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# HOLYOKE the Sun

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## Lynch named parade Grand Marshal

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – Mary Lynch has been named the 71 Grand Marshal of the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

The St. Patrick's Committee of Holyoke hosted a ceremony in her honor at the Log Cabin on Jan. 12.

The title of Grand Marshal is the highest honor a person of Irish ancestry in the city can receive. Lynch was beyond grateful to have been chosen to join the ranks of all who have earned this award.

"I can't even find the words," she said. "It is such an honor, it is such a tribute, and I am grateful from the bottom of my heart to think that I was nominated and then selected. It is a time I will just cherish forever."

To be awarded the honor of Grand Marshal, a person has to be a "loyal person to the Parade Committee, their career, their family, and to their Irish ancestry." All who know Lynch could say she meets this criteria perfectly.

"She epitomizes our criteria," Master of Ceremonies David Donoghue said.

Lynch has long been involved in the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee. She started on the committee in



Reverend Michael Twohig gave the invocation at the celebration of Grand Marshal Mary Lynch.

1989 and since then has served and chaired on the majority of their committees.

"She's done virtually everything to support the parade," Parade President Hayley Dunn said. "She's been on every subcommittee, been on the board. So she's done a lot from the parade perspective."

Many on the parade com-



State Representative Patricia Duffy and City Councilor Israel Rivera showed their support.

mittee shared fond memories of times spent with Lynch throughout her years working with them.

From organizing cars in the parking lots on parade day to just helping to pull everything together, Lynch has been key to making the parade a success for many years now.

On top of this commitment to the parade, Lynch has



Parade President Hayley Dunn was proud to celebrate her aunt, Grand Marshal Mary Lynch.

also honored her Irish heritage by serving on the Board of Directors for the Irish Cultural Center.

Lynch has also dedicated years of her life to serving the Holyoke community.

"Not only do you honor your Irish heritage, but you also honor Holyoke," Mayor

See LYNCH, page 6

## Crews take on first snowstorm of 2024

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – On Jan. 7, Holyoke faced the largest storm of the season so far, receiving between 12 and 14 inches of snow.

Plow crews worked hard throughout the 24 or more hours that the storm lasted in order to keep the streets clean.

"The crews did a good job for the circumstances we had," Outdoors Superintendent Michael Gallagher. "We were short on equipment and it was a prolonged, large storm."

The Department of Public Works faced some equipment breakdowns and the plow contractors faced equipment breakdowns as well, making cleaning difficult.

Despite this, Gallagher felt crews did well in keeping their priorities in order.

"We kept our top priority intact of keeping the main roads open and passable for emergency vehicles," Gallagher said.

See SNOWSTORM, page 9

## Winter Farmers' Market now open

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Winter Farmers' Market is open every other Saturday through March from

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the War Memorial Building located at 310 Appleton Street.

The market is hosted by Holyoke Health and is managed by Market Manager Alexis Diaz DeJesus.



John Neves, Ana Jaramillo, Alexis Diaz DeJesus, Diane Rollins and Brenda Penabert all worked together to put on this farmers' market.  
Turley photos by Quinn Suomala

This market, while smaller than the summer market, has a variety of vendors and information available.

"It's like a one-stop-shop," Olivia Williamson, from Liv Nu Accessories, said. "You can get gifts and food here."

A highlight of the market is D&R Farms, which provides the majority of the produce.

"There's fresh produce by Diane Rollins, D&R Farms," Diaz DeJesus said. "They provide a variety of peppers, onions, beats, potatoes, carrots, lettuces, cabbages, brussel sprouts, and a lot more. They also make baked goods and always come with a soup to sell."

Diane Rollins from D&R Farms has been helping with the market for the past three years.

"It's so important to bring local fresh food to the people here in Holyoke that don't have access to maybe supermarkets or who want to use

See MARKET, page 12

## Warming centers available for residents in cold weather

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – Providence Ministries warming center will be open for residents in need.

"What we try to do is when the weather becomes dangerous outside—wind chills below zero, severe weather—we like to host these warming shelters where folks that are homeless can take advantage of them to get off the streets," Emergency

Management Director Jeffrey Trask said. "Providence Ministries was kind enough to host the operation at their facility."

The hours of operation are 5 p.m. to 9 a.m., with doors closing for the evening at 8 p.m., though if there are still empty beds at that point, people will still be welcomed in.

"If we have empty beds

See WARMING, page 9



Providence Ministries provides a warming center for residents in need.

Submitted photo

# Cookie season gets underway for area Girl Scout troops

HOLYOKE – Girl Scouts of Western Massachusetts kicks off the 2024 Girl Scout Cookie season this weekend, the annual event in which Girl Scouts unbox their futures as young female entrepreneurs through the world’s largest entrepreneurial program for girls.

This year’s theme, Unbox the Future, aims to remove social barriers that often keep girls boxed in. When bold, goal-getting Girl Scouts sell a package of cookies, they’re doing much more than what’s seen at face value. Girl Scouts do more than sell delicious treats. They’re entrepreneurial powerhouses creating a more equitable future for themselves and the world. Every box of cookies sold provides invaluable experiences for Girl Scouts such as service projects, troop travel and summer camp.

This season, cookie lovers can enjoy the full assortment of Girl Scout Cookies, including fan favorites such as Thin Mints, Samoas, Tagalongs and Do-si-dos as well as Trefails, Lemon Ups, Adventurefuls, S’mores, and the glu-



ten-free Toffee-tastic.

Girl Scouts can earn a variety of badges and awards to develop valuable business skills including Cookie Business badges, Financial Literacy badges, Cookie Entrepreneur Family pins and Entrepreneur badges.

If you know a registered Girl Scout,

reach out to her to find out how she’s selling cookies. If you don’t know a Girl Scout, check out your local council’s Girl Scout Cookie Finder to find a booth and purchase cookies.

Beginning Feb. 16, customers who do not already know a Girl Scout will also be able to purchase cookies to be shipped

directly to their homes by entering their zip code into the Girl Scout Cookie Finder.

Customers can also text COOKIES to 59618 to stay informed about how to purchase Girl Scout Cookies and other exciting Girl Scout news. Learn more about the Terms and Conditions and the SMS Privacy Policy.

For more than 100 years, Girl Scouts and their enthusiastic supporters have helped ensure the success of the iconic annual cookie program—and they’ve had fun, developed valuable life skills and made their communities a better place every step of the way. Girl Scout Cookie season in western Mass runs mid-January to mid-March.

Girl Scouts in grades K-12 can start their journey to fun, friendship and new experiences by joining the world’s largest entrepreneurial organization for girls at any point in the year. Girls can join and adults can become a volunteer at [www.girlscouts.org/join](http://www.girlscouts.org/join).

## Museum looking for artists

HOLYOKE – Wistariahurst Museum is seeking artist submissions for the Second Annual Women’s History Month juried art showcase for the month of March. This year, the theme is Nature/Nurture.

The phrase nature vs. nurture proposes that humanness is formed through our genetics and/or our environments. Both genetics and environment impact who we are and who we can become in the world. Both can impact our mental health, our physical health, and even personality traits.

When considering the theme of Nature/Nurture, artists can submit works that showcase nature’s impact on you, it could focus on a person who nurtured you, it could explore the duality of nature/nurture in humanity, explore how the science of genetics impacts individuals or humanity, or any number of other possibilities.

Wistariahurst encourages any medium for submission. Submissions are open to anyone who identifies as a woman and non-binary artists of any age. Submissions should include 3-4 quality images with information (title, date, medium, and size), an artist statement (approximately 300 words about your art and its relationship to the theme), and an artist bio (approximately 150 words about you as an artist) in one PDF.

