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Kids explore **ART** at Wistariahurst

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – Wistariahurst Museum is offering art classes to kids so they can explore different art styles and learn more about the histories behind them.

These classes are scheduled for 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on the first Sunday of every month through June. Children in kindergarten through twelfth grade are welcome to attend.



Artist Joycelin Raho showed children an example collage she had created that they could draw inspiration from.



Kids gathered at Wistariahurst to learn about making collages.

Turley photos by Quinn Suomala

Each class is run by Artist Joycelin Raho and she and Museum Director Megan Seiler hope that kids will enjoy learning about all of the different art styles at each class.

“You are learning why you’re creating what you are creating,” Seiler said. “Kids are getting a little built of a full

humanities view of what they are doing in the museum.”

During the first class kids got to work with mixed media collages, which was inspired by Artist Romare Bearden.

“I’m really excited about featuring black artists and underrepresented artists each month,” Raho said.

Seiler was excited to be bringing art classes back to Wistariahurst.

“Wistariahurst has a long history of offering art classes in our building for kids and it hadn’t been happening in a while so we wanted to start that back up,” Seiler said. “It is really exciting to have kids doing art back in the house again. We have a goal of using this as a community space where kids and families can come to enjoy themselves.”

With the classes back,

Seiler hopes that this will welcome more people into Wistariahurst and get kids excited about art they can create.

“Any time where the kids are creating and are able to express themselves while also learning, it is a really great opportunity for them to grow as individuals and learn what they like and what they might want to do,” Seiler said.

Creativity can be a great way for kids to relax, learn something and even express some of their emotions. Seiler is glad that Wistariahurst can provide a creative space for the kids.

“Important to have that creativity, exploration and education all happening,” Seiler said. “We’re hoping that it is a really affordable way for kids to enjoy and learn.”

“Art is therapy and it helps life make sense,” Raho said. “I think that with the way our world is headed with cutting so many art programs, kids don’t always have the opportunity to figure out their place in the world or make the mark they want to make on it. So by physically making marks and reflecting on their lives through art, it helps them know what type of mark they want to make as they grow.”

See ART, page 12

Dismal voter turnout changes treasurer to appointed position

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The position of the city treasurer has been altered from elected to appointed through the special election on Jan. 28.

Of the 843 people who came out to vote, 572, or 68%, voted in favor of this change.

The city council, Mayor Joshua Garcia and current Treasurer Rory Casey are all grateful for this change.

Garcia, Casey and the council had all pushed for this change to take place as a way to improve on the city’s future finances.

“This change is going to help us strengthen our internal controls and support our initiatives to improve financial reporting, streamline operations and implement advanced financial management systems,” Garcia said.

“After having spent the past 26 months as the elected treasurer, it is even more clear

that the ongoing issues cited time and again can only be properly addressed by a treasurer who is appointed based on qualifications and experience,” said Casey.

“This change is going to help us strengthen our internal controls and support our initiatives to improve financial reporting, streamline operations and implement advanced financial management systems”

- Mayor Joshua Garcia

By having a treasurer who is appointed to the position, the city ensures that any candidate will be qualified and prepared

to take on the large task that is managing the city’s funds of over \$200 million.

In the past, the city has been worse off due to the lack of experience of an elected treasurer.

“People walk into the role and they don’t know how to do it, they don’t know what to do with bank accounts or how to wire funds,” Casey said. “We’ve had money be wired fraudulently because people have fallen victim to these phishing schemes.”

Additionally, there have not been many people stepping forward to be elected for the position over the last few years.

In the past few years, there have been four treasurers who have stepped down from the position early, resulting in the need for a special election. Casey has had to step forward to ensure that the position was even filled.

“Let’s say nobody took out

See TREASURER, page 11

Garcia, Soto advocate for rights of immigrants

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

New York, Colorado, Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, New Mexico, Rhode Island, Vermont, Minnesota, and Washington released a statement addressing this issue.



Joshua Garcia



Anthony Soto

HOLYOKE – On Jan. 24, Superintendent/Receiver Anthony Soto and Mayor Joshua Garcia released a joint statement affirming the rights of immigrants.

On Jan. 21 the Department of Homeland Security announced that schools and churches would no longer be considered sensitive areas, meaning Immigration and Customs Enforcement as well as Customs and Border Protection would be able to enter those areas.

On Jan. 23 the Massachusetts Attorney General and the attorney generals from California,

In this statement, they wrote that “it is well-established—through long standing Supreme Court precedent—that the U.S. Constitution prevents the federal government from commandeering states to enforce federal laws.”

Additionally, they promised that their states would continue to enforce state laws and investigate and prosecute crimes, regardless of immigration status.

See IMMIGRANTS, page 11

Colleen Coronation Ball and Awards dinner set for Feb. 15

HOLYOKE – The St. Patrick’s Committee of Holyoke will hold the 69th annual Grand Colleen Coronation Ball and Awards dinner on Saturday, Feb. 15, at The Log Cabin, 500 Easthampton Road. There will be a cocktail hour at 5 p.m. and the program starts at 6:15 p.m.

