 7 p.m., on the Acre Lawn next to the Pavilion Annex. Please join certified instructor Michelle Gagnon, as she leads the yoga classes. This class is for all levels of yoga practitioners, and all abilities are welcome. The poses are foundational, and modifications are always available. As

a class we will harness the power of our breath in alignment with the movement of our bodies.

Children 10 and up are welcome accompanied by an adult. Please bring your own mat and any props as needed, wear comfortable and stretchy clothes. Prepare to strengthen, stretch your body, and open your minds. Bring lots of water (you might also want a small towel). Pre-registration is strongly

encouraged.

Donations to the Park are welcome, with a suggested donation of \$5 per person per class.

Registration forms are available on our website at www.stanleypark.org and will also be available at class. You may sign up on our website, by e-mailing us for the registration form at development@stanleypark.org, or register at the Park at your first class.

Hypnosis for Weight Loss program at APL

AGAWAM – Cristina Di Nardo-Dupre has been changing lives through her therapy and clinical hypnosis programs including Weight Loss through Hypnosis. Cristina has sold thousands of her self-published book “The Best You from Inside Out” and has recently released a new version of her book “The Best You through Hypnosis: Total Mind and Body Transformation.”

Arriving in the United States from Italy at age 21, Cristina adapted quickly to the fast-paced American lifestyle, including gaining 15 pounds in her first month. Her constant weight loss struggle over the years motivated her to develop a healthy lifestyle program over a decade ago, where she drew upon her extensive training in clinical hypnosis studied in Italy as well as the United States. Cristina

went on to create this book to help her clients follow her Weight Loss through Hypnosis program. Cristina integrates healthy eating principles, clinical hypnosis, cognitive behavioral strategies, and her Six Incentives to guide people in developing healthy habits for life. Clinical hypnosis enhances people’s ability to learn how to regulate their emotions and their body, thus building confidence to practice life-long healthy habits. “The Best You through Hypnosis: Total Mind and Body Transformation” covers Cristina’s whole program and even includes over 75 healthy recipes to help with this transformation.

On June 2 at 6 p.m., Cristina will be giving a presentation at the Agawam Public Library about her book and the programs that she offers. The presentation

is free to attend. Her book will be available to purchase at an event-only price of \$20. If there is any interest in booking a presentation with Cristina at your convenience and forum, please contact her office.

Cristina has over 40 years of therapeutic experience as a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker in Massachusetts. Cristina has spent over a decade helping thousands of people transform their lives to achieve a healthy lifestyle with her clinical hypnosis. She has been a member of the American Society of Clinical Hypnosis for ten years and received certification through them as well. Cristina’s website with more information can be found at: www.thebestyouthrough-hypnosis.com. She is located at 159 Main Street, Unit N, Agawam, MA 01001.

ROBLES, from page 1

said I am a lifer here. I’ll retire when I retire, but I see myself here until that day comes.”

With the college, Robles tries to make each scenario when appropriate a teachable moment and tries to highlight the humanity side of the police force, an approach that she explains she views every person as a family member in every situation that may arise. “I feel that what you say as a person in power with authority can ultimately have a great impact on people. I’ve dealt with people who have not had great experiences with cops, so when I approach them and start talking with them and treating them respectfully, I’ve had people tell me that they’ve never had a conversation with a cop that I had with you. I recognize this and people want to be heard, treated with respect, and you maintain your professionalism. I would say 99.99% of the time I’ve had good responses, along with the training and de-escalation skills, it’s all how you talk with people. That’s worked for me and that’s what I’ve looked forward to instilling in my officers.”

The inauguration for Robles began with candidates applying for the job, narrowing it down to 3 candidates with an interview process, presenting in a public forum, and then soon learned that she was offered the job.

“I was smiling ear-to-ear, I was in shock and still trying to soak it in. As soon as the announcement went



Submitted photo

Jacqueline Robles is sworn in as HCC police chief by Azizah Yasin, acting clerk magistrate of the Eastern Hampshire District, while her eldest son, Jalen Cruz, looks on.

out, I was flooded with emails, texts, and calls with the outpouring of support from the college. I thought that was so amazing and felt like I was doing something right. The inauguration, I was beside myself and overwhelmed with all the amazing things that were said about me. My family was there, I am the youngest of 12 so I had a lot of family there, with my siblings and my kids. My son, who’s a court officer in Worcester, put the stars on me and my brother, who’s a recent retired police officer, pinned my badge. It was important for me for my children to see that all those long hours and 80-hour work weeks were for them, to make sure they were

well, taken care of, and have someone to look up to and admire.”

Robles ended by saying she’s proud to represent Latinas/Latinos in this position and hopes to serve as a role model, not only to her children, but to the Puerto Rican community. She will also serve as one of the ambassadors at the Puerto Rican parade and was nominated as one of the 100 Women of Color Gala and Awards, recognizing the contributions Robles has made in the Holyoke community and beyond. “I am thrilled to represent my culture in this position!”

To view the full inauguration, visit the HCC YouTube page.

Garden Club plans annual plant sale

AGAWAM – Agawam Garden Club is planning its annual plant sale for Saturday, May 31. This year’s event will be held at the Historical Thomas Smith House, 251 North West

Street, Feeding Hills and will run from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

The sale will include many perennials and shrubs all from members gardens and all a bargain. Proceeds from the sale go towards

funding the club’s scholarship and providing educational programs for the year.

Please check the club’s website for further information. agawamgardenclub.com.

GARCIA, from page 1

the city loses out on important funds that Holyoke has benefited for many years to support food banks, housing initiatives, health and safety programs, after school programs, domestic violence shelters, and much more. Despite the listed challenges, Garcia went on to say that the city worked to take care of its own fiscal house, stabilizing their foundation, a well-balanced budget, and progress in deciding on tough decisions on how to realign city hall resources.

“City services will remain without interruption, our bond rating was reaffirmed once again, and our rating agency made note that we may even see an increase if we continue our current trajectory. We’ve

been able to make transformative investments in our government infrastructure, we’re upgrading our city buildings, we’re making capital upgrades that are improving the quality of life for everybody,” said Garcia. Including ongoing work like fixing the city’s sidewalks and roads.

“I’d be the first to admit that there is so much more work to be done. To have strong local finances, we need strong internal controls. We need a local government that can effectively do its job. Earlier this year, a voter referendum turned the role of treasurer from an elected position to an appointed one. It will help to ensure that our treasurer’s position isn’t determined by politics, but by experience and expertise. Our financial position has gotten stronger

in recent years, now that we’re working together and modernizing our financial departments, I can tell you that I believe it’s only going to get even stronger.”

The mayor continued with explaining the Municipal Finance Modernization Act, which addresses the reorganization within city departments, change important job titles, and rectify issues with auditing, increase efficiency, add critical oversight, improve the overall accountability for people and much more.

Based on the National League of Cities website, the state of the city address is an annual speech that provides an opportunity for the mayor to celebrate the community, recognize areas for improvement, and set the policy agenda for the year ahead.

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