Wistariahurst are an artist-friendly

space that encourages creativity and supports the growth of this region’s artists. Any and all questions are welcome and encouraged. Five artists will be selected and awarded a \$100 stipend. Submissions are due Feb. 5.

Wistariahurst offers a wide variety of public programs and events including: workshops, concerts, lectures and demonstrations and serves the community through educational programs, community partnerships, history projects, and outreach activities. More information is available at [www.Wistariahurst.org](http://www.Wistariahurst.org).



## Holyoke native killed in Pearl Harbor attack to be buried

HOLYOKE – The U.S. Navy has announced this week Pharmacist’s Mate 2nd Class Merle Hillman, a native of Holyoke, Massachusetts, who died aboard the USS California

during the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, will have his remains buried at 11 a.m., Jan. 27, in St. Jerome Cemetery, Holyoke, with full military honors.

## Enrollment is now open for Girls Inc. Ambassador Program

HOLYOKE – Girls Inc. of the Valley announces their free 2024 Ambassador Program! They’re thrilled to host these free workshops to support young professionals in the Valley to have access to professional development opportunities to grow their careers.

Applicants invited to join the Ambassador program will take part in a 6-month transformative journey with one-hour workshops hosted monthly focused on helping them develop skills - like personal finance, building mentoring relationships, and strategic grassroots fundraising - to accelerate their careers. Participants will take part in an online fundraising event held in May 2024, along with a graduation event held in June 2024. The Ambassador program will be held on the third Wednesday of every month from 12-1pm, beginning in February 2024 and running through June 2024. Programming will be held online through Zoom

Those ages 18 and older are encour-

aged to apply. Those interested in applying or simply wanting to learn more about the Ambassador program should visit this link.

“We are thrilled to offer the Ambassador Program at no cost to the young professional workforce in the Valley,” said Suzanne Parker, Executive Director of Girls Inc. of the Valley. “The cohort of folks chosen for this opportunity will not only learn from industry experts and one another, but have the unique chance to put their skills into action to support youth through our May 9 fundraising day. We encourage anyone aged 18 or older to apply!”

Girls Inc. of the Valley encourages all girls to seize this opportunity for continuous learning, professional networking, and personal growth that’ll support their future successes.

If interested, or have questions regarding this program please contact Meghan Rothschild at (413) 218-4994 or [meghan@chikmedia.us](mailto:meghan@chikmedia.us).

## COLLEGE NOTES

### Scholarship and fellowships available

WESTFIELD – The Horace Smith Fund has scholarship and fellowship money available for graduates of Hampden County public and private high schools. Graduating high school seniors and students already in college may apply for Scholarships of \$12,000. Those in their final year of college and previous college graduates pursuing advanced degrees may apply for Fellowships of \$15,000. Applicants must maintain at least a B average in college and be enrolled as full-time students. Awards are made based on both academic achievement and financial need. Of great importance is a personal written account of why the student feels deserving of financial assistance and their goals in pursuing higher education.

Last year, \$316,000 was awarded to 30 individuals. Scholarships were given to 22 graduating seniors from nine Hampden County high schools. Three scholarships were also award-

ed to current college students to assist them in completing their undergraduate degrees. Five fellowships were given to college graduates pursuing advanced degrees, who had graduated from Hampden County high schools. The Horace Smith Fund was established in 1899 by the successful and generous philanthropist named Horace Smith, co-founder of Smith & Wesson, established in Springfield. The scholarships and fellowships are named for Walter S. Barr, a West Springfield businessman, whose widow left the bulk of the family estate to The Horace Smith Fund in 1950. Completed applications must be received either electronically or by mail to The Horace Smith Fund at 16 Union Avenue, Suite 2K, Westfield, MA 01085 no later than March 15. Applications are available at local high school guidance offices, college financial aid offices, online at [www.HoraceSmithFund.org](http://www.HoraceSmithFund.org) or by phoning (413) 739-4222.

### Springfield College recognizes local students on Dean’s List

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield College Recognizes Dean’s List Students for academic excellence for the 2023 Fall Semester.

Aiden Consedine from Holyoke was named to the Dean’s List. Consedine has a primary major of Sport Management.

Nicholas Consedine from Holyoke was named to the Dean’s List. Consedine has a primary major of Psychology.

Macayla Hanscom from Holyoke was named to the Dean’s List. Hanscom has a primary major of

Health Sci / Pre-PT.

Peter McMahon from Holyoke was named to the Dean’s List. McMahon has a primary major of Psychology.

Taryn Ryan from Holyoke was named to the Dean’s List. Ryan has a primary major of Health Sci / Pre-PT.

Sean Sabourin from Holyoke was named to the Dean’s List. Sabourin has a primary major of Public Health.

Greyson Stark from Holyoke was named to the Dean’s List. Stark has a primary major of Accounting.

### Hudson named to Dean’s List at Stonehill

EASTON – Ananda Hudson, a member of the Class of 2025 from Holyoke, has been named to the Fall 2023 Dean’s List at Stonehill College. To qualify for this honor,

students must have a semester grade point average of 3.50 or better and must have successfully completed all courses for which they were registered.

# City offers tips about mating coyotes in winter

HOLYOKE – As we enter the coyote mating season, spanning from January to March, it's crucial to be vigilant and take proactive measures to ensure the safety of our beloved pets. Coyotes are more active during this period, and it's important to be aware of potential risks when allowing your pets outdoors.

Here are some essential tips to keep in mind during this season:

**Supervise Outdoor Activities:** Always accompany your pets when they are outside. Avoid leaving them unattended to minimize the risk of unexpected encounters with wildlife.

**Avoid Tethering Overnight:** Refrain from tying your pets outside, especially overnight. Coyotes are more active during the night, and this precaution helps protect your pets from potential dangers.

**Use a Leash and Hazing Tools:** When taking your pets outdoors, use a secure leash and carry a whistle, stick, or other hazing tools to scare away potential predators. Being prepared can deter



unwanted interactions and keep your pets safe.

**Non-Slip Collars and Harnesses:** Opt for non-slip Martingale collars or harnesses to prevent your pet from slipping out of your control. This ensures that your pet stays securely restrained during outdoor activities.

In addition to the previously mentioned precautions, we want to empha-

size the importance of keeping cats indoors during the coyote mating season and in general. This extra measure significantly contributes to the safety and well-being of our feline friends. Here are some key reasons:

**Protection against Injuries and Unwanted Interactions:** Keeping cats indoors helps prevent injuries and unwanted encounters with wildlife, espe-

cially during the coyote mating season. This reduces the risk of conflicts and ensures the safety of your cats.

**Prevention of Vehicle Accidents:** Outdoor cats are at risk of being involved in accidents with vehicles. Keeping them indoors minimizes the possibility of injuries caused by traffic.

**General Safety:** Cats may face dangers such as encounters with aggressive animals. By keeping them indoors, cats are protected from potential threats to their safety.

By taking these additional measures, we are working together to ensure the safety and overall well-being of our pets. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in creating a safer community for everyone.

Remember, we can coexist harmoniously with wildlife by respecting their habitats and taking responsible steps to protect our pets. By following these guidelines, we can create a safer environment and community for both our furry friends and the local wildlife.

## Mall announces new businesses opening and more to come

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Mall, Western Massachusetts' largest retail and entertainment destination, announced today the addition of five new brands opened over the past three months and two set to open this spring.