The ladies vying for the honor of Grand Colleen crown are, in order of appearance, Erin Marie Gauthier, Abigail Katherine Huebner, Moira Catherine Reardon, Erin Frances O’Donnell, and Maura Catherine Joseph (Miss. Congeniality). The past Grand Colleen is Elizabeth Katherine Gourde, and her court members are Natalie Belle Morris, Hunter Rose Edwards, Taryn Shaylene Ryan, and Amelia Frances George (Miss. Congeniality).

The 2025 Award Honorees are the Citizenship Award Winner, Reverend Father Robert A. Gentile, Jr., Thomas F. Rohan Award Winner, Devin M. Sheehan, George E. O’Connell Award Winner, Jeff Walsh, and the Daniel J. Gullivan Award Winner, James (Jim) Meenaghan.

For tickets or more information, please contact Barb Rogers at Twinsmommy@aol.com. Tickets are \$100 per person. Meal choices include Arthur’s Sirloin, a Guinness herb-marinated sirloin finished with a stout demi-glaze; Vegetable Rollatinis, Filled with fresh vegetables and served with tomato ragu; Day Boat Scrod, Potato, bacon, and panko-encrusted scrod paired with a charred tomato-Dijon cream; or Traditional Turkey Dinner, a classic favorite prepared to perfection.

The five Colleen finalists enter the evening on an even slate; their previous scores from the Pageant last month are



Erin Gauthier, Abigail Huebner, Moira Reardon, Erin O’Donnell and Maura Joseph were all chosen as the 2025 Colleen Court.

wiped clean, and a new set of judges will score each contestant, leading to the awarding of the “Grand Colleen” title. The five Colleens, in order of appearance, as drawn by random are:

Erin Marie Gauthier; Holyoke, age 20, Holyoke High School graduate, currently at Baypath University pursuing a BA with a dual major in Medical Science and Biology and on the Pre-Veterinary track.

Abigail Katherine Huebner; South Hadley, age 20, Granby Junior/Senior High School graduate, currently at Sacred Heart University pursuing a BA dual major in Marketing and Management with a Digital Marketing minor.

Moira Catherine Reardon; Holyoke, age 21, Holyoke High School graduate, currently at Springfield Technical Community College majoring in Health Science and studying Diagnostic Medical Sonography.

Erin Frances O’Donnell; Holyoke, age 20, Holyoke High School graduate, currently at Holyoke Community College obtaining her RN licensure, and enrolled at Westfield State University completing her BA in Nursing.

Maura Catherine Joseph; Holyoke, age 22, Hampshire Regional High School graduate, and Franklin Pierce University graduate with a degree in Criminal Justice, currently working as a Preschool Para Educator.

The evening also honors the Citizenship, Rohan, O’Connell, and Gullivan Award winners as chosen for 2025 by the St. Patrick’s Committee of Holyoke.

The Citizenship Award is presented annually to a person or organization that may be of non-Irish descent that has made substantial contributions to the Parade and/or the Parade Committee. The 2025 Honoree is Rev. Fr. Robert A. Gentile, Jr.



Elizabeth Gourde, 2024 Grand Colleen.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

The Rohan Award is presented to a person who has made significant contributions to the overall success of the Parade and/or the Association. The award was established in 1957 in honor of its first Grand Marshal, Thomas F. Rohan. The 2025 Honoree is Devin M. Sheehan.

The George E. O’Connell Award is given to a member of the Parade Committee who has made significant contributions to the fundraising efforts of the Parade. The 2025 Honoree is Jeff Walsh.

The Daniel J. Gullivan Award recipient shall be a long-standing member of this Association who, while not a resident of the City of Holyoke, has made significant contributions to the overall success of the Parade and/or our Association. Daniel Gullivan was from South Hadley and was a longtime member of the St. Patrick’s Committee. The 2025 Honoree is James (Jim) Meenaghan.

The 72nd Holyoke St. Patrick’s Parade will be held on Sunday, March 23, and the 48th Holyoke St. Patrick’s Road Race will be held on Saturday, March 22.

For more information, please visit our website at www.holyokestpatrickspade.com.

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2025 Cornelius J. Moriarty, Jr. Scholarship for Cadet Engineers

Pursuant to MGL Chapter 164, Sections 69B to 69F, applications for a cadet engineer scholarship will be received at the:

Office of the Manager
Holyoke Gas & Electric Department
99 Suffolk Street
Holyoke, MA 01040

Deadline: March 30, 2025

(Applications will only be considered if received on or before the deadline).

Application forms may be obtained from our website: www.hged.com or from high school guidance counselors. For further information, please contact the Office of the Manager, at (413)536-9313.

Applicants for the scholarship must be:

- 1) Residents of the City of Holyoke.
- 2) Graduates of a duly accredited senior secondary school (year 2025 or before).
- 3) Not less than seventeen (17) years old on their last birthday, nor more than twenty-five (25) years old.
- 4) Accepted for admission to, or already enrolled in, an accredited community college, college, or university having a course of study leading to a degree of Bachelor of Science in Engineering.



