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Senior Center hosting open house June 5

HOLYOKE – If you have ever thought about stopping by the Holyoke Senior Center, or have wanted your parents, grandparents, or friends to see what the facility has to offer, this is your chance. On Thursday, June 5, the Senior Center will host an Open House. The day will see all of the usual daily classes and activities, in addition to showcasing what else happens through the week. Check out exercise class demonstrations (Line Dancing at 9:30 a.m., Move

to the Music at 12:30 p.m., and Chair Yoga at 1 p.m.), informational tables from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. hosted by groups like Writing Your Life Story, the Golden Senior Club, Pioneer Valley Stroke & Aphasia Support Group, the Book Club, the Mah Jongg group, and more. The Senior Sing. group will offer up some noontime tunes, and the day will finish with an art reception from 3 to 4:30 p.m. showing off paintings

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The Holyoke Senior Center will host an open house on Thursday, June 5 with activities running all day long. Submitted photo

Senior America pageant hosted in city, Laura Hicks crowned

By Christina Gioscia
Correspondent

HOLYOKE – On Sunday, May 25, the 32nd Annual Ms. Massachusetts Senior America Pageant was held.

The event took place at Holyoke High School. Set up outside the school's auditorium was a display of the past women who have competed in the pageant and won the title of queen. Ms. Massachusetts Senior America of 2024 was Victoria Wright, she was at the pageant Sunday ready to pass on her crown to the next queen. This memorable presentation of all the past queens truly showed how important this pageant is to the community as well as the women who compete each year. This pageant has been going on for decades and it's clear each queen is remembered for inspiration and guidance. A raffle was going with a cash prize, selling tickets for the raffle was Mary Lee Manning and David Jenney.

Manning was the runner up for the 2024 pageant. She said her experience competing in the Ms. Massachusetts Senior America Pageant last year and the community she found within the pageant world.



Ms. Massachusetts Senior America 2025, Laura Hicks after winning the title of queen. Turley photo by Christina Gioscia

"It was a wonderful experience," Manning said. "I learned a lot. I met wonderful people. We go and entertain in some wonderful places for seniors. Everyone is great. We go to senior centers, we go everywhere to entertain, it's great. I hope more people will get involved in it. I think they

should try a new experience in their life, try something different. If you have a talent, or even if you don't think you have a talent, they find a talent for you. I do country music. I love to dress up in all the outfits and go out there and entertain. It's so much fun." When asked what she hoped peo-

ple would get out of watching the pageant she told us, "I hope they get entertained and I also hope that maybe some of them would join the club.

David Jenney helped Manning sell the raffle tickets before the pageant began. Jenney said the pageant is important and how it positively impacts women entering "The Age of Elegance." "There's a variation of talent that goes on. It's important to all of these ladies, you know, but they don't start till they're 60 years old. Well, you know, it's like a new life for them. So it's very exciting, and also very demanding. It's a thing that most people should know about that they don't," Jenney said.

The auditorium was packed with friends and family of the women competing, past queens, and supportive community members. Competing in this year's Ms. Massachusetts Senior America Pageant was Donnalee Holubecki, Carolyn Janet Nestor, Laura Hicks, Lori McElhiney and Christine Wilson. The pageant opened with a lively dance performance and then began the talents. Each contestant either danced, sung, or did baton twirling.

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Eight Holyoke High School seniors will pursue careers in education. They were honored last Friday in an event called Future Teachers Signing Day. Submitted photos

Seniors honored as they commit to education

HOLYOKE – Eight graduating seniors from Holyoke Public Schools were celebrated on Friday, May 23 during this year's Future Teachers Signing Day. This annual ceremony celebrates HPS students who are committing to careers in education when they complete their undergraduate college studies.

The event, held at the Summit View Pavilion, brought together students, families, educators, and community members as they honored the next generation of educators—and encouraged them to return to Holyoke as teachers after earning their certifications.

Guest speakers included Rep. Patricia Duffy and Brian Devine, director of educator licensure for the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary

Education.

This year's honorees as future educators included:

Angelyah Bauza

HHS North, who will be attending Holyoke Community College (HCC) in the fall

Maria Burgos-Bernier

HHS North, who will be attending Westfield State in the fall

April Garcia-Brito

HHS North, who will be attending Bridgewater State in the fall

Elioth Lopez Irizarry

HHS North, who will be attending UMass Amherst in the fall

Aiden McCarthy

HHS Dean Campus, who will be attending UMass

Amherst in the fall

Adalis Ortiz-Rodriguez

HHS North, who will be attending HCC in the fall

Nichelle Rivera

HHS North, who will be attending HCC in the fall

Jeymishel Rodriguez

Colon HHS North, who will be attending HCC in the fall

HPS has hosted seven Future Teachers Signing Days since 2019, honoring a combined 45 students over the years. While many of those honorees are still in college, in 2023 HPS hired Zoe Brazeau from the 2019 cohort. She now teaches grade 6 social studies at Sullivan School.

"Zoe is an outstanding educator who has improved

tremendously over the past two years," said Sullivan Principal Rue Ratray. "We are fortunate to have her as a member of our team."

The Future Teachers program is a win-win for both graduating high school seniors of today and the future students of tomorrow, explained HPS Director of Recruitment Christie Elman. "Students who sign the Future Teachers pledge are setting a vision for the kind of careers they see for themselves after college, which in turn helps them stay focused and motivated. And for our schools to be able to hire former students as HPS educators in the future is another way we can continue to support the next generation of students through teachers who know first-hand about living and learning in Holyoke."

Farmer's Market ready to open

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Farmers' Market is thrilled to welcome community members and vendors alike to its highly anticipated 2025 summer season. With two vibrant outdoor markets each week, the market promises an engaging experience for visitors and a valuable opportunity for local vendors to showcase their goods.

The summer season kicks off June 10 with the Tuesday Outdoor Market, held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Holyoke Senior Center/Council on Aging, located at 291 Pine St. Vendors will set up

along Beech Street, creating a welcoming and bustling environment. On Wednesdays, starting June 11 the market continues at the Holyoke Medical Center at 575 Beech St, running from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Visitors can look forward to an incredible range of offerings, including year-round fresh produce, locally sourced meat, eggs, prepared foods, and mushroom products. Artisanal baked goods, from muffins, and cookies to focaccia and rolls, will add a delicious touch to the market's

See MARKET, page 8



Numerous kinds of mushrooms can usually be found at the market. Submitted photos

City Hall to host Gun Violence Awareness Day

HOLYOKE – National Gun Violence Awareness Day will be observed on Wednesday, June 4, from 3 to 4 p.m. at Holyoke's City Hall. The public is invited.

The annual observance will include remarks from Mayor Joshua A. Garcia, State Representative Patricia Duffy and a representative of Pa'lante Restorative Justice, a Holyoke youth organization. Also speaking will be local individ-

uals whose lives have been affected by gun violence, including City Councilor Juan Anderson-Burgos and resident Anne Thalheimer, the event organizer. A close friend of Anderson-Burgos was among the 49 people killed in the mass shooting at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida, June 12, 2016. Thalheimer was a sophomore at Simon's Rock College in Great Barrington more than 30 years ago when

an 18-year-old student at the college opened fire on campus, killing two people — a teacher she respected and a fellow student — and wounding four others.