**Now open:**

**Snipes** (Lower Level, near JCPenney): Snipes has lived sneakers and streetwear for over 20 years, but the journey is just getting started. Tap into the newest brands including Nike,

Jordan, adidas, New Balance, and more.

**King's Jeweler** (Upper Level, near AT&T): King's Jeweler is a family owned brand with a wide selection of high-end and custom-made gold, silver, and diamond jewelry.

**A Sneaker City** (Upper Level, near Pandora): A Sneaker City is the premiere sneaker and streetwear brand to buy, sell, and trade. The store carries top names in streetwear like Supreme, Hellstar, BAPE, and more.

**It'Sugar** (Upper Level, in Center


Court): IT'SUGAR is America's Greatest Candy Store — the country's largest specialty retailer of sugary treats featuring an outrageous array of sweets fit for any self-respecting candy lover.

**Monsoon Bistro** (Upper Level, near Macy's): Monsoon Bistro combines traditional Chinese and Thai dishes to showcase the culinary landscape and region. The menu, designed to celebrate Southeast Asian cuisine, features Dim Sum, Drunken Noodles, Mango Chicken, Red Curry Fish, and more.

**Coming soon:**


**Terra Nossa Brazilian Grill** (Café Square): Husband and wife duo, Joao and Karla Jardim are bringing fast casual Brazilian Barbecue to the food court. Offerings include rotisserie style meats, Brazilian favorites Coxinha and Pastel, specialty drinks, desserts, and more.

**Milkshake Lovers** (Lower Level, near Hobby Lobby): Milkshake Lovers offers handcrafted milkshakes, Brazilian Açaí, and smoothies made with fresh ingredients.



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MARCH 3, 2024



Guest Column

# in the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid

## Dreaming of roses, blueberries bushes and more? Get those orders in!

For me at least, a much needed break from the garden has given way to the return of other hobbies this winter.

Quilting for one. I've enjoyed working on a Christmas tree quilt and have plans to start a pumpkin quilt.

I guess when I can't garden, I take horticulture any way I can get it – even in cloth! Quilting is fun in that you can exercise your love of color by playing with different combinations.

I like to see what looks good together and stand back and admire. It seems very similar to the admiration of a thoughtfully planned out flower garden. Well, you didn't start reading to learn about my sewing fancy, so let's get to some garden talk.

Do you dream of expanding your mini orchard or berry patch? Maybe you have a particular rose you are interested in.

If you desire to shop by mail, place your orders early (yes, now) for home delivery in April and early May.

I will start my dreaming with the Nourse Farms catalog ([www.noursefarms.com](http://www.noursefarms.com) or 413-665-2658). Located not far away in South Deerfield, this company specializes in producing high quality berry plants (and asparagus roots plus).

It would be great to extend my blueberry picking season over a month or more, just like my parents did with their patch. I will plan to order early, mid at late season varieties to accomplish this.

Last year, Nourse switched from selling bareroot blueberry plants to selling them in one liter pots. According to the listing, plants are cut back to just over a foot. They will increase in top growth the first year.

They have found that selling potted plants eases transplant shock and reduces the chance of the roots drying out in shipment. Sounds great to me!

Take care to amend the soil to the proper pH and site the plants accordingly and you could enjoy blueberries for decades. My parents' bushes are still bearing some 70 years later.

Maybe you are in the market for apple trees this year. For well-rooted, hardy Maine grown plants, shop the Fedco Trees Catalog ([www.fedcoseeds.com](http://www.fedcoseeds.com)). Fedco Trees offers a great selection of heirloom apple trees, scionwood and rootstocks for home grafting, pears, plums and grapes among other types of nursery stock and ornamentals.

For heirloom apple enthusiasts or those interested in planting a cider orchard, this is an amazing resource. The final order deadline for trees is March 1.

The catalog changes a bit every year, so be sure to check back or reach out to them if you are looking for a specific variety and you don't see it listed in print.

It's been a few years since I've found a reputable mail-order nursery for heirloom roses. Recently, I stumbled upon High Country Roses ([www.highcountryroses.com](http://www.highcountryroses.com)), and I'm impressed with the variety of roses they carry, many of which I am familiar with from working at Old Sturbridge Village: Rosa gallica officinalis and versicolor, Harison's Yellow, Rosa eglanteria and more.

If heirlooms aren't your thing, check out the number of ARS (American Rose Selections) winners for proven success. All of the roses

See GARDEN, page 5



Guest Column

## Can you work while collecting SS Disability?



Dear Rusty

*If a person is collecting Social Security disability benefits, can they, at any point, work at all? If they can, what is the maximum they can earn and still keep the disability benefit? I am asking because my husband is still young, but his injuries will not allow him to go back to the job he had prior to his injuries and surgeries. He does not just want to sit at home doing nothing.*

Signed: Concerned Wife

Dear Concerned:

Actually, the Social Security Administration encourages those collecting Social Security Disability Insurance benefits to attempt to go back to work and they provide considerable leeway for them to do so. The monthly earnings limit for those collecting SSDI benefits in 2024 is \$1,550 and as long as your husband earns less than the limit while working, his SSDI benefits will not be in jeopardy. Your husband should

contact Social Security's Ticket to Work program directly to protect his disability status and discuss returning to work while collecting SSDI benefits.

The Ticket to Work program assists those now receiving SSDI benefits who wish to test their ability to return to work without putting their SSDI benefits at risk. The program provides considerable assistance, including new career training opportunities and connection to potential employers and it is voluntary and costs nothing. Here is a link to Social Security's information on the Ticket to Work program: <https://choosework.ssa.gov/>

It's not mandatory for your husband to enroll in the Ticket to Work program but, in addition to other available assistance, he can request a Trial Work Period, which would allow for nine months, over a rolling five year period, during which he can earn any amount even over the normal monthly limit mentioned above without risking his SSDI benefits.

Within the Trial Work Period, only those months he earns over the normal monthly SSDI limit would count as a Trial Work Month. So, for example, your husband could work part time regularly earning under the

See SECURITY, page 5

## Bashing China is easy but not always helpful



Rep. Lee H. Hamilton and others are shown with Vice-Premier Deng Xiaoping in June 1979 during the first official visit to the U.S. by top Communist Chinese leadership. Among the others are Paul Findley in the far left back and Michael Barnes to Hamilton's left. Courtesy of the Wells Library Lee Hamilton Photo Collection

Here's one thing we can count on in the upcoming election year: American politicians will find ways to criticize China, even if they're running for jobs that have little to do with U.S. foreign policy.

China-bashing is a tried-and-true way to appeal for votes.

It's politically safe: China has few defenders anywhere in the United States. Politicians can take shots at China without worrying that they will offend anyone or lose support and, certainly, China often deserves criticism.

But there is a downside to reflexive anti-China rhetoric. With the world's second-largest population and its second-largest economy, China is a force in world affairs.

We need to push back when it threatens our interests, but we also need to engage with China when appropriate.

It's understandable that China would be a target for attacks. We live in a bipolar world, with the U.S. and China competing for global influence.

Under President Xi Jinping, China has positioned itself as our chief rival and China's actions often call for pushback. It

See HELPFUL, page 5

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

**in my BACKYARD**  
By Ellenor Downer



Bluebirds

I received an email from a West Brookfield resident, who included two photos of bluebirds at her feeder.

She took the photos on New Year's Day and had six or seven of them. She said last year she had bluebirds visit regularly in late winter arriving on Valentine's Day.

She said in the email, "We built a mealworm feeder (thanks to Mark Blazis instructions) and the outcome was a pair nesting in one of our nesting boxes and bringing their pair of fledglings to the feeder.