Holyoke Gas & Electric
99 Suffolk Street
Holyoke, MA 01040
(413) 536-9300
www.hged.com

Public meeting to discuss signage changes set for Feb. 26

HOLYOKE – The City of Holyoke, under the direction of the City’s Office of Planning and Economic Development, has recently begun working with consulting firm Stantec to develop a wayfinding plan for the downtown area. The goal of the plan is to establish an approach for a new wayfinding signage system that could replace the existing (City-owned) signs over a period of time. The new system would create a more navigable downtown for users of all travel modes using a simple but distinct and cohesive signage strategy. The City will be using this wayfinding plan to develop and fabricate signs in the near future for downtown Holyoke.

On Feb. 26, the City will host the first of two public meetings to discuss

the process and progress of a comprehensive Wayfinding Signage Study for the Downtown, which began in October and continues through the spring. The meeting, to be held at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute, 164 Race St, begins at 5:30 p.m. and will feature information about Downtown Holyoke’s existing wayfinding signage inventory while providing an opportunity for attendees to share comments and provide input about how best to ensure that the signage supports navigation to key downtown destinations for visitors using different modes and is designed to accurately reflect the character of Holyoke’s community.

The workshop is designed to be interactive but will also feature a presen-

tation by members of the project team. The City of Holyoke plans to make materials from the meeting available online for those that cannot attend in-person.

The City of Holyoke is committed to facilitating a robust process of community engagement relating to its Downtown wayfinding strategy, including in-person and virtual options for stakeholders to provide feedback. Also beginning on Feb. 26, an online survey will be available for residents, visitors, business owners, and employees to provide information relating to wayfinding signage that may inform the development of design-related components of the signs. A second public meeting will be identified later this spring to present the proposed wayfinding sign designs and

overall strategy.

Effective and distinct wayfinding signage plays an important role in supporting Downtown Holyoke’s economy and vitality. The perspectives of those that make Downtown Holyoke a cultural and business hub are vital to the success of this project.

“We are excited about working with the community to develop, design and the implementation of new Wayfinding signs in the city that express who we are as a community and to make it easier to navigate the city for residents and visitors”, said OPED director Aaron Vega adding “It’s exciting to see this move forward in concert with our tourism efforts and the updating of the City’s Comprehensive Plan.”

City to observe Black History month Feb. 12

HOLYOKE – Black History month, which is observed every February, will be marked in Holyoke with a flag-raising ceremony at City Hall on Wednesday, Feb. 12, at 4:30 p.m. followed by a storytelling program at the Holyoke Public Library at 6 p.m. The public is invited to both events. Speakers at the flag-raising will include Willie Spradley Jr., a member of the leadership team at Bethlehem Baptist Community Church, and Mayor Joshua A. Garcia, who will read an official proclamation.

At 6 p.m., a storytelling program will be held in the Community Room at the Library. Holyoke natives Dian McCollum, Doug Griffin, and the Rev. Bernard Smith will share their stories. The African-American tradition of storytelling is a deeply rooted practice where stories are passed down orally through generations. Storytelling was especially important during the period of slavery when other forms of cultural expression were suppressed.

Holyoke’s Black History Month celebration is being organized by Bethlehem Baptist Community Church, 304 Elm St.

HCC announces Black History events

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College is celebrating Black History month in February with a series of events highlighting this year’s national theme: “African Americans and Labor.”

On-campus events begin Wednesday, Feb. 5, at 11 a.m., in HCC’s Learning Collaborative (Frost 265), with a presentation by Erika Slocumb, a Black history scholar and director of interpretation and visitor experience at the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center in Hartford, Conn: Reliquary of Blackness: Reclaiming, Retelling, and Reframing the History of Black folks in Holyoke.”

Slocumb, a Springfield resident and PhD student in African-American Studies at the University of Massachusetts, will focus on the history of Black communities in western Massachusetts with an emphasis on labor history.

On Wednesday, Feb. 12, at 11 a.m., in the HCC Campus Center, jazz professor and guitarist Robert Ferrier will lead “Rhythms Through Time: A Celebration of Jazz,” a discussion about jazz and performance by the HCC All Stars band.

On Tuesday, Feb. 18, at 12:30 p.m., HCC will host a watch party for a Zoom presentation by UMass graduate student Tiamba M. Wilkerson:

“Voices of Solidarity: on Black Union Participation.” Wilkerson is a PhD student in sociology at the University of Massachusetts Amherst whose research focuses on the intersections of race and gender in the labor market, racial capitalism, neoliberal urban redevelopment and gentrification, as well as race and place in the South

Black History Month events at HCC continue on Wednesday, Feb. 26, with a Harambee Celebration at 11 a.m. in the HCC Campus Center. Harambee is a Swahili word that means “pull together” or “unite.” It’s a celebratory event that honors the contributions and achievements of Black people. HCC’s event will feature food, music, and an open mic session.