According to Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell, on average 257 people die and 648 are wounded by gun violence in Massachusetts every year. Between 2019 and 2023, 55% of gun deaths in

Massachusetts were suicides.

Campbell recently distributed grants totaling \$1 million to ten organizations through the office's Public Health Models for Gun Violence Prevention. The grant recipients will use the funding to support evidence-based, culturally competent programs focused on gun violence prevention and education with the goal of expanding the reach of effective gun violence pre-

vention strategies into different communities across the Commonwealth. Among the grant recipients is Pa'lante Transformative Justice in Holyoke. Pa'lante will use its share of the grant to hire a clinical director who will provide onsite, culturally affirming therapeutic services to Holyoke youth as part of its gun violence prevention for at-risk youth efforts.

The clinical director

also will run the Mindful Rage program — an alternative to court-assigned youth anger-management courses grounded in art and activism that was designed by and for youth of color. According to the Attorney General, the crisis of gun violence disproportionately affects African Americans. They are 4 times more likely than white individuals to die by gun violence and 20 times more likely to die by gun homicide.

Arts League on display

HOLYOKE – 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.

UCCH featuring Pizza Night

HOLYOKE – Some combinations work so well together that they're classics. One such combination is pizza for dinner on a Friday night. It just so happens that the June Community Meal at the United Congregational Church of Holyoke will feature pizza and salad. Dinner will be served at 5 p.m., with a family movie following at 6 p.m.

The Community Meal is

hosted on the second Friday evening of each month at the church at 300 Appleton Street. All Are Welcome to attend, and the meal is completely free of charge. The menu changes monthly; past meals have featured lasagna, Thanksgiving dinner, breakfast for dinner, steak sandwiches, and more. Parents must accompany their children.

The United

Congregational Church of Holyoke is an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ. We welcome all individuals, regardless of where they are on their journey. If you'd like to learn more about UCCH, please visit our website at www.uccholyoke.org, find us on Facebook or Instagram, or call our office at 413-532-1483 Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Preservation Trust announces annual Garden Tour June 28

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Preservation Trust has announced it will host the Fifth Annual Garden Tour in the city. This year's event will feature new gardens, a photography contest, a tree tour with Forester Tom Kass, and a lecture from Bernie Conway, Assistant Gardener at NY Botanical Garden. The event will be held on Saturday, June 28 and admission is \$20 per person with children 12 and under free of charge. For more information and to purchase tickets, go to www.holyokepreservationtrust.org.



HCC to host July 4th fireworks

HOLYOKE – The City of Holyoke will be hosting the annual Fourth of July fireworks on Friday, June 27 (with a rain-date of June 29). The event will take place on the grounds of Holyoke Community College, at 303 Homestead Avenue.

Vendors interested in taking part in the event

should contact the Parks and Recreation Department before June 13, for a permit application at 413-322-5620.

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

Many of the streets around the college will close early, please plan for alternate routes.

We are currently searching for volunteers, please call the Mayor's Office at 413-561-1600.

If you are planning to bring your dog to the fireworks, the dog must be always kept on a leash.

Museum holding pride events

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

Serenity Lockhart will be leading our first Drag Storytime with a performance afterwards consisting of family-friendly songs everyone will jam to. Holyoke residents may recognize Serenity from her many amazing performanc-

es 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.

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 located 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@holyoake.org or 413-322-5630. All are welcome.

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MassDOT to provide updates on High-Maple Street project

HOLYOKE – A public information meeting will be held by MassDOT on Tuesday, June 24, at 5:30 p.m. at the Holyoke Public Library to discuss the proposed corridor improvements project on High and Maple Streets.

The purpose of this meeting is to provide the public with an update on the project and to solicit input. All views and comments made at the meeting will be reviewed and considered.

The project consists of transportation safety and mobility improvements along the High Street and Maple Street corridors from South Street to Lyman Street in downtown Holyoke. The project is still in the design phase.

At the June 24 meeting, MassDOT and its team will

provide an update on the project status, share preliminary design concepts, and solicit feedback from the community to help to inform the further development of the design. Safe and accessible conditions for all modes of transportation including walking, biking, transit (bus), and driving will be provided in accordance with applicable design guidelines.

This library is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (including but not limited to interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, open or closed captioning for videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats, such as

audio tapes, Braille and large print), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), fax (857-368-

0602), TTD/TTY (857-368-0603) or by email (MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us). Requests should be made as soon as possible prior to the meeting. For more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten business days before the meeting.

In the event of inclement weather, a cancellation announcement will be posted on the internet at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/high-way-division/events>.



Sharale Mathis, HCC vice president of academic and student affairs, takes a selfie with students during the college's Honors and Awards celebration on Wednesday, May 21. Submitted photo

HCC celebrates students 2025-2025 achievements

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College is proud to celebrate the students who earned honors and awards for their outstanding achievements during the 2024-2025 academic year.

Awardees were honored Wednesday, May 21, during a ceremony in the Leslie

Phillips Theater.

Below is a list of HCC honorees and award recipients for the 2024-2025 academic year. Some students received multiple awards.

A full list of students along with their specific honors and awards can be found at hcc.edu/awards-2025

awards-2025

Receiving awards from Holyoke are: Enely Bonilla, Alvin Carabuena, Ernise Gedeon, Victor Herlemont, Jose Perez, Ellen Rice, Camryn Rist, Erykka Rocha, Katherine (Jay) Rousseau, Patrick Sweeney, Caridad Vega-Ramos, Eleanor White.

City receives grants for school breakfast, lunch programs

EVERETT – The Healey-Driscoll Administration today announced \$220,600 in federally-funded, competitive grants that will help 16 school districts improve their National School Lunch and Breakfast programs to help all students receive the nutrition they need to be successful in school. The funding can be used to purchase equipment such as a refrigerator or freezer to offer a wider variety of

fruits, vegetables and menu options. It can also be used to invest in specialized cooking equipment, such as steamers and convection ovens, that enhance the quality, safety and appeal of meals.

"Massachusetts is committed to supporting school meals and local school districts," said Governor Maura Healey. "We all know the importance of providing healthy meals to our young people. This funding will help

schools enhance the quality, safety and appeal of the breakfasts and lunches they offer to students."

"Building the capacity of schools to offer a wider variety of healthy meal choices will help improve students' overall health. Grants like these are important to provide schools with the tools they need to modernize their kitchens and invest in high-quality school meals," said Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll.

The Healey-Driscoll Administration has been focused on supporting students' hierarchy of needs, including food security and mental health supports. With Governor Healey's signing of the Fiscal Year 2024 budget, Massachusetts became the eighth state to make universal free school meals permanent. The continued combination of state and federal funding enables all Massachusetts students

to eat one breakfast and lunch for free to help them stay healthy and succeed in school. Child nutrition programs are important supports to improve school attendance and increase student engagement.

"Food security is essential for learning – it's related to a hierarchy of need – students can't focus on learning if they are hungry," said Secretary of Education Dr. Patrick Tutwiler. "But we

know that it is more than just access to food. We also want to ensure the meals are healthy and high quality, supporting students' health and wellbeing now and into the future. This grant funding helps promote school environments that enable students to focus on their classes, instead of where their next meal is coming from."