Bluebirds are migratory, but some stay around all winter just like some of the Canada geese and robins do. Bluebirds, along with other small birds, will use nesting boxes for shelter during storms or at night. The boxes provide a dry place and protection from the wind and cold.

The bluebird is about 6 1/2 inches

long. The male has a brilliant blue head, back, wings and tail with a brick red throat and breast. The female is has a rich, buffy throat and breast. She has a grayish blue head and back with light blue wings and tail and a white eye ring.

Bluebirds may come to feeders for peanut butter mixes, berries, meal worms and raisins. The female lays three to six pale blue eggs in a nest in a tree cavity, abandoned woodpecker hole or bird-house. The nest consists of grasses, plant stems, bine needles and is lined with hair, feathers and fine grasses.

They inhabit farmlands, open woodlands and rural yards.

**Brimfield birds**

A Brimfield resident said in an email, "Yesterday (Jan. 6) there were about a dozen robins in the yard feasting on the crab apples and they were joined by a few cedar wax-wings."

He said, "Today we awoke to about 8 inches of snow and all of the trees were covered with snow that was stuck to the branches. The crab apple trees were full of robins. One tree near the front of the

house had over a dozen robins in the tree eating apples along with a wax-wing or two."

The robins and wax wings also finished off the last of the fruit from the mountain ash and gleaned a bush with red berries. He said there were about three dozen robins and a half dozen cedar wax-wings in his yard as well as the "regulars" and two white-throated sparrows.

**Grackles**

I received an email from a woman, who had grackles at her feeder on Jan. 12. She also reported seeing some robins and a flock of about 30 to 40 juncos. She said she usually doesn't see grackles until spring.

**Christmas bird count**

Results for some Christmas Bird Counts that took place in our area are now available by visiting the website at <http://www.warivernatureclub.org/announcements.html>. Many new records were set, and many old ones broken, with high numbers of species and individuals recorded. An open, ice/snow-free landscape, unfrozen waterways, and an abundant wild food crop were combined factors that encouraged many species to linger longer than usual.

**Feeder activity**

Birds at my feeder before the Jan. 7 storm consisted mainly of a few juncos, a white-throated sparrow or two and a few chickadees and downy woodpeckers. That all changed on Sunday, Jan. 7. I saw my cardinal pair, bluejays, lots of chickadees and tufted titmice. I also had mourning doves, white-breasted nuthatches, a downy woodpecker and a few goldfinches.

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](mailto:mybackyard88@aol.com) or [edowner@turley.com](mailto:edowner@turley.com) or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

**SECURITY, from page 4**

normal monthly limit and if, in some months (up to nine), he earned more it wouldn't affect his SSDI benefits.

So, your younger disabled husband can, indeed, work while on Social Security disability, for as long as he wishes while earning under the monthly SSDI limit, the SSDI earnings limit changes yearly. He may also wish to enroll in Social Security's Ticket to Work program for assistance with developing a new career. Plus, he can take advantage of using trial work months in the event his work earnings will, at times, exceed the monthly SSDI limit.

If your husband earns over the SSDI limit for more than the nine trial work months and his benefits are consequently stopped, he can within the five-year Trial Work Period have his benefits reinstated (without again going through the full application process) if his disability, once

more, renders him unable to work full time.

For starters, I suggest your husband contact Social Security's Ticket to Work program directly at 1.833-889-0108 to discuss returning to work part time. Social Security will guide him through the entire process.

*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](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at [ssadvisior@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisior@amacfoundation.org). Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.*

**HELPFUL, from page 4**

engages in unfair trade practices, disregards intellectual property rules and tramples on human rights.

It has been accused of genocide against the Uyghur population in its Xinjiang province. It threatens Taiwan and antagonizes its neighbors over the South China Sea.

To many Americans, China can seem foreign and far away. Its people look different and speak different languages. Its autocratic system of government is very different from our democratic system.

A recent Pew Research Center survey found half of Americans consider China to be the biggest threat we face; that's three times as many as view Russia as our biggest threat. In another survey, more than 80% of Americans had negative views of China.

Some of China's actions do call for strong responses. We should expect candidates for relevant government offices to adopt clear positions toward China.

But China-bashing can go too far.

In Indiana, where I live, one candidate for governor has made "combating China" a centerpiece of his campaign. He and his rivals say they will confront China over fentanyl imports, online theft of personal information, and other matters.

The next governor of Indiana will have a lot of important issues to address, but getting tough with China won't be high on the list.

Demonizing China also has a long and sometimes ugly history in the United States. Chinese immigrants in the 1800s

did hard and dangerous jobs, working in mines and building railroads, but faced discrimination in housing, employment and education.

Anti-Chinese bias led Congress to pass the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, barring further Chinese immigration. Sensationalistic newspapers fanned fears of a "Yellow Peril" that threatened native-born Americans.

A 1924 law further restricted Asian immigration.

Some of those old prejudices can resurface today. One recent poll found that voters linked politicians' anti-Chinese rhetoric to a spike in violence against Asian Americans.

With election campaigns getting underway, some experts predict a rise in hate incidents.

At the end of the day, U.S. officials will have to lay aside the rhetoric and engage with China. That means standing firm when China threatens our interests and those of our allies, but it also means finding ways to work together.

We can, and should, cooperate on addressing climate change, combating terrorism, deterring drug smuggling, promoting free and fair trade, and other issues.

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

**GARDEN, from page 4**

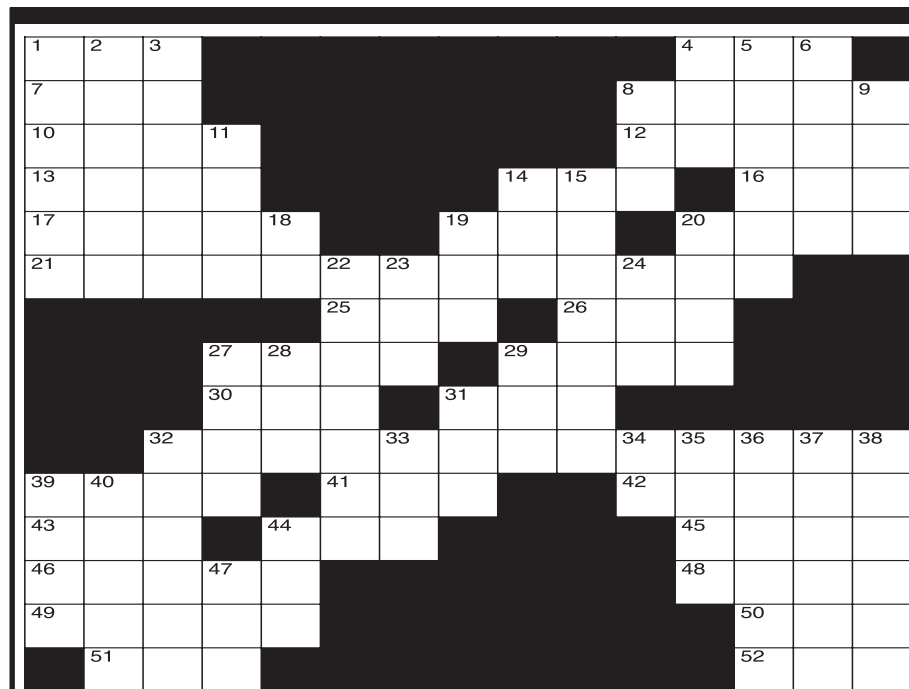
they sell are grown on their own roots by vegetative propagation and are not grafted.

Some arguments in favor of own root roses include better hardiness, increased blooms, vigor and longevity. With over 600 varieties to choose from there is something for new and seasoned rose enthusiasts alike, and a lot of useful information for growers on their website.