“At a time when conversations about equity, inclusion, and justice are more important than ever, celebrating Black History Month allows us to uplift voices that have historically been marginalized,” HCC’s Black Leadership Council and Black History Month Committee, said in a campus-wide email. “Recognizing and honoring these histories is not just about the past, it’s about shaping a future that embraces diversity, fosters understanding, and empowers all members of our community.”



In addition, HCC’s Marieb Adult Learner Success Center will host weekly book readings, accompanied by milk and cookies in the Parent Learning Center (Frost 269) for student parents and their children: Feb. 5, 2 p.m. (When Harriet Met Sojourner by Catherine Clinton); Feb. 12, 2 p.m. (All Because You Matter by Tami Charles); Feb. 20, 12:30 p.m. (Black is a Rainbow Color by Angela Joy); Feb. 26, 2 p.m. (Sulwe by Lupita Nyong’o).

Also, on Friday, Feb. 21, at 12:30 p.m., HCC will host a Black History Month-themed trivia contest in the HCC Campus Center.

To learn more about Black History Month months at HCC or to participate remotely, please go to: hcc.edu/bhm.

COLLEGE NOTES

Elms College names December 2024 graduates

CHICOPEE – College of Our Lady of the Elms congratulates 79 students who graduated in December 2024.

Mayrilee Matos of Holyoke received a Bachelor of Arts from Elms College.

Amaya Olivero of Holyoke received a Bachelor of Arts from Elms College.

Olivia Rivera of Holyoke received a Master of Arts in Teaching from Elms College.

Springfield College fall Dean’s List

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield College Recognizes Dean’s List students for the 2024 fall semester.

Springfield College has named Nicholas Consedine from Holyoke, to the Dean’s List for academic excellence for the 2024 fall semester. Consedine has a primary major of Psychology.

Martin Loughrey from Holyoke, to the Dean’s List for academic excellence for the 2024 fall semester. Loughrey has a primary major of Health Science / Pre-PT.

Annalyse McBride from Holyoke, to the Dean’s List for academic excellence for the 2024 fall semester. McBride has a primary major of Pre-Prof Athletic Training.

Peter McMahon from Holyoke, to the Dean’s List for academic excellence for the 2024 fall semester. McMahon has a primary major of Psychology.

Elijah Quinn from Holyoke, to the Dean’s List for academic excellence for the 2024 fall semester. Quinn has a primary major of Sport Management.

WPI announces fall 2024 Dean’s List

WORCESTER – A total of 2,393 undergraduate students at Worcester Polytechnic Institute were named to the university’s fall 2024 Dean’s List.

The following students were named to the Dean’s List for fall 2024:

Cameron Boucher of Holyoke, class of 2025, majoring in Aerospace Engineering.

Owen Millay of Holyoke, Massachusetts, majoring in Mechanical Engineering.

Maeve Norton of Holyoke, class of 2025, majoring in Computer Science.

Daisha Ramos Ortiz of Holyoke, class of 2027, majoring in Interactive Media and Game Development.

Children’s Museum offers special school vacation week activities

HOLYOKE – Children’s Museum at Holyoke is open and ready to foster learning and curiosity in children. The Museum’s engaging exhibits and interactive programs are designed specifically for young learners and it has become the go to spot to escape the cold, have some fun, and explore an educational environment outside of the classroom setting.

This year the Museum is excited for children (and adults alike) to spend school vacation week exploring the exhibits and enjoying special vacation programs with an extra whole day to do so. The Museum is traditionally closed on Mondays but thanks to the support of The Highland Street Foundation they’ll be open on Presidents’ Day, Monday, Feb. 17 and they’ve provided free admission all day.

In addition to the incredible exhibits at the Museum including the newest Paw & Play and the automotive technician center, the week will be filled with eight days of exciting programming. Every day has an offering of activities that are free with the price of admission and run by the Museum team with a special schedule of different local artists and organizations.

While all events are free with admission, folks can support the Museum and their future programming with donations. Museum admission can be purchased on

the Museum’s website to skip the lines or in-person. Tickets are \$8 per person for general admission, \$3 per person with EBT (up to 4 people per card), and Museum members are free.

Don’t miss the big finale with a free to enter LEGO competition for the whole crew. With three age categories and three styles of bricks the Museum will provide each patron with a supply bag to build a super creation, visitors will have the opportunity to make their voice heard by voting for their favorites. The top builds by popular vote from each category will take home a brand new LEGO set tailored to their age

“We’re so excited to stay open and bring our community together while schools are closed! With plenty of family-friendly activities and exhibits at the Museum to connect kids with their community and the individuals within it, we’re especially proud to offer these events at an accessible price point,” shares Emme Geryk (she/her), Programming Coordinator at The Children’s Museum at Holyoke.

For more information about The Children’s Museum at Holyoke and a full schedule of school vacation week programs, please visit the Children’s Museum at Holyoke’s website and/or follow them on Facebook and Instagram.

Guest Column



Reader asks about Social Security benefits for someone with multiple ex-spouses

Dear Rusty

If a financially well-off individual had multiple ex-spouses, could it happen that the multiple ex-spouses could each be collecting Social Security based on their own financial situation as compared to their rich ex-spouses?