The Holyoke Public Schools received a grant of \$33,345.

HCC recognizes faculty and staff at annual awards ceremony

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College English Professor Elizabeth Trobaugh of Amherst

is the recipient of the 2025 Elaine Marieb Faculty Chair for Teaching Excellence Award, HCC's highest faculty honor.

As this year's awardee, she will lead the procession of graduates and give the keynote faculty address at the college's 78th Commencement ceremony on May 31 at the MassMutual Center in Springfield.

The award was one of

six presented during HCC's annual, end-of-the-year staff and faculty awards ceremony on Wednesday, May 21.

"I'd like to thank everyone at the college for creating the ecosystem that allows me to do what I love so much, which is to be in the classroom with students," Trobaugh said from the stage of the Leslie Phillips Theater. "I know the work that you do is what enables me to do the work I do that gives me so much pleasure and the opportunity to see students succeed, and that is the big-

gest gift. I am grateful to my students, who, over these 20 plus years, continuously, perpetually inspire me to do my best for them, because they are working hard and pursuing something so valuable and noble."

The Marieb Award, endowed by the late HCC professor emeritus Elaine Marieb '80, recognizes a full-time member of the faculty for outstanding classroom teaching. Award recipients serve for one year, receive a small stipend for professional development, lead the presen-

sion at Commencement, and give the keynote graduation speech.

Trobaugh has been teaching at HCC since 2003. She has a bachelor's degree from Tufts University and a master's degree and PhD from the University of Massachusetts. Her three children – Hannah, Tess, and Gabe – and son-in-law all attended HCC.

"I know how wonderful it is to be a proud parent of an HCC alum," she said. "I've seen how HCC changes lives."

The college also presented the Christina Royal Equity in Action Award to Adina Gianelli of Conway, assistant professor of criminal justice; the Idelia Smith Adjunct Faculty Award to Erin Jackson of Glastonbury, Conn., an instructor in the veterinary technician program; the Outstanding Professional Staff Award

to Allison Wrobel of Holyoke, HCC registrar; the Outstanding Classified Staff Award to Lindsy Providenti of Granby, administrative assistant in the BSTEM division; and the Outstanding Part-Time Staff Award to Lucien Dalton of South Hadley, a math tutor and engineering pathways coordinator.

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SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor



How do I apply for Social Security?

Dear Rusty:

I just turned 65 years old in February 2025. I need to sign up for Social Security but don't even know where to start.

Signed:
Seeking Assistance

Dear Seeking:

It is fairly easy to sign up for your Social Security benefits, by either calling the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213 or your local SS office, to make a telephone appointment to apply, or by completing your application for Social Security benefits online at www.ssa.gov/apply. However, to apply for benefits online you will need to first create your personal "my Social Security" account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. Once you have your personal account set up, you can apply directly from that account and also see an estimate of your SS benefits at different ages.

You may already be aware that age 65 is not your Social Security Full Retirement Age. Your FRA is when you get 100% of the benefit you've earned from a lifetime of working. By taking benefits at age 65, your monthly amount will be reduced to about 87% of your FRA amount; a permanent reduction. Born in 1960, your FRA is age 67, which means you will be taking your SS benefit about two years early and also means that if you are still working, you will be subject to Social Security's Annual Earnings Test.

The AET limits how much you can earn before some of your benefits are taken away. For 2025, the annual earnings limit is \$23,400 and, if that is exceeded, SS will take back \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit they take benefits back by withholding future payments long enough to recover what you owe.

So, you can apply for your Social Security benefits, as indicated above,

either online or by calling SS for an appointment. Just be aware that by applying at age 65 your benefit will be permanently reduced, and you will be subject to Social Security's earnings limit. The earnings limit lasts until you reach your FRA, after which you can earn as much as you like without penalty.

Also, because you are 65, if you wish to enroll in Medicare, please be aware that you don't need to take your Social Security benefits to enroll in Medicare. You can enroll in Medicare (only) by calling Social Security as explained above or enrolling in Medicare online. Here is a link which explains how to enroll in only Medicare: <https://www.ssa.gov/medicare/sign-up>

I hope this information is helpful, and please know that the AMAC Foundation is always available to answer your questions. If it's easier, you can also speak directly to one of our certified Social Security Advisors by calling us during normal EST business hours at 1-888-750-2622. We cannot submit your SS application for you, but we can answer all questions you have about applying.

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-advisor or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



More basil? Yes, please!

Regular readers of the column will remember just how much pleasure I get out of making and freezing my version of pesto. In other words, pesto without the expensive pine nuts.

We use this spread in the rue for butternut squash lasagna and on pizza in place of marinara sauce. Sadly, we ran out of our frozen "cubes" over a month ago and have had to resort to the store bought tubes of the paste.

They're okay, but certainly not as tasty as home-grown. I vow I will grow more basil this year. Alas, if only the weather would cooperate.

Read on to learn how to grow, harvest and ultimately turn these flavorful leaves into "summer in an ice cube."

In the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid



forties. Hopefully this trend is going to subside soon.

Basil foliage has also been known to burn if planted outdoors without a period of hardening off. For this reason, gradually get seedlings used to bright sun and wind over the course of a week before planting in the ground. Provide your transplants with fertile, well-drained soil in a sunny spot.

If, over the course of the summer you notice that the leaves are no longer grass-green, but instead are pale or even turning brown, your plants may have a nitrogen deficiency. I usually have had to "top dress" my basil twice after planting, each time with a sprinkling of balanced organic fertilizer and some aged compost.

See GARDEN, page 5

Hiking the Appalachian Trail, New Jersey

By Julie Midura
Guest Columnist

Tom and I were strapping our sit pads back onto our backpacks after stopping for lunch at a rocky vista, when we heard faint rumbling in the distance. We weren't particularly concerned. "Maybe it will miss us," Tom said, as we shouldered our packs and continued north. We were three days into a 160-mile backpacking trip of the entire states of New Jersey and New York on the Appalachian Trail.

Ten minutes up the trail, the trees began swaying ferociously as violent wind gusts barreled up and over the ridge. "We need to take cover... fast!" I yelled. We scanned the woods and made a beeline to a rock outcropping. Within seconds, the storm was on top of us.

In one fluid motion, I simultaneously unclipped my sternum strap with my right hand and my hip strap with my left and dropped my pack to the ground. Just as quickly, I yanked my rain jacket out of the back mesh pocket, shoved my arms into the sleeves and pulled the hood over my head.

I managed to back myself partly into a small opening between the jumble of boulders, then I sat down, pulled my knees up to my chest, rested my forehead on my knees, and waited for the maelstrom to end. Tom was standing beside me, partially crouched over me.

Neither one of us spoke as the thunder raged and the hail pelted our backs. The driving rain infiltrated every layer of our clothing and poured off of us in rivulets. Adrenalin overtook fear as we waited for the storm to pass.

The next three days on trail were a repeat of this one-from sudden downpours to all-day steady rainfall. It was the kind of weather that awakens frustration and aggravation even in the most easygoing of hikers.