Yes, it is the middle of winter and all

should be quiet on the gardening front, but it is also a great time to get your orders in to your favorite mail order catalogs. Shop early for the best selection!

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to [pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.*



**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Microgram
- 4. Where golfers begin
- 7. Each
- 8. Warm weather metropolis
- 10. Coat with sticky substance
- 12. Girl's given name
- 13. Myth (Spanish)
- 14. Ultrahigh frequency
- 16. Former NBAer Jeremy
- 17. Where rockers work
- 19. Your consciousness of your own identity
- 20. Soft-finned fishes
- 21. Localities
- 25. Paddle
- 26. Union
- 27. Member of religious community
- 29. Small shrill flute
- 30. Small constellation in the Milky Way
- 31. They \_\_\_
- 32. College kid on vacation
- 39. de Armas and Gasteyer are two
- 41. Part of the human body
- 42. A progressive grading
- 43. Sound unit
- 44. Noise some birds make
- 45. Abba \_\_\_, Israeli politician
- 46. Portuguese city
- 48. Be extremely, uncritically fond of
- 49. Resembling old Norse poems
- 50. Ask for out of extreme need
- 51. Sino-Soviet

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. An insane person
- 2. \_\_\_ Boothe Luce, American author
- 3. Buttock muscles
- 4. Men's fashion accessory
- 5. "Hotel California" rockers
- 6. Electronic communication force (abbr.)
- 8. Magnetomotive
- 9. Hostleries
- 11. A way to resound
- 14. Exclamation: yuck!
- 15. A resident of Indiana
- 18. Exclamation of surprise
- block (abbr.)
- 19. Make a mistake
- 20. Boundary
- 22. Antilles island
- 23. It's used to make furniture
- 24. Clod
- 27. They indicate where places are
- 28. Bobby \_\_\_, NHL champ
- 29. Prints money
- 31. Honorable title (Turkish)
- 32. Appetizers
- 33. Midway between north and northwest
- 34. Spanish be
- 35. Breezed through
- 36. Grilled dishes
- 37. In a way, excites
- 38. Change mind
- 39. A French abbot
- 40. Popular candy
- 44. Partner to cheese
- 47. Wood or metal bolt

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 11



Maureen Tisdell, Mary Lynch and Mary Ellen Lynch all celebrated Mary Lynch's accomplishment together.

**LYNCH**, from page 1

Joshua Garcia said. "All I can say to the Grand Marshal selection judges is you definitely made a good choice this year."

She served as a professor at Holyoke Community College and was a substitute teacher at Holyoke Public Schools.

Additionally, she was a teaching director at the Holyoke YMCA, even working to implement "Preschool at the Y".

For all of her work at the Y, she was awarded the Louis F. Oldershaw Community Service Award by the Greater Holyoke YMCA in 2010.

"She embodies everything that we look for in a Grand Marshal and then some," Dunn said. "Family, heritage, community...she's all that and more."

But it isn't just her service to the community that made her the perfect choice for the Grand Marshal, it is also her personality.

There was not a single person throughout the celebration who didn't



Senator John Velis, City Council President Tessa Murphy-Romboletti and Holyoke Resident Billy Glidden enjoyed the evening.

have a kind word to say about Lynch.

"What I see through that, what you exude, is a good person," State Senator John Velis said.

City Council President Tessa Murphy-Romboletti fondly shared that Lynch had been her pre-school teacher, and had greatly helped shape her into the person she is today.

"You can take credit for turning me into the woman that I am today," Murphy-Romboletti said. "You are a part of my childhood in a way that so many other people are not and I am so grateful for the person you are. You were such a safe space for me as a child."

Lynch's family and friends were all beyond proud of her and her accomplishments. They were grateful for all Lynch has done for them, and glad she had earned this recognition.

"I couldn't think of a person more deserving of this honor than my mother," Lynch's daughter, Mary Ellen Lynch said. "Mom, congratulations, we love you and we're so proud of you."



Irish band The Bards performed a variety of Irish music throughout the evening.



Tim, Rose, Kaitlyn and Lauren Brosnan came together to congratulate Grand Marshal Mary Lynch.



This year's Colleen Court Amelia George, Hunter Edwards, Natalie Morris, Taryn Ryan and Elizabeth Gourde all attended the celebration.

Turley photos by Quinn Suomala

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L to R: LAOH President Paula Paoli; Woman of the Year - Patricia A. Clayton; Center - Polish National Credit Union CEO, James P. Kelly, 2024 Christian Charity Award Winner; Man of the Year - John M. Gaughan; AOH President Joe O'Connor

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# SPORTS

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## Rivera scores 20 to get Knights back on track

HOLYOKE – After a couple of losses, Holyoke boys basketball got back on track with a 73-47 defeat of Sci-Tech last Thursday night. Shawn Rivera had a great game with 20 points, including three treys.

Dylan Rohan had 12 points and Chauncey Ruiz added 10 points in the win. Holyoke is nearing the cusp of the state tournament as they are now 7-3 and need nine wins to qualify.



Luis Figueroa angles for a layup.



Aden Cabrera fakes to avoid a block.



Shawn Rivera drives inside the arc.



Dominick Renaldi reaches out for a one-hander.



Chauncey Ruiz gets some air as he puts one in the hoop.

Turley photos by David Henry



Amilyan Treadwell-Mercedes reaches out to make a rebound.



Jaylaness Santiago dribbles into the paint.



Evangeline Cauley tries to head down the sideline and is blocked by a West Springfield guard.



Kiara Perez makes a short-range shot.

## Girls score win over West Side

HOLYOKE – Last Tuesday evening, Holyoke girls basketball picked up their second win of the season with a 49-37 win over visiting West Springfield. Amilyan Treadwell-Mercedes led all scorers with 18 points while Jaylaness Santiago added 12 points as the offense had a good night for the Knights.



Xenedy Jacobs takes a shot on the hoop.

# Divisional win streak ends in Utica for Thunderbirds

UTICA, N.Y. – The Springfield Thunderbirds (18-13-3-2) saw their five-game win streak against North Division opponents come to an end on Saturday in a 6-3 loss to the Utica Comets (12-13-3-3) at Adirondack Bank Center.

The T-Birds quieted the notoriously noisy “Aud” just 49 seconds into the first period. In his first shift back with the T-Birds since being returned from St. Louis, Jakub Vrana gathered in a puck near the top of the right circle and whipped a pass toward the crease. Nikita Alexandrov deflected the first attempt off the pads of Utica goalie Isaac Poulter, but Alexandrov jammed his own rebound into the twine, giving Springfield a 1-0 lead for a second straight night.

After shutting out the Comets on

Nov. 24, Vadim Zherenko had tougher sledding in the first period on this night, as the Comets evened the score, 1-1, at 9:50 on a well-placed wrist from Filip Engaras under the crossbar.

With time winding down, Comet defenseman Michael Vukojevic crept up into the high slot and was given room to slap one along the ice past Zherenko at 17:51 to give Utica a 2-1 advantage.

With less than a minute to play in the period, the Comets added insurance after a lengthy stretch of zone pressure. It culminated in a funky goal at the 19:29 mark. Ryan Schmelzer arrived for a one-timer from the high slot. The Comets captain muffed the shot, as it badly missed wide of the goal, but glanced off a defender and careened behind Zherenko to give Utica a 3-1 lead

into the intermission.

Things took another turn in Utica’s favor when Chase Stillman drew a penalty shot when he was hooked on a breakaway chance just 1:21 into the second period. The rookie winger made no mistake from there, as he bested Zherenko with a backhand-to-forehand deke, giving the Comets a 4-1 advantage.