Thus, multiple payouts by SS? Just curious, because there are probably many people in this situation as a result of the ever-increasing number of people involved in multiple marriages that each lasted more than ten years.

Signed: Curious Ex-Spouse

Dear Curious Ex-Spouse:

A former spouse can only collect one SS benefit either their own SS retirement amount, or an amount as an ex-spouse if the marriage lasted 10 years or more. And it is possible for multiple ex-spouses of a marriage to the same person to qualify for benefits from those unions, if each marriage lasted at least 10 years. But each ex-spouse can only qualify for one benefit payment either their own earned SS benefit, or their benefit as an ex-spouse.

In other words, someone with two or more ex-spouses might have their ex's collecting full benefits on their record, provided that each marriage lasted at least 10 years. But an ex-spouse can only get one benefit—their own SS retirement amount or an ex-spouse amount, whichever is higher.

It's possible, also, that an ex-spouse can collect benefits from a former spouse at the same time as a current spouse is also collecting spouse benefits on the same record. And there is no detriment to either's amount because multiple spouses or ex-spouses are collecting on a one person's SS record (Social Security is, after all, a means for spouses, or ex-spouses, to avoid poverty). However, an ex-spouse's own SS retirement benefit from their personal lifetime work record must be less than any ex-spouse benefit they are entitled to from a former spouse. Essentially, if the "10-years-married" rule is satisfied, ex-spouses are subject to the same benefit rules as a current spouse.

You are correct that we see some cases like this these days, but each eligible ex-spouse can only get one benefit and their ex-spouse benefit is always offset by any personal SS retirement benefit the ex-spouse may also be entitled to on their own lifetime work record.

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

See SECURITY, page 5



Guest Column

'Spring' into action with these tasks



The groundhog determined we would have six more weeks of winter. Is that really a surprise to anyone?

I mean, as I write, it is only Feb. 2. But we gardeners are an impatient lot, and we so want to get our hands back into the soft earth.

There are many tasks, albeit those that are behind the scenes, that can be done now, so that when warmer weather does arrive, we can "spring" into action.

Last month I talked a lot about prepping for indoor seed starting, first by taking inventory of our seeds and then gathering the necessary supplies that go along with that task. But what about our outdoor ventures?

I have been busy shopping around for new IRT mulch, greenhouse supplies and amendments. How are you set on lime, grass seed, and fertilizers?

Plan to take advantage of preseason sales by knowing what you need ahead of time. Also, assess the condition of your tools. Is your rototiller working its best? Mine needs to be serviced.

By taking it to the repairman now, I'll beat the spring rush and avoid having to turn the garden over by hand! The same goes for lawn mower blades. Have these sharpened yearly for the healthiest possible turf.

Regularly inspect summer bulbs that have been stored away for the winter. Throw away any that are rotten or moldy.

If you find a lot of these, consider moving what is left to a drier location. On the other hand, dahlia tubers will shrivel when conditions get too dry, mist them with clean water to rehydrate.

It is also a good idea to take a close look at vegetables in storage. Squash with signs

of rot can be cooked and the flesh frozen for later use. Sprouts that appear on potatoes should be rubbed off and used before they soften.

Experiment with onions that have sprouted by planting them outside once the ground thaws. This vegetable is a biennial and will produce seed during its second season.

If the sprouts come from an heirloom or open pollinated variety, save a few seeds come July and start them this time next year! In the seedling stage, onions thrive on ample nitrogen to develop thick tops that will feed what we hope are big bulbs.

I am usually negligent in cutting down asparagus foliage in the fall. Weather permitting I will get out there and cut it back to its base soon, then haul off the branches to prevent any bugs that overwintered there from infesting this year's spears.

It is also time to prune blueberries, apples and grapes. Pruning can vary depending on the age and health of your specimens. If you are not experienced at it, consult any number of good books on the subject before you head outdoors with your pruning shears and loppers.

Do make sure your tools are sharp, and if there is any hint of disease, be sure to disinfect in between cuts or at least in between specimens. If any of your fruit trees have old fruit, called "mummies" hanging from the branches, be sure to get rid of them for fear of overwintering pests.

Winter will be gone soon enough. Come out of hibernation and accomplish preseason gardening tasks now, before the spring rush but also remember that this is a season of rest and taking care of yourself is a good thing too.

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.

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 news-

paper 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*.

HOLYOKE
the Sun
TEAM



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Letters to the Editor Policy

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

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

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

Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

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

The alcohol conundrum



By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN
Guest Column

Excessive alcohol consumption has long been recognized as an illness that contributes to societal problems like drunk driving and domestic violence, along with a host of physical ailments that are potentially fatal.

Right up until the 21st century, though, there was consensus that moderate alcohol intake did little harm, and might even have had some health benefits. Red wine, in particular, was found to contain antioxidants like resveratrol that may lower blood pressure and polyphenols, which may improve blood flow to the heart.