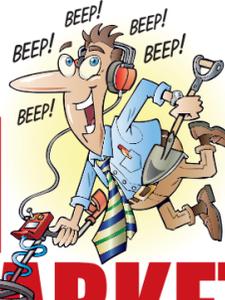
After all, rain makes life far more challenging when there is nowhere to go to escape from it. Out here, we eat in the rain, walk in the rain, did a cat hole in the rain. We set up and take down our tent in the rain. We awaken each morning and pull on the wet shoes, socks and clothing that we wore the previous day.

But a strange thing happened on this trip.

We became more accepting of the challenges. We gained perspective... undoubtedly due to the heartache we have been experiencing since our granddaughter, Charlotte's brain cancer diagnosis in January.

On this trip, packing up a sopping wet tent was just packing up a sopping wet tent. Wearing wet shoes and socks for four days was just

See HIKING, page 5

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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*.

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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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Celebrate Juneteenth at 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 live 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.

HIKING, from page 4

wearing wet shoes and socks for four days. Not fun. Not enjoyable. But in the grand scheme of things, minor inconveniences and not major catastrophes.

Because we now understand that out here in the wilderness, we have the priv-

ilege to **CHOOSE** our suffering. It is one of our own making. Going into these long hikes, we are aware that there are numerous variables which will affect our comfort and safety. And we are willing to accept them.

Out here, our 'suffering' pales in comparison to the suffering that some are experiencing in this world. Ours is not cast upon us against

our will. Many people don't have a choice.

We have now completed 7 of the 14 states on the A.T. Our 16-day backpacking trip ended abruptly at day six, just after we reached the New York border, due to medical emergency back home. More about that in my next column.

See you in the wild places, my friends!

GARDEN, from page 4

Usually they green up in a matter of days.

Basil has the insatiable desire to flower. We must "deadhead" or the plant will fulfill its earthly desire to reproduce by making and dropping seed, all at the expense of foliage production. Since we grow this plant for its leaves and not its seed, or its flowers for that matter, clip away the buds at the first sign of them.

Another challenge to basil growing has been the Japanese beetle. Basil leaves riddled with chew marks should best be removed.

Japanese beetles are relatively easy to hand pick in the morning and at night. A gentle

tap on a leaf will easily knock beetles into a wide mouth jar of soapy water positioned underneath.

Ideally, basil leaves should be harvested after the dew has dried in the morning but before the sun shines too brightly; at that particular time its oils are the most pungent.

As mentioned, I like freezing basil in paste form. Simply take two cups of rinsed and blotted dry basil leaves and coarsely chop them in a food processor. While the motor is running drizzle in one-quarter to one-third of a cup of extra virgin olive oil. You can add parmesan cheese to taste or save that step for later.

Spoon the paste into containers, or as I like to do, into ice cube trays to be frozen for

use later on. If you like garlic, go ahead and add that in. Fan of pine nuts? Go for it!

Pop the frozen cubes out of the tray and into freezer bags. Then you can grab what you need for a particular recipe.

All this talk of basil has got me itching to get my transplants into the ground. Soon enough, let's hope!

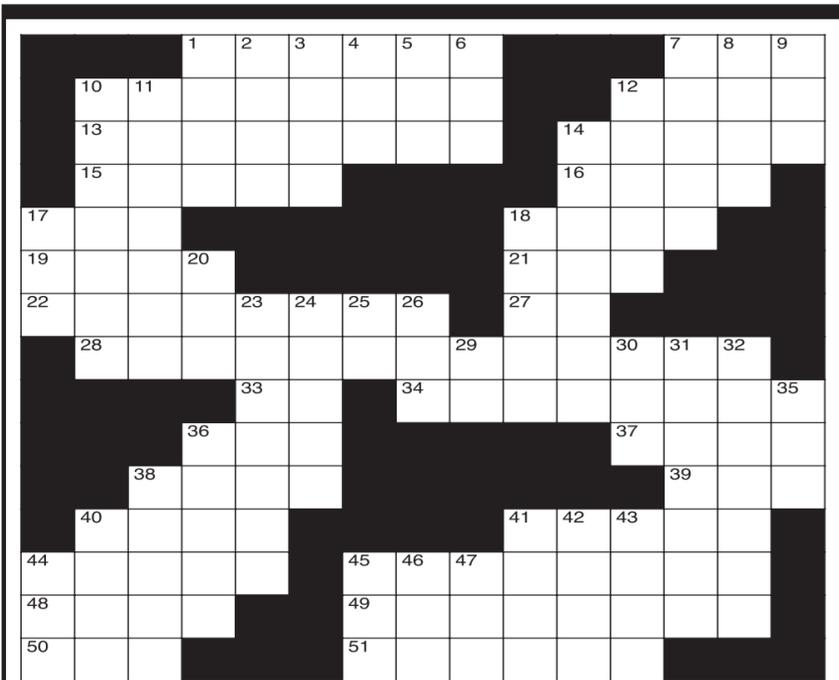
Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



Day 1 at the Pennsylvania/New Jersey border. Submitted photos



Day 6 at the New Jersey/New York border.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Bring up
7. Child
10. Formal written defense
12. Bangladeshi currency
13. Burial site
14. In the lead
15. Large recesses in a church
16. Count on
17. Defunct phone company
18. Golf scores
19. Afflicts
21. Defensive nuclear weapon
22. Prominence
27. "The Great Lakes State"
28. SoCal ballplayer
33. Location of White

CLUES DOWN

1. Kitchen devices
2. Wings
3. Mythological birds
4. Everyone has one
5. Matchstick game
6. Bar bill
7. Weights
8. Satisfactorily
9. Small amount
10. Tree types
11. Small protuberances
12. Equivalent of 100K BTU
14. Type of horse
17. More (Spanish)
18. Argentinian province
20. A bad act
23. Moving in a circular way

CLUES DOWN

24. Battery type
25. Atomic #58
26. Popular breakfast food
29. An alternative
30. Tooth caregiver
31. A way to conform
32. Disfigured men
35. Cool!
36. Genus of mosses
38. Body part
40. Kashmiri people
41. Round water pot
42. Something to purchase
43. Emit coherent radiation
44. Indicates 10
45. Advertising metric
46. Pitching stat
47. Head movement

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 7

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 Sunday 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
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Blue Sox start summer season next Tuesday

HOLYOKE – The Valley Blue Sox are ready to get the regular season going and will do so next Tuesday when they host the Newport Gulls to start the 2025 season in the New England Collegiate Baseball League, one of the premier leagues for college players to come participate in wood bat summer baseball.