Springfield stopped the four-goal run at 9:25 shortly after the first of three power-play chances that eluded the visitors. After winning puck control in the left corner, Alexandrov sauced a pass into the middle of the ice for Will Bitten. Bitten’s backhander caromed off Poulter’s chest and, in turn, found Zach Bolduc, who one-timed the rebound through the Comets goalie to cut the Utica lead down to 4-2, a score

that stood to the end of the period.

Dylan Coghlan made things even more interesting when he one-timed his league-leading 11th goal from the blue line at 7:13 of the final period to cut the deficit down to 4-3. However, this time around, the T-Birds ran out of comeback magic. Graeme Clarke scored a momentum-killing goal at 10:02, using a screen to beat Zherenko over the glove from the left-wing circle.

Springfield’s power play scuffled on the evening against the AHL’s top PK unit, going 0-for-4 and leaving another chance on the table in the final period while trailing 5-3. In the end, the T-Birds ran out of time in this comeback try, and Justin Dowling rounded out the scoring with a tally into an empty net in the final minute.

## Bonsignore to do pre-season ‘test’

WADING RIVER, N.Y. – Three-time NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour champion Justin Bonsignore will compete in the ARCA Menards Series pre-season test at Daytona International Speedway this weekend.

Bonsignore will drive a car prepared by Andy Hilenburg, the 1995 ARCA champion, who also has two Daytona ARCA wins to his credit. The cars are prepared by Fast Track High Performance Racing.

The pre-race test is in preparation for the upcoming ARCA Menards Series opener at Daytona during Speedweeks on Saturday, February 17. The weekend will also include the opener for the NASCAR Xfinity Series and the NASCAR Cup Series Daytona 500.

Seven different drivers have earned the right to take laps around Daytona via the “Road to Daytona” program. Invites include the two regional series that are part of the ARCA Menards Series platform - the three ASA-branded touring super late model series, the NASCAR

Whelen Modified Tour champion and the NASCAR Advance Auto Parts Weekly Series frontrunners. Although current 2023 champion for the Whelen Modified Tour Ron Silk isn’t making the trip, Bonsignore is filling the seat to take laps around one of the fastest and iconic tracks in the world.

The trip will be his first laps on the Daytona high-banks of his career.

“Taking laps at Daytona is definitely something every race car driver dreams of when you start racing,” Bonsignore said. “Appreciate the opportunity given by NASCAR, ARCA, Andy and his entire team to be able to get behind the wheel. Looking forward to soaking in the experience and showcasing the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour on this stage.”

For more information on the ARCA Menards Series, visit [ARCARacing.com](http://ARCARacing.com). For the latest updates surrounding Justin Bonsignore, fans are encouraged to visit [JustinBonsignore.com](http://JustinBonsignore.com) and also follow Bonsignore’s Athlete page on Facebook for updates, including from the track on race day.

## Worcester Railers suffers loss at home to Norfolk Admirals

WORCESTER – It wasn’t that the Railers ran out gas Sunday afternoon so much as they never had any in their 3-0 loss to the Norfolk Admirals.

Both teams were on the last leg of one of those dreaded 3 in 3 weekends, but the Admirals played it smarter than Worcester. Norfolk followed the script by jumping out to an early lead and keeping things under control the rest of the way.

It helped that the Admirals got admirable goaltending from Kristian Stead. He made 25 saves to record his first career ECHL shutout in his 11th ECHL game. It was Norfolk’s second shutout of the season over Worcester. Thomas Milic beat the Railers, 4-0, on October 29. The game marked the third time this season Worcester has been whitewashed.

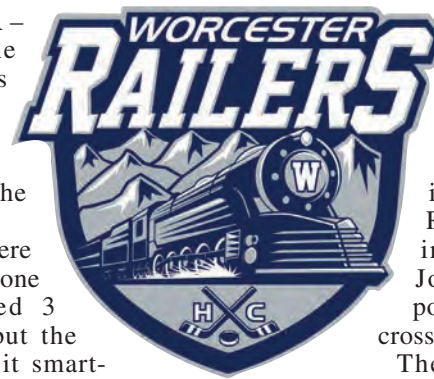
Brandon Osmundson, Denis Smirnov and Andrew McLean scored the game’s goals. McLean’s went into an empty net at 19:15 of the third period.

It was a very good goaltending game overall as Josh Boyko was excellent in the Railers net. He stopped 32 of 34 shots and kept it winnable.

“I thought he played really well,” coach Jordan Smotherman said. “He made some great saves...I was really happy with his game.”

“Playing from behind three nights in a row; you just can’t do that to yourself,” Smotherman said.

Although Norfolk had 34-25



edge in shots, the teams had about the same number of great chances. Worcester had two breakaways in the first period. Railers players hit iron twice later on. John Copeland hit a post, Anthony Callin a crossbar.

The breakaways were by Worcester’s two top scorers, Ashton Calder and Anthony Repaci. Both players made good moves. Stead made two good saves.

In contrast, when Norfolk scored at 4:57 of the first period to go ahead, 1-0, Osmundson’s shot went post to post and in, hitting the right one first.

“Over the course of a three-game weekend,” Smotherman said, “you’re not always gonna get the bounces and you can’t rely on them.”

The Admirals finished that period with a 14-4 edge in shots on goal. For the weekend, Worcester was outshot by 38-17 in the three first periods.

Smirnov doubled his team’s lead early in the second period, scoring at 2:29. Danny Katic set up his teammate with a great pass from the right boards. Smirnov was just outside left post and had an easy re-direct from there.

The Railers lineup included familiar face Blake Jenkins, back from his brief time on the Hartford roster, and unfamiliar face Ryan Dickinson. The rookie defenseman made his professional debut as Zsombor Garat got a break. He had played in 32 of the season’s first 34 games.

## Knights split swim meet with Pacers

HOLYOKE – Last Friday afternoon, Holyoke swimming, which co-ops with South Hadley and Granby, scored a split with Chicopee High.

The boys were defeated in their matchup 54-31. Brady Pjar had two wins representing Holyoke in the 100 freestyle and the 100 backstroke. Jared Lapite also had two wins, taking

the 50 freestyle and the 100 breaststroke.

The girls had a convincing 93-60 win over Chicopee, improving to 4-1 on the season. Scarlett LaRose won the 50 freestyle and the 100 flystroke. Adaline Woods won the 200 freestyle and the 500 freestyle. Trinity Roy also won two events.

## How to contact the Sports Editor

Have the scoop on a local sports story? 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](mailto:sports@turley.com) or call, 1-413-283-8393.

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# Check CO alarms and keep vents clear of snow

**Blocked vents can cause fatal buildup of colorless, odorless, deadly gas**

STOW – With the season's first significant snow on the way in parts of Massachusetts, State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine is reminding residents to test their carbon monoxide (CO) alarms and keep dryer, furnace and other exhaust vents clear of snow.

"Carbon monoxide is a leading cause of fatal poisoning, and home heating equipment is the primary source of car-

bon monoxide in the home," Davine said. "As part of your storm planning, check your CO alarms to be sure they're working properly, and if an alarm is past the manufacturer's recommended lifespan, replace it."

Residents should also be sure to keep outside vents clear of falling, drifting, or shoveled snow. In January 2005, seven-year-old Nicole Garofalo died when a heating vent was blocked by snow drifts outside, allowing carbon monoxide to accumulate inside her Plymouth home. This tragedy led to Nicole's Law, which requires CO alarms on every habitable

level of a Massachusetts residence.