That was then, and this is now. Increasingly, research is finding that the risks of even moderate alcohol intake outweigh its benefits. Alcohol consumption is a risk factor for several types of cancer, including breast, colorectal and oral cavity cancers. According to the National Cancer Institute (NCI), moderate drinkers have a 1.23-fold higher risk of alcohol-related cancers.

The World Health Organization (WHO) says that there is no safe level of alcohol consumption, and that even relatively low levels can increase the risk of

breast cancer.

And a large British study released just this month found “light” drinking (about an ounce of spirits a day for men and half an ounce for women) was associated with an increase in cancer deaths among older participants. The risk was greater for those who had existing health problems or who lived in low-income areas.

Just as cigarettes were once thought to be healthful and are now known to be dangerous, alcohol is on a trajectory to becoming another health pariah. Dr. Victoria Amesbury, an internist who has been practicing for 36 years, would be OK with that.

“One of the amazing things I run into all the time is well-educated women who drink,” she says. “There are studies that indicate even two drinks a week is toxic, and that it is now thought there is a definite connection between alcohol and breast cancer.”

“But when I tell a patient to stop drinking, they say all their friends drink and they don’t want to be an outcast.”

There’s the rub. Alcohol is so ingrained in our society that it’s hard to imagine life without it. Around the time America was founded, alcohol was actually thought to warm the body and aid digestion. It was used to treat colds and fevers and even given as a sedative during childbirth. During the mid-19th century, alcohol was the main painkiller used in surgery.

Look back at movies from the ‘30s and ‘40s (I’m thinking particularly of “The Thin Man” series) in which cocktails took center stage, consumed by glamorous people. How could we not fall

in love with booze?

Should we all quit drinking cold turkey, particularly women? That’s not likely to happen. Just as everyone hasn’t been persuaded to give up cigarettes, not everyone will be persuaded to stop drinking alcohol, no matter what the research says.

I think the question becomes, “How do you mitigate your risk factors if you choose to continue drinking?”

For her patients who continue to drink, Dr. Amesbury recommends abstaining for three or four consecutive days each week, and then consume only light amounts the other days, no more than five ounces of wine. If you want more to drink, mix the wine with club soda or another mixer.

Another tactic is to take a month-long “vacation” from drinking a couple of times a year, say a “dry January” and a “dry July.” In those 31 days, research has found, moderate-heavy drinkers can see improvements in insulin resistance, blood pressure, body weight and cancer-related growth factors. It also allows liver cells to recover from alcohol’s toxicity.

Only drinking alcohol during meals, drinking slowly, alternating alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages (particularly water!) are other measures you can take to mitigate some of the risks associated with alcohol.

There is also the growing trend of “mocktails,” which can mimic favorite alcoholic drinks in flavor without the buzz. Think about mocktail mimosas, Moscow mules or sangria.

There was a time when a nonsmoker was considered weird, and now smok-

ers are relegated to designated areas, or banned entirely. Maybe a time will come when not drinking is considered the cool thing to do. Until then, do what you can to lower your risk factors.

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, a registered nurse and board-certified patient advocate, is the founder of Northshore Patient Advocates LLC (NShore). She is also founder and CEO of Nurse Advocate Entrepreneur, which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. Teri offers a free phone consultation to newspaper readers as well as to nurses interested in becoming advocates. Reach her at Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com.

SECURITY, from page 4

or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation’s staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



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CLUES ACROSS

1. “The Las Vegas of the East”
6. Cook
10. Manning and Wallach are two
14. Chameleon
15. A way to fill up
17. What MLBers hope to play in
19. Unhappy
20. Indefinite period of time
21. Excites
22. Males
23. Mongol leader
24. Turfs
26. Soda comes in them
29. Not nice
31. Professional organization
32. Part of a play
34. Sea eagle
35. Emily Blunt’s character in “Sicario”
37. Beige

38. Mental sharpness
39. Valley
40. Alcione’s husband
41. A place to gamble
43. Flightless Australian birds
45. Call out somebody’s name over a P.A. system
46. US spy group
47. Pancakes from buckwheat flour
49. Swiss river
50. Disfigure
53. Have surgery
57. Formal withdrawal
58. Early English council
59. Square measures
60. 2,000 lbs.
61. Siskel and __, critics

- dictionary (abbr.)
6. King of Thebes
7. English name meaning “mythical hunter”
8. Indicates near
9. More herbaceous
10. Gas-powered cars need one
11. Dishonest individual
12. Systems, doctrines, theories
13. The woman
16. The whole of one’s holdings
18. Witnesses
22. Doctor
23. Paul __, Swiss painter
24. Kids look for him on December 24
25. Single
27. Competitions
28. Predict the future
29. Cage for trained hawks
30. Musician Clapton
31. Frozen water
33. Semiformal men’s evening attire
35. Most worn
36. Common soap ingredient
37. Former EU monetary unit
39. Provisions
42. Book parts
43. Republic of Ireland
44. Partner to “Pa”
46. Sammy __, songwriter
47. Dutch colonist
48. Clare Booth __, American writer
49. Solar disk in Egyptian mythology
50. Minute arachnid
51. From a distance
52. Monthly apartment cost
53. Young women’s association
54. Tourist destination
55. “Woman” in Ojibwe language
56. Pointed end of a pen

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 9

Palmer selected as site for East/West Compass Rail train stop

By Marcelo Gusmão
Editor

PALMER – The Department of Transportation has announced its selection for the train stop for the East/West Passenger Rail, selecting the south side of Palmer Yard on South Main Street.