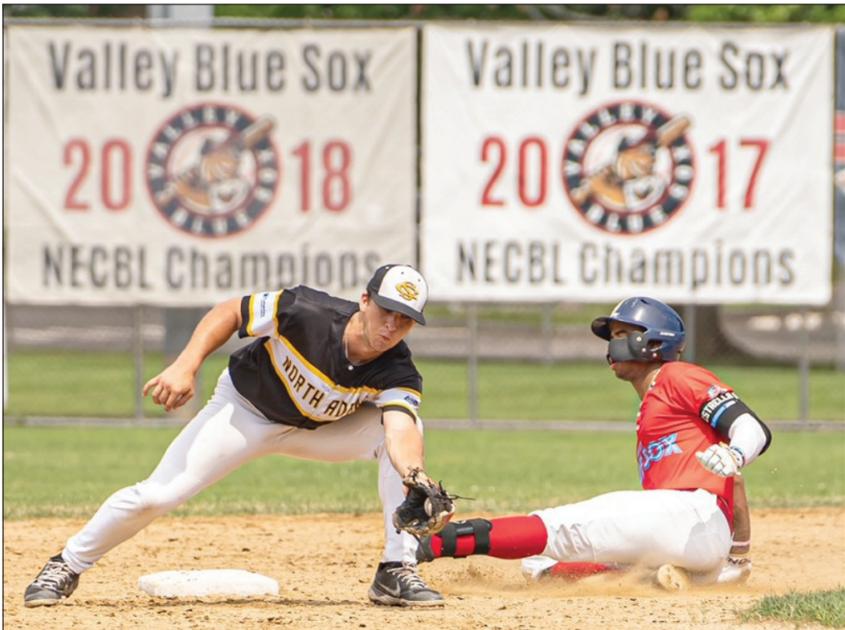
son in the New England Collegiate Baseball League, one of the premier leagues for college players to come participate in wood bat summer baseball.

Once again, Mackenzie Stadium in Holyoke will be the place to be night after night for all the great Blue Sox action. The Blue Sox were NECBL champions in 2017 and 2018, but have not been back to the championship since. The Blue Sox made the playoffs last year and were defeated by the Gulls in a best-of-three game series.

The full schedule along with the many promotions held by the Blue Sox is now available on the team's website at www.valleybluesox.com



The Valley Blue Sox are back in 2025 for another exciting season of college summer baseball. The Blue Sox will play their home games once again at Holyoke's Mackenzie Stadium. *File photos*



Mutiny opens up season with victory

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW – Just like they did a year ago, the New England Mutiny didn't have very much trouble dispatching the Maine Footy in the season opener.

Led by Avery Klingensmith, who scored a pair of second half goals, the Mutiny began the 2025 campaign with a 4-1 victory before a large crowd at Lusitano Stadium on Saturday, May 17. The match came to an end during the 73rd minute due to a severe thunderstorm.

"We had a very successful season last year and we're looking forward

to picking up right where we left off," said Avery Klingensmith, who graduated from Belchertown High School in 2022. "We do have a lot of returners and several new players this season. We always play very well in front of our home fans."

The Mutiny, who finished the 2024 regular season with a perfect 8-0 record, began last season with a 3-1 win versus the Footy. Their only loss came last July against the Santa Clarita Blue Heat, 3-2, in a penalty shootout in the U.W.S. National Finals in Buffalo, New York.

Klingensmith, who was an All-American soccer player in high school,

will be wrapping up her collegiate soccer career at American University, which is in Washington D.C., in the fall. She was selected to the Patriot League Women's Soccer Academic All-League Team in 2024.

"Being a member of a quality soccer team like this one helps me prepare for my college season," Klingensmith said. "My college soccer team finished with a .500 record last season and we're hoping to make the NCAA Division I Tournament this year. American University is also a very good school academically."

Klingensmith was one of the Mutiny starting midfielders in the season open-

er. There are four other players from Western Massachusetts listed on this year's Mutiny roster.

"It's always great to have a Western Mass. presence on the team," said Klingensmith, who's beginning her fourth season with the Mutiny. "It's a lot of fun being teammates with them on this team."

Aida Name, who was one of Klingensmith's high school teammates, is another returning player listed on the Mutiny roster. Name, who lives in Chicopee, was a starting defender against Maine.

Another starter was Kendall Bodak, who grad-

See MUTINY, page 7

HCC Cougars baseball completes 2025 season

HOLYOKE – Men's baseball closed out the 2025 season on Saturday afternoon, traveling to play a doubleheader at Bunker Hill CC.

Holyoke battled and swung for the fences, as they have throughout the year, falling 15-5 in game one and 9-7 in game two.

Three of the Cougars' sophomores had stellar campaigns in 2025. Herick Cortes (Holyoke, MA / Holyoke HS) finished the year leading the team in RBIs (19), home runs (2) and extra

base hits (23). Sean Rosemond (Springfield, MA / Longmeadow HS) led the Cougars in batting average (.417) and stolen bases (8) and Alex Gochinski (Greenfield, MA / Frontier Regional HS) led in hits (39) and runs (23).

Men's baseball finishes the season with a 6-21 overall record and a 3-13 regional record. They began the campaign with a trip to Florida and picked up several nice victories throughout the year. Ten members of this year's squad can return to play in 2026.

Basketball Hall of Fame announces college series

PHOENIX – Position Sports, in partnership with the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame, announced the field for the 2025 Hall of Fame Series Baltimore at the CFG Bank Arena on Monday, Nov. 3. This marks the Hall of Fame's return to Charm City following last year's successful debut event.

The Baltimore doubleheader will feature compelling local matchups that celebrate the region's rich basketball heritage. Headlining the night, Maryland will face Coppin State—located 30 and 3 miles from CFG Bank

Arena, respectively—while Towson takes on Loyola Maryland, situated just 10 and 6 miles away. These regional matchups promise an electric atmosphere and a can't-miss night of college basketball.

"Returning to Baltimore for a second year demonstrates the growing excitement around the Hall of Fame Series and the region's passion for college basketball," said Melissa Meacham-Grossman, President of Position Sports. "With Maryland headlining alongside respected local programs like Coppin State, Towson, and Loyola,

this event highlights the incredible basketball tradition in and around Baltimore. It's an honor to partner with the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame to bring these matchups back to the world-class CFG Bank Arena." Fans can sign up for presale information now at hofseries.com. Further details regarding ticketing, game time, broadcast coverage, and media credentials for the event will be shared at a later date. The Hall of Fame Series, owned and operated by Position Sports, is a premier collection

of multi-game, singular events that feature top collegiate basketball programs in high-profile non-conference matchups played both domestically and abroad. Past stops have included the following cities: Baltimore (2024), Charlotte (2023), Las Vegas (2023-24), New York (2024), Phoenix (2023-24), San Antonio (2023), and Toronto (2023).

For more Hall of Fame Series information and updates, please visit hofseries.com or follow @HOFSeries on all social platforms.

Following that match-up, the Pioneers are headed for Boston to play the Bolts on Tuesday, June 3 at 7 p.m. Their next home game is Friday, June 6 at 7:30 p.m. at Luistano Stadium.

Pioneers up season with pair of wins

LUDLOW – Ahead of their home opener on Friday, May 23, the Western Mass. Pioneers played their first two regular season games in the USL-2 League.

On Thursday, May 15, the Pioneers defeated Boston City 9-0, then defeated Albany Rush on Monday, May 19 6-0.

Following that match-up, the Pioneers are headed for Boston to play the Bolts on Tuesday, June 3 at 7 p.m. Their next home game is Friday, June 6 at 7:30 p.m. at Luistano Stadium.



MUTINY from page 6

uated from Monson High School. She was also selected as an All-American player by the United Soccer Coaches in high school. She'll be a sophomore member of the women's soccer team at Clemson University in the fall.

Bodak, who's a forward, was listed on the Mutiny roster a year ago, but she didn't play in any matches.

"It's an honor to be a member of this soccer team," Bodak said. "It's also fun being teammates with the other players from Western Mass."