"Fuel-fired heating appliances like dryers, furnaces, boilers, and fireplaces are all sources of carbon monoxide," Davine said. "If the vent or flue is blocked, this poisonous gas can reach deadly levels inside the home. Know where the vents on your home are, be sure to clear them when shoveling, and be careful not to blow snow onto them if using a snowblower."

Massachusetts fire departments detected nearly CO at nearly 5,000 incidents in 2022, officials said, and 90% of these calls were at residential set-

tings. The poison gas can cause headache, fatigue, dizziness, and/or nausea at lower concentrations and death at higher concentrations. Exposure while asleep is particularly dangerous. Children, older adults, and people with lung or heart disease are especially vulnerable.

"We can't see, smell, or taste carbon monoxide, but we can detect it with working CO alarms," Davine said. "If your alarm sounds, get outside and call 9-1-1."

For more information on carbon monoxide and CO alarms, visit the DFS website.

## Virtual support groups offered

WESTERN MA – During a cancer journey patients and their families often benefit from the support of others. Virtual support groups will be held in 2024 by Camille St. Onge, LICSW, and oncology social worker.

For many years, people had to travel to a predetermined location in order to attend addiction support group meetings. As a result of restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic and because of the increasing availability of digital services, these groups now meet online.

"Offering support groups virtually brings people together regardless of their location," said St. Onge. "Sharing concerns with a support group can be a beneficial way for people facing cancer to get the help they need to cope with the physical and emotional concerns that arise during and after a cancer diagnosis. While support and self-help groups can vary greatly, groups share one thing in common, they are a place where people can share personal stories, express emotions, and be heard in an atmosphere of acceptance, understanding, and encouragement."

The support groups are designed to

help patients, their families, and caregivers cope with the challenges of a cancer diagnosis. Virtual Support Group offered include: General Cancer Support Group, 1st Wednesday of each month, from 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.; Partners in Caregiving, 2nd Wednesday of each month, from 5 - 6:30 p.m.; Expressive Writing through Cancer, 3rd Wednesday of each month, from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.; Breast Cancer Support Group, 4th Wednesday of each month, from 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

All meetings are currently held virtually and made possible by funds raised by the Walk of Champions. For more information contact Camille St. Onge, LICSW, Oncology Social Worker by calling 413-239-7239 or by email at cstomagin@gmail.com.



## Habitat for Humanity introduces 'Hearts and Homes' challenge

WEST SPRINGFIELD – Every \$20 donation made to Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSHFH) by end-of-day Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2024, will be entered for a chance to win a Spa Renewal Day gift card for two people at the exclusive Canyon Ranch in Lenox.

The winner will be drawn at our Valentine's Day dedication, celebrating the completion of our newest home in Holyoke. Participants don't have to be present to win.

"We are very appreciative of Canyon Ranch for partnering with us on this fundraiser. Stable affordable housing plays a key role in a family's well-being and Canyon Ranch wants our donors to have a chance at increasing their well-being by supporting our programs," said Aimee Giroux, GSHFH executive director. "What a fantastic way for us to celebrate the completion of a home on Chestnut Street in Holyoke that will be dedicated and sold to the Santos

family on Valentine's Day."

The "Hearts and Homes" challenge came about when a volunteer asked the resort that focuses on prioritizing its clients' well-being, if it would be interested in supporting Greater Springfield Habitat through a fundraiser. The donation committee complied and donated a gift card worth \$700.

To donate, visit [habitatspringfield.org/donate](https://bit.ly/3lq36gO); <https://bit.ly/3lq36gO>; or text "BUILD413" to 44-321 and follow the prompts.

GSHFH is dedicated to strengthening communities by empowering low-income families to change their lives and the lives of future generations through homeownership and home preservation opportunities. Since 1987, Greater Springfield Habitat has built or repaired 129 homes in Hampden County. This project represents the first home to utilize ICFs, which will further reduce long-term costs for the future homeowners.

## SNOWSTORM, from page 1

Gallagher and DPW Director Carl Rossi hope to continue to improve upon their methods in future storms. They plan to have a staff meeting with crews soon to go over their performance during the storm.

Many of the crews this year are new to the job. Gallagher reported that there were three DPW workers who had never driven a plow before.

"We've had a number of people retire over the last five years and we've been getting some new employees in here," Gallagher said.

The DPW, the mayor's office and the personnel department have been working on increasing the staffing levels in the DPW.

"If we move forward and are able to continue training new employees it will help to have full coverage to run multiple shifts around the clock to make up for the gaps as much as possible with what we have," Gallagher said.

However, the DPW is in need of more private plow contractors. This year they are down six contractor trucks from last year.

"Two of them were heavy duty wing plow trucks that covered a lot of ground and we now don't have this year," Gallagher said.

The DPW had a couple contractors who did not respond to their proposal and another who did not get their paperwork in time to assist with the storm.

"There's been fewer and fewer contractors available each year," Gallagher

said. "Pretty much every municipality available around us has been going through the same issue trying to hire private contractors."

Gallagher and Rossi believe that the shortage is largely due to the current competitive market for plow contractors.

"For us it's a matter of competitive pay," Rossi said.

The DOT, for example, pays higher wages than many local municipalities, often making it difficult for municipalities to hire contractors. However, Rossi has noticed that even the DOT has struggled to obtain enough contractors in recent years.

Gallagher and Rossi are open to more plow contractors, should anyone be interested in signing up for the position. Rossi recommends that anyone interested call

the DPW, where they will help walk them through the needed steps to begin work.

In the meantime, the DPW will continue working hard to ensure that streets remain as safe as possible.

"We're always going to put every resource we have out there at any individual storm," Gallagher said. "Every truck that our department has is out on the road and every truck that's available to us through private contractors have been called in."

Rossi and Gallagher also would like to remind people to, when possible, try to stay off the roads during storms. They also encourage residents to follow the parking ban.

"Follow the parking ban," Rossi said. "When it's snowing we're going to be plowing."

## WARMING, from page 1

we're not ever going to turn anybody away," Executive Director of Providence Ministries Jennie Adamczyk said.

Providence Ministries is located at 51 Hamilton Street, and there are about 25 beds available for overnight service.

All who go to the shelter are welcomed in and given access to food and clothing.

"We give everyone a hot meal, we let them eat as much as they want to to make sure that they are full, we give them a hot shower, if they would like one everyone gets a set of clean clothes and a snack," Adamczyk said. "They also get comfortable sleeping accommodations for the evening and in the morning they get a breakfast to go."

Adamczyk and Trask emphasized the welcoming environment that this shelter provides. They want to ensure that all who attend feel at home.

"People do love coming to the shelter and I think it's because we try to give it a homey atmosphere," Adamczyk said. "People feel like they are actually guests."

"After the doors close for the night you walk around and it really is an atmosphere of compassion and love," Trask said. "It feels like home."

Adamczyk shared that recently there was a group of people who all got to sit around a table and play Uno for the first time in years. She and Trask are proud that people are able to feel so comfortable at the shelter.

"We're very proud that Holyoke shelter is not just a gymnasium that you throw cots up in and it's bare bone, it's an atmosphere where people come in, they feel welcome, they feel loved and they get traditional services," Trask said. "It really is a remarkable experience."

This shelter provides a variety of services to those in need, including facilitating detox and providing medical ser-

vices for non-emergency medical needs.

"To have maybe their feet looked at for frostbite or someone may be concerned about their sugar levels or their blood pressure," Adamczyk said. "We're able to help in that way and to ease some of the stresses that people might be under."