This site was determined to offer the amount of property needed for a platform to accommodate ADA needs and passenger train length, and is expected to have fewer permit requirements, making it the most affordable of the nine alternative sites that were considered. The location is estimated to be about half a mile from downtown, and was chosen after months of review, including feedback from stakeholders and community engagement events.

“We’re thrilled to have reached another milestone for West-East Rail and our efforts to expand rail service across the state with the selection of a preferred site for Palmer Station. This is going to be a major boost for Western Mass and for our state’s economy,” said Governor Maura Healey. “We’re grateful for all of the input we received from community members that helped us choose the best site for the station.”

“Expanding rail capacity and connectivity in Massachusetts is essential if we want to remain economically competitive,” said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. “We applaud the efforts that have culminated in the selection of a Palmer Station location and look forward to seeing this component of West-East Rail advance to completion.”

“We are pleased to see that there is forward movement on a station in Palmer. I thank everyone on the steering committee and community members who gave feedback about this process,” said Town Manager Brad Brothers. “We look forward to working with MassDOT on this next phase.”

The next step is for the project team to create a conceptual design and coordinate with railway owner CSX, the site property owner, and the proposed service operator, Amtrak, on the feasibility of the construction.

“We are very pleased to see ongoing progress in the advancement of the Compass Rail program, which



Palmer Yard, on South Main Street, has been selected as the site for the proposed train stop for the East/West Passenger Rail. Turley photo by Marcelo Gusmão

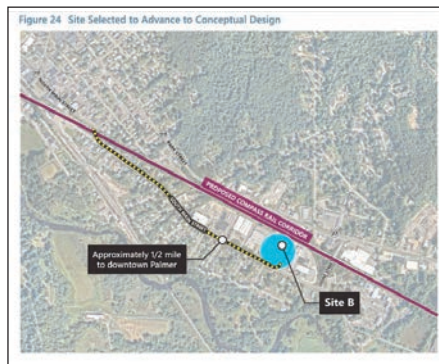
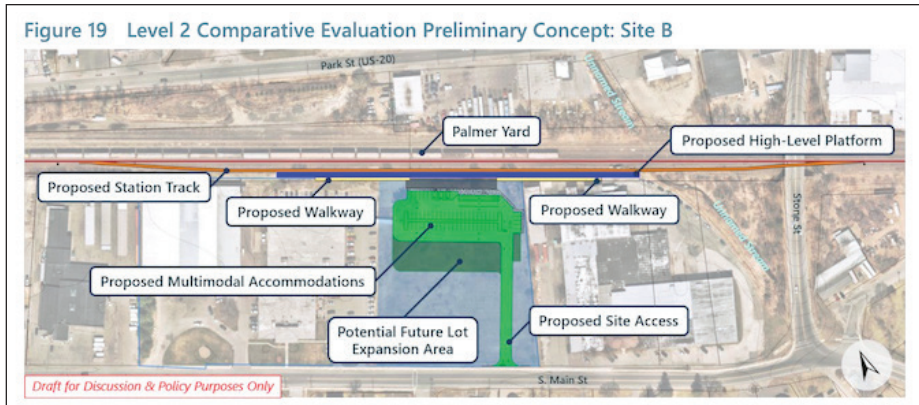


Figure 24 Site Selected to Advance to Conceptual Design. Site B is located on an 8-acre parcel at 1199 South Main Street. The parcel is owned and partially occupied by Sanderson Macleod Inc., a local twisted wire brush manufacturer. To avoid impacts to the two existing buildings occupying the western part of the parcel, Site B would utilize the unoccupied eastern portion. The station siding track is proposed to be south of the CSX mainline, requiring that the existing siding track be relocated. Multimodal access to the site would be from South Main Street, and accommodations for parking, passenger pick-up/drop-off, and transit connections would be installed just south of the platform area. There is ample space for future expansion toward the south side of the parcel. Sloped walkways on either side of the platform would provide pedestrian access and egress pathways between the platform and the parking area.



A draft diagram of how the proposed train station will fit into the selected site on South Main Street. Submitted photo

will give residents the passenger rail connectivity they need and deserve,” said Transportation Secretary Monica Tibbitts-Nutt. “Throughout the planning and design phase for Palmer Station, we have been committed to working with the community to make a site selection that reflects their needs in the decades ahead. We appreciate all the feedback and look forward to continuing this dialogue.”

Compass Rail is made up of existing and proposed East/West and North/South services that intersect in Springfield at Union Station. The goal of this expansive vision for the commonwealth is to integrate existing DOT-supported services into a unified system that increases the public’s access to comprehensive transportation.