One of Bodak's teammates at Monson High School was Tennessee Murphy, who currently attends The Loomis Chaffee School in Windsor, Connecticut. Murphy was also selected as an All-American soccer player last fall. She entered the season opening match for the first time as a defender at the start of the second half.

Another local player on the Mutiny roster is Olivia Crespo, who graduated from Ludlow High School. She'll be entering her senior season at Franklin Pierce University.

For the first time since the Mutiny started playing home games in Ludlow, Hope Santaniello wasn't listed on the opening day roster.

Santaniello, who was an All-American soccer player at Agawam High School, is currently playing for a professional women's soccer team in Iceland.

Alexis Legowski, who was another member of last year's Mutiny squad from South Hadley, is playing for a professional soccer team in Poland.

The Mutiny head coach is Federico Molinari, who also coaches the Western Mass. Pioneers.

"It's always nice to start the season with a win," Molinari said. "I thought we played much better in the second half than we did in the first half."

The Mutiny pretty much dominated the first half, but the match remained scoreless until the 43rd minute.

That's when Laci Lewis sent a crossing pass from the right side into the middle of the box where the ball



Laci Lewis makes her way up the field.



Kendall Bodak keeps play moving forward.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Abbey Jones guides a pass by an opponent.



Rachel Marchini passes up the field.



Chioma Okafor heads for the goal.



Taylor Jenkins is tripped up as she clears the ball.

was headed into the back of the net by Taylor Jenkins giving the Mutiny a 1-0 lead.

Lewis and Jenkins were teammates on the UConn women's soccer team last year.

There are a total of six UConn women's soccer players listed on this year's Mutiny roster.

UConn head coach Margaret Rodriguez is a former Mutiny player.

Klingensmith netted her first goal of the season during the 56th minute.

It was assisted by Kate Howarth, who played in her first match for the Mutiny since 2019.

Howarth began playing for the Mutiny in 2012. After playing for the Boston

Breakers in 2013, Howarth returned to the Mutiny side as the team captain in 2014.

Following the 2019 season, Howarth, who's the Mutiny's all-time leading goal scorer and points leader, signed with the Orlando Pride, who's a member of the National Women's Soccer League.

Howarth has been sidelined with a leg injury during the past couple of years, but is healthy again this year.

"It felt very nice to put this jersey on again," Howarth said. "The environment here is outstanding and I love playing for this team. It's a lot of fun."

Joe Ferrara, who's the owner and Managing Director of the Mutiny, was

glad to see Howarth back on the field again.

"It's very special having Kate play for us again," Ferrara said. "She's one of the best players in the history of this club."

The duo of Howarth and Klingensmith hooked up again eight minutes later.

The Footy got on the scoreboard following a goal from Ava Feeley during the 70th minute.

Just before the referee stopped the match, Bodak netted her first goal in a Mutiny uniform.

Abbey Jones was credited with the assist.

The Mutiny will have a week off before hosting Ole' Eagles, who are a new U.W.S. squad at 7 p.m. on May 31.

		P	A	R	E	N	T			T	O	T				
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Pets Rock event to benefit the TJO

SPRINGFIELD – The Foundation for TJO Animals is holding its 9th Annual Pets Rock event, on Saturday, June 7, 2025, from 12 noon to 4 p.m., hosted by Drunken Rabbit Brewing in South Hadley. Join the festivities for an afternoon of live music with Ray Guillemette, Jr., craft beer, food, raffles, vendors, games, and more.

Admission is \$30 per person. Individuals who register online will receive a FREE event t-shirt and token for a 13-ounce beer. While online registration is encouraged, tickets will be available at the gate for \$30.00, with event t-shirts available for purchase while supplies last. Register: <https://bit.ly/42L8Esh>

Dogs who are comfortable with the chaos of noise, people, and other dogs are welcome outside on the patio only. Pups who attend should

be on a leash at all times. No Flexi-leads. No coolers or outside alcohol permitted.

All proceeds from Pets Rock go directly to the Foundation for TJO Animals to benefit the animals in need at the Thomas J. O'Connor Animal Control and Adoption Center. In addition to the host sponsor Drunken Rabbit Brewing, event sponsors include GG Inks, and Kitchen & Bath Design. Rock 102's Pat Kelly, and New York Sound and Motion (NYSM) have all donated their time and talent to promote Pets Rock day of and in advance of the event. Make it a spa day: Hydrodog will be on hand for a fresh

wash and grooming for four-legged friends.

More information about Pets Rock is available by contacting the Foundation for TJO Animals at 413-306-5161 or info@tjofoundation.org. This is a rain or shine event.

Founded in 2007, the Foundation for TJO Animals is dedicated to raising much needed funds to help local animals in need at the Thomas J. O'Connor Animal Control and Adoption Center, serving the cities of Springfield, Holyoke, and Chicopee, Massachusetts. With a focus on providing financial assistance and grants for veterinary care, the Foundation has had a direct impact on saving lives of animals in the shelter.



Hypnosis for Weight Loss offered

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. 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.thebestyouthroughhypnosis.com. She is located at 159 Main Street, Unit N, Agawam, MA 01001.



SNAP and many other forms of payment are welcome at the market.

Submitted photos

MARKET, from page 1

selection. The market will also feature crafts, gifts, and more, ensuring choices for every interest and occasion.

“We're excited to offer such a diverse array of products and to provide a space where the community can connect with local producers,” said Lisa Totz, Interim Director of the Greater Holyoke Chamber and Market Manager. “The market reflects our mission to build a thriving local economy and foster meaningful relationships between ven-

dors and customers.”

Adding to the dynamic atmosphere, food trucks will participate on a rotating basis, offering even more options for a satisfying visit. The market team is also committed to accessibility, with on-site support for SNAP/HIP/WIC transactions to ensure all families can enjoy fresh, local goods.

Spaces for vendors are still available, and the market encourages participation from a variety of businesses, including those eager to offer SNAP-eligible products. Vendor fees, payment

details, and assistance with the SNAP eligible sales are available.

The Holyoke Farmers' Market invites community members to explore both locations weekly and support local businesses while enjoying quality products. Vendors interested in joining this season can find more information and applications online holyokeyfarmersmarket.com.

For questions or further details about visiting or vending, please reach out to Lisa Totz at (413) 534-3376 or via email at holyokeyfarmersmarket@gmail.com.



Visitors can find all kinds of great produce.



D&R Farm are one of many vendors that visit Holyoke weekly.



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Please contact Pat James 413-726-8661.

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Editor, Greg Scibelli
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 Palmer, MA 01069
 or email directly to gscibelli@turley.com

think OUTSIDE of the BIG BOX

SUPPORT COMMUNITY BUSINESSES



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.

Children's Museum hosting artmaking

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 therapy-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.

Thomas J. Kennedy



Thomas J. Kennedy, 85, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his family. Born in Holyoke in 1939, he attended Sacred Heart School. After high school he enlisted in the Marines, but was injured and honorably discharged. Back home he worked construction and paid his way through college. He attended Western New England University where he was both academically driven and active in the community. He was involved in the school newspaper and in starting the WNE basketball team, where he was Captain. He graduated attaining a Bachelor's Degree and continued his studies at Elms College, where he acquired a Master's in Education. He became a teacher, eventually landing in South Hadley where he taught for many years. He loved teaching and had a profound impact on many of his students, many of them reaching out years later to visit "Mr. K" and thank him.