This shelter has been highly popular in the past, according to Adamczyk. Since it opened three years ago, there has not been an evening where they have not been at capacity.

The level of popularity shows how necessary this shelter is for the Holyoke community.

"It's a safe place for people to come and they know that we're going to love on them," Adamczyk said. "And in the worst of circumstances it is truly life saving for somebody."

The Providence Ministries is funded by the community development block grant. This allowed the city to get the services of Providence Ministries, an

experienced provider, to create the shelter, rather than starting anew.

"They have a legacy of service and are truly professionals and they know the community as well," Trask said. "They have the resources and the skills."

While this funding provides the services of Providence Ministries, this shelter still relies on community donations to help keep this shelter running. They are grateful to all who have donated in the past.

"Holyoke does a really good job of taking care of its own during a crisis or during an emergency and this shelter is one of those examples of how the community comes together," Trask said.

If interested in donating, they are also open for monetary donations, sweatpants, winter boots, hand warmers and more.

Those who want to donate can either drop them off at Providence Ministries or mail monetary donations, so long as they put in the memo that it is for the shelter.

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**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
Docket No. HD24P0065PM  
In the matter of:  
Luis Rodriguez  
Of: Holyoke, MA  
RESPONDENT  
(Person to be  
Protected/Minor)  
CITATION GIVING  
NOTICE OF PETITION  
FOR APPOINTMENT  
OF CONSERVATOR OR  
OTHER PROTECTIVE  
ORDER PURSUANT TO  
G.L. c. 190B,  
§5-304 & §5-405**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Holyoke Medical Center of Holyoke, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Luis Rodriguez** is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that **Nancy C Godbout** of Granby, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve **With Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court.

**You have the right to object to this proceeding.** If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of **02/08/2024**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: January 10, 2024  
**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
01/19/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD24P0072EA  
Estate of:  
Emil Krassler  
Date of Death: 07/31/2013  
CITATION ON  
PETITION FOR  
FORMAL  
ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **Michael Krassler** of Holyoke, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as 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 02/08/2024.**

**This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objec-**

**tion 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: January 11, 2024  
**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
01/19/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD16P2153EA  
Estate of:  
Evelyn H Krassler  
Date of Death: 06/29/2003  
CITATION ON  
PETITION FOR  
ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT**

A Petition for **Order of Complete Settlement** has been filed by **Michael J Krassler** of Holyoke, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account, a determination of heirs at law, and determine the devisees of the Decedent 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 02/23/2024.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: January 12, 2024  
**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
01/19/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
Docket No. HD24P0059GD  
In the matter of:  
Luis Rodriguez  
Of: Holyoke, MA  
RESPONDENT  
Alleged Incapacitated Person  
CITATION GIVING  
NOTICE OF PETITION  
FOR APPOINTMENT OF  
GUARDIAN FOR  
INCAPACITATED  
PERSON PURSUANT TO  
G.L. c. 190B, §5-304**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Holyoke Medical Center of Holyoke, MA** in the above captioned matter alleging that **Luis Rodriguez** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Nancy C Godbout of Granby, MA** (or some other suit-

able person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.  
The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

**You have the right to object to this proceeding.** If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of **02/08/2024**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: January 10, 2024  
**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
01/19/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103**

(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD24C0007CA  
In the matter of:  
**Kathryn Lynn Michelson  
CITATION ON PETITION  
TO CHANGE NAME**  
A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Kathryn Lynn Michelson of Holyoke, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

**Kathryn Lynn Maziarz  
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 02/05/2024.**

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: January 08, 2024  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
01/19/2024

**NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS  
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Invitation to Bid  
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2024 Traffic Calming & Safety Measures**

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Documents may be obtained electronically by email request at [morrowj@holyoke.org](mailto:morrowj@holyoke.org).

Sealed proposals will be received in the Purchasing Office, Holyoke City Hall, 536 Dwight Street, Room 3, Holyoke, MA 01040 until **2:00 PM on February 8, 2024**, in which they will be publicly opened and read.

The City of Holyoke reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals. No electronic submissions allowed.  
01/19/2024

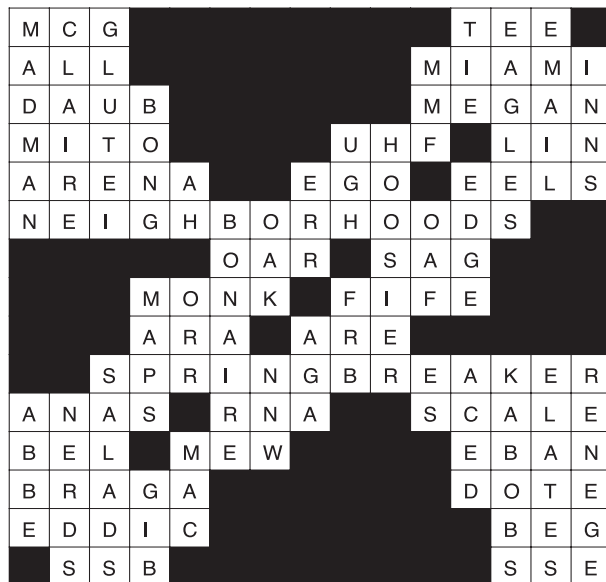
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The Holyoke Winter Farmers' Market is open every other Saturday through March.



Erica and Olivia Williamson had their own hair accessory stand, called Liv Nu Accessories, at the Winter Farmers' Market. *Turley photos by Quinn Suomala*

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Tempest Hampton held her bakery stand, Tempest's Temptation at the Holyoke Winter Farmers' Market.



Quinn Miller performed a variety of songs throughout the day at the farmers' market.



Let's Move Hampden County was present at the farmers' market to provide information and assistance to all who attended.

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**Holyoke Sun**

## MARKET, from page 1

the HIP benefits," Rollins said.

There is also live music performed throughout the day to keep all market attendees entertained. Quinn Miller from Connecticut performed on Jan. 13. Local band the Bermudez Triangle will also be performing at future markets.

"I enjoy the music, the different crafts and baked goods that people bring to us, the education and learning," Rollins said.

The market accepts SNAP benefits and is also a part of the Healthy Incentive Program.

HIP gives those on SNAP additional funds to purchase fruits and vegetables.

"The HIP is a program that was created five years ago by a group of women that noticed a need for fresh produce in the communities," Diaz DeJesus said. "Basically you can get up to \$80, depending on how many people are in your family, to buy fresh produce at farmers' markets or farm stands."

The amount families use for HIP does not affect the amount on their SNAP.

Families of one to two people are eligible for \$40 a month, three to five can get \$60, and six plus can receive \$80.

To find a HIP location near you you can go to [buy-localfood.org/hip-map](http://buy-localfood.org/hip-map).

Also available at the market is Let's Move and a coach who will help to educate the community about SNAP, HIP and healthy eating and support those who are new to the market.

"If you're a chef or an aspiring chef there's a group of people here to talk about food and other conversations that you can look forward to," Diaz DeJesus said.

One of the goals of Let's Move Hampden County and Holyoke Health is to decrease food insecurity by increasing food access.

"The farmers' market is key for that goal," Coordinator of Let's Move Ana Jaramillo said.

The market does not only provide food for the community, but also gives a chance for a variety of vendors and people to gather together.

"It brings the community together and shows that there is more than the hustle and bustle of life and everyday work," Diaz DeJesus said. "It shows that there is coming together and moments of hope, wholesomeness, sharing and healthiness."

Diaz DeJesus encourages anyone who has not yet made it to the market to visit soon.

"They should come by and check out the produce, it's always great and it's always fresh," Diaz DeJesus said.

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