“The South of Palmer Yard location has great potential as a future stop within the Compass Rail network, and the local stakeholders’ feedback has

been invaluable in helping us reach an informed decision,” said Rail and Transit Administrator Meredith Slesinger. “The site’s strategic location within Palmer and its cost-effective geography are significant benefits for the community both short- and long-term.”

This rail stop will be able to connect to several services supported and managed by DOT, including the following Amtrak-operated routes: the Vermonter that services Washington, D.C. and St. Albans, VT with stops in Springfield, Holyoke, Northampton, and Greenfield; the Valley Flyer between Greenfield and New Haven, CT, with stops in Springfield, Holyoke, Northampton, and Greenfield; the Hartford Line and Northeast Regional between Springfield and New Haven, CT or Washington, D.C.; and the seasonal, pilot service, the Berkshire Flyer, which runs between Pittsfield and New York City.

In addition to these routes, the East/

A slide from MassDOT, indicating where in town the train station will land and where the track runs. Submitted photo

West Rail represents proposed new Compass Rail services that will improve connections between the eastern and western parts of the state, including an Inland Route to operate between Boston and New Haven, CT through Springfield and Albany Corridor through Pittsfield.

“After years of advocacy by the residents of Palmer, they are one step closer to realizing their goal of a Palmer train station,” said Congressman Richard Neal. “This announcement follows a fair and thorough review by MassDOT, one that has been transparent throughout the decision-making process. Located just half a mile from the downtown area, this site will play a critical role in unlocking economic growth in the Town of Palmer and surrounding communities, while providing the space needed to accommodate the demand for increased passenger rail.”

“We are fortunate to have two leaders in Governor Healey and Lieutenant Governor Driscoll who have been steadfast in their support of improving and expanding passenger rail service throughout the Commonwealth,” Neal said. “With Massachusetts receiving more than \$9 billion in federal funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, we have made substantial progress in advancing key rail projects, enhancing

See RAIL, page 8

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Holyoke boys rebound against Sci-Tech

HOLYOKE – Last Monday night, the Holyoke High School boys basketball team picked up a win over Sci-Tech 75-29. The Knights had another great offensive showing with 19 points from Calvin Godbolt, 13 points from Aden Cabrera, and 10 points by Chauncey Ruiz. The Knights are now 11-2 on the season and next face off with Chicopee Comprehensive at home on Feb. 7 at 7 p.m.



Michael Medina flies around an opponent.



Aden Cabrera looks for a long jumper.



Jordan King-Perilli reaches over an opponent for a shot.



Avantaey Rivera dribbles, looking for an opening to the hoop.



Calvin Godbolt flies for a layup.



Chauncey Ruiz looks to pass near the paint.
Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Jan Luis Rovie looks for a takedown.



Steven Santiago holds the advantage at 120 pounds.

Knights fall at Ludlow

LUDLOW – On Jan. 22, the Holyoke High School wrestling team had a regular dual meet at league rival Ludlow High School.

Despite an early win from Steven Santiago, the Knights were not able to keep the momentum going and fell 60-24.

The Knights are headed for the Western Mass. and state tournaments in the upcoming weeks.



Luis Rivera goes for a lift takedown.



Jayden Molina locks up at 126 pounds.

Knights get back in win column

HOLYOKE – After a stretch of 13 straight losses, Holyoke High School girls basketball finally picked up a win, defeating Southwick Regional School 49-40 last Friday night at home. Kiara Perez led all scorers with 18 points while Michaela Guzman finished with 12 points. Kylie Blaha was also in double digits with 10 points. The Knights are just 2-13 on the season and host Northampton on Feb. 10 at 7 p.m.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Thunderbirds get huge weekend sweep

DES MOINES, IA – The Springfield Thunderbirds (21-17-2-2) got points from 14 of their 18 skaters in a 7-2 drubbing of the Iowa Wild (14-26-2-1) on Saturday night inside Wells Fargo Arena.

The T-Birds wasted little time jumping in front for a second straight night, as Simon Robertsson and Hugh McGing capped a 2-on-0 with McGing cashing in on a one-timer past Jesper Wallstedt just 1:22 into action. Otto Stenberg also picked up an assist as all three players on the line broke point droughts of three or four games.

Sam Bitten, playing in the building his brother Will called home for three seasons, joined the fun at 5:47 with a perfect bar-down wrister from the right circle to push the lead to 2-0 off set-ups from Samuel Johannesson and Leo Loof. Johannesson has now registered a point in five of his last six games.

Vadim Zherenko drew the starting assignment in net and held his own with 16 stops in the opening period. Johannesson provided a helping hand after Zherenko made a mini-breakaway

save on Hunter Haight, and the young blueliner successfully kept Mikey Milne from cashing in on a rebound to keep the score deadlocked.

Iowa finally would break through on its 16th shot of the period as Travis Boyd crashed the far post to tap home a 2-on-1 pass from Matthew Sop to get the Wild deficit down to 2-1 heading into the first intermission.

There were more parallels from Friday's game early in the second period, as McGing unleashed a perfect shot under the crossbar