He married Judy Dusek in 1968. They started a family and had 3 children. Thomas was proud to grow up and live his entire life in Holyoke. He wanted to give back to the city

he loved and was elected to 2 terms (1976-1980) as an Alderman at Large, where he was a strong advocate for the creation of the Volleyball Hall of Fame and promoted many quality of life issues like the preservation of green space and trying to get people to see the potential of Holyoke with its river, canal system, mountain and historic architecture. He was a decade-long member of the Western Massachusetts Regional Health Planning Council, working to make healthcare more accessible to all, as well as an officer for SHEA, helping to protect worker's rights. He also was a former member of the Lions Club and Toastmasters International. He loved God, his family, Holyoke, Irish music and the music of Jim Reeves, Red Sox baseball, nature and poetry. He published a book of poetry in 1984.

Anyone who had the pleasure of being a part of Tom's life knew that he was full of life, love, understanding, and forgiveness. He took the teachings of Jesus to heart and tried to live his life accordingly. He had a lot of appreciation for the world and the many different kinds of people living in

it. He welcomed anyone into his home.

He is predeceased by his parents, Walter and Mary (O'Connor), as well as his siblings John Kennedy, Maureen Swierzewski, Joan Drennan, and Kathleen O'Sullivan. He leaves behind his wife Judy, son Kevin and his wife Stephanie, son, Thomas, and daughter, Kara Duff. Grandchildren Ryan, Ethan, and Sophia Kennedy and Aaron and Gabriel Duff as well as many nieces, nephews, and cousins. Finally, his good friends, especially Walter, Patrick, and Roger. A special thanks to Peter and Sharon. As well as to Holyoke Hospice VNA particularly Danielle and Melissa. Thank you also to Western Mass Elder Services especially Monique, Kyle, Monica, and Mary. Additional thanks to Father Albert of Our Lady of the Cross.

The Funeral was held on Saturday, May 24, 2025 at the Barry J. Farrell Funeral Home, 2049 Northampton St., Holyoke, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at Our Lady of the Cross Parish Church. Burial will be held at a later date.

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.

DEATH NOTICE

Kennedy, Thomas J.
Died May 16, 2025
Barry J. Farrell
Funeral Home

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Holyoke Sun

OPEN, from page 1

from the Zoom watercolor class (a program funded by the Holyoke Local Cultural Council) and creations by the Friday Ceramics gathering. There will be free coffee and donuts offered by the Café in the morning, and refreshments at the art reception. Don't forget that the YMCA Fitness Room will be open from 8 to 11 a.m., and lunch

is served between 11:30 a.m. and 12 noon (be sure to sign up at least a day before). The Holyoke Council on Aging and Senior Center is located at 291 Pine Street in Holyoke and is typically open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. To see a full listing of ongoing activities, visit the Council on Aging page on the www.holyoke.org website, or stop by the front desk to pick up a newsletter.



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Public Notices

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

City of Holyoke

Notice of Public Hearing

The Ordinance Committee of the Holyoke City Council will hold a public hearing on **Monday, June 16th, 2025 at 6:30pm** to hear a special permit application amendment of Blue Fox Brands Inc. at 1 Cabot St (048-01-010) a marijuana manufacturing facility, adding a CID1 extraction booth. Meeting will take place at Holyoke City Hall 536 Dwight St., Holyoke and can be accessed remotely via zoom.us Meeting ID 836 5145 1244 Meeting Passcode 213456 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
05/30, 06/05/2025

Commonwealth of

Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No.
HD22P0553GD
In the interests of
Nairobi Y Cruz
of Holyoke, MA
Minor

NOTICE AND ORDER:
Petition for Resignation
or Petition for Removal of
Guardianship of a Minor
NOTICE TO ALL
INTERESTED PARTIES

1. Hearing Date/Time: A hearing on a Petition to Resign as Guardian of a Minor or Petition for Removal of Guardian of a Minor filed by **Eugenio Guzman & Lucy Guzman** on **05/27/2025** will be held **06/26/2025 08:30 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing**, Located **50 State St., 4th Floor, Springfield, MA 01103**

2. Response to Petition: You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to:
File the original with the Court; and
Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

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

4. Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.
Date: May 27, 2025

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
05/30/2025

Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No.
HD25P1088EA
Estate of:
John Russell Cunniff
Also Known As:
John R Cunniff

Date of Death: 04/14/2025
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Mary Ann Cunniff of Holyoke, MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.
Mary Ann Cunniff of Holyoke, MA
has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
05/30/2025

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: diablobanprerolls@gmail.com.
05/30/2025

INVITATION TO BID

IFB 2025-38CON

Green Communities

Weatherization

The CITY OF HOLYOKE, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for the City of Holyoke Municipal Buildings Green Communities Weatherization at in Holyoke, Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by ARCHITECTURE EL, INC.. The Project consists of but not limited to: Weatherization improvements to City Hall, Holyoke City Hall Annex, Children's Museum at Holyoke, Holyoke War Memorial Building and William J. Dean Tech High School; generally including existing doors, and foam insulation installation where indicated.

The work is estimated to cost \$115,000.00. All bidding Requests for Information (RFIs) shall be submitted online by 06/13/2025 at 10:00AM EDT for general bids.

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §§26 to 27H inclusive.

THIS PROJECT IS BEING ELECTRONICALLY BID AND HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Please review the instructions in the bid documents on how to register as an electronic bidder. All Bids shall be submitted online at www.biddocs.com and received no later than the date and time specified. General Bids will be received until the 23 June 2025 at 2:00PM EDT and publicly opened online, forthwith. General bids and sub-bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (including all alternates), and made payable to the CITY OF HOLYOKE. Note: A bid deposit is not required for Projects advertised under \$50,000. Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available for review at www.biddocs.com (may be viewed and downloaded electronically at no cost).

PRE-BID CONFERENCE / SITE VISIT: Scheduled Date and Time: 06/05/2025 at 10:00AM EDT

Address: 536 Dwight Street, Holyoke City Hall, Holyoke, MA 01040

Instructions: Pre-Bid Conference to convene at 2nd Floor Hall. Neighboring City Hall-

bAnnex & Children's Museum to immediately follow. The Veterans Memorial will be available for viewing between 12PM and 1PM, Dean School will be available 3:00- 4:00PM.

City of Holyoke
City of Holyoke Municipal Buildings Green Communities Weatherization
Project #2024-66
05/30/2025

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

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.
HD25A0048AD
In the matter of:
Muziik Ishmayah Otero
CITATION
G.L. c. 210, §6

TO:
Yancy Marie Otero
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:

Nancy Otero of Springfield, MA

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

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: **06/19/2025**.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: May 22, 2025

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
05/30, 06/06, 06/13/2025

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.
HD25P1083EA
Estate of:
Edmund J. Pliska
Date of Death: 09/07/2024
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 **JoAnne M. Koza of Fairborn, OH** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **JoAnne M. Koza of Fairborn, OH** 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 **06/18/2025**. 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 21, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
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.
HD25P0880EA
Estate of:
Janet Jean Spence
Date of Death: 10/20/2010
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 **Shelley J Whelihan 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: **Shelley J Whelihan of Holyoke, MA** and **Donal A Roy of Chicopee, 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 **06/18/2025**. 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 21, 2025

Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
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.
HD24P0244EA
Estate of:
Edward John Topor
Also known as:
Edward J Topor
Date of Death: 03/30/2023
CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
ORDER OF COMPLETE
SETTLEMENT

A Petition for **Order of Complete Settlement** has been filed by **Christine H. Bednarski of Springfield, MA** requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this

proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/02/2025.

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.

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

Date: May 28, 2025
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
05/30/2025

Project No. 10806-015

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
City of Holyoke Gas & Electric Department
Project No. 10806-015

NOTICE OF APPLICATION ACCEPTED FOR FILING AND SOLICITING COMMENTS, MOTIONS TO INTERVENE, AND PROTESTS
(May 21, 2025)

Take notice that the following hydroelectric application has been filed with the Commission and is available for public inspection:

- Application Type: Extension of License Term
- Project No: P-10806-015
- Date Filed: May 14, 2025
- Applicant: City of Holyoke Gas & Electric Department
- Name of Project: Station No. 5 Hydroelectric Project (P-10806)
- Location: The project is located on the Connecticut River in the City of Holyoke, Hampden County, Massachusetts
- Filed Pursuant to: Federal Power Act, 16 USC 791a - 825r
- Applicant Contact: Sarah LaRose, Senior Project Engineer, City of Holyoke Gas & Electric Department, 99 Suffolk Street, Holyoke, MA 01040, (413) 9409, slrose@hged.com
- FERC Contact: Rebecca Martin, (202) 502-6012, rebecca.martin@ferc.gov
- Deadline for filing comments, motions to intervene, and protests: June 20, 2025.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file comments, motions to intervene, and protests using the Commission's eFiling system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ecomment.asp>. You must include your name and contact information at the end of your comments. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov, (866) 208-3676 (toll free), or (202) 502-8659 (TTY). In lieu of electronic filing, you may submit a paper copy. Submissions sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be addressed to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852. The first page of any filing should include the docket number P-10806-015. Comments emailed to Commission staff are not considered part of the Commission record.

The Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure require all intervenors filing documents with the Commission to serve a copy of that document on each person whose name appears on the official service list for the project. Further, if an intervenor files comments or documents with the Commission relating to the merits of an issue that may affect the responsibilities of a particular resource agency, they must also serve a copy of the document on that resource agency.

k. Description of Request: The City of Holyoke Gas & Electric Department, licensee for the Station No. 5 Hydroelectric Project No. 10806 filed a request with the Commission for a 9-year, 3-month extension of the 40-year license for the project, currently expiring on May 3, 2030. The new expiration date for the project would be August 31, 2039. The licensee requests the extension to align the project license expiration date with the Holyoke Project No. 2004 and the Holyoke Number 4 Project No. 7758. The licensee states that aligning the expiration dates for the projects would allow a more synchronized approach to the relicensing process because the projects are all interdependent.

l. Locations of the Application: This filing may be viewed on the Commission's website at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. You may also register online at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, call 1-866-208-3676 or e-mail FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov, for TTY, call (202) 502-8659. Agencies may obtain copies of the application directly from the applicant.

m. Individuals desiring to be included on the Commission's mailing list should so indicate by writing to the Secretary of the Commission.

n. Comments, Protests, or Motions to Intervene: Anyone may submit comments, a protest, or a motion to intervene in accordance with the requirements of Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 CFR 385.210, .211, .214, respectively. In determining the appropriate action to take, the Commission will consider all protests or other comments filed, but only those who file a motion to intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules may become a party to the proceeding. Any comments, protests, or motions to intervene must be received on or before the specified comment date for the particular application.

o. Filing and Service of Documents: Any filing must (1) bear in all capital letters the title "COMMENTS", "PROTEST", or "MOTION TO INTERVENE" as applicable; (2) set forth in the heading the name of the applicant and the project number of the application to which the filing responds; (3) furnish the name, address, and telephone number of the person commenting, protesting or intervening; and (4) otherwise comply with the requirements of 18 CFR 385.2001 through 385.2005. All comments, motions to intervene, or protests must set forth their evidentiary basis. Any filing made by an intervenor must be accompanied by proof of service on all persons listed in the service list prepared by the Commission in this proceeding, in accordance with 18 CFR 385.2010.

p. The Commission's Office of Public Participation (OPP) supports meaningful public engagement and participation in Commission proceedings. OPP can help members of the public, including landowners, Tribal members, and others access publicly available information and navigate Commission processes. For public inquiries and assistance with making filings such as interventions, comments, or requests for rehearing, the public is encouraged to contact OPP at (202) 502-6595 or OPP@ferc.gov.

Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary
05/30/2025

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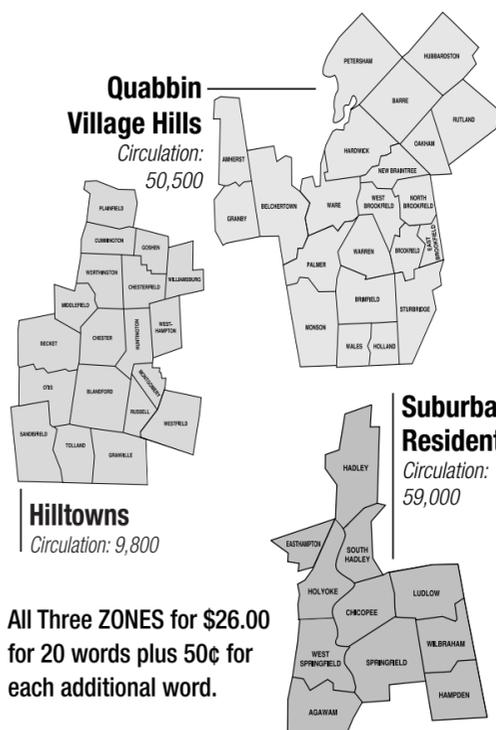
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In The News

PAGEANT, from page 1

It was clear each contestant had a passion for the talent they chose and felt confident performing it for the audience and judges. Throughout the pageant special guests, Wright, Jessie Rivers, and Peter Arnone sang angelically for the contestants, judges, and audience members. These vocal presentations were done flawlessly and showed their support for the past and future queens. Ms. Massachusetts Senior America 2024, Wright, gave a heartfelt farewell

speech before passing her crown to the winner of Ms. Massachusetts Senior America 2025, Laura Hicks. Hicks looked absolutely joyful when she was announced winner of the pageant.

This pageant is beloved by the team running it, the women competing, and the past queens. Each contestant worked hard leading up to the pageant and it didn't go unrecognized. Ms. Massachusetts Senior America allows women to build friendships, find support for their talents and have their day in the spotlight.



Ms. Massachusetts Senior America 2024, Victoria Wright crowning Ms. Massachusetts Senior America 2025 Laura Hicks.
Turley photos by Christina Gioscia



Mary Lee Manning and David Jenney at The 32 Annual Ms. Massachusetts Senior America Pageant.



Ms. Connecticut Senior America 2017, Charlene Saltonstall Armitage and Ms. Massachusetts Senior America 1995, Jessie Rivers at The 32 Annual Ms. Massachusetts Senior America Pageant.



Display of past queens of Ms. Massachusetts Senior America outside the Holyoke High School auditorium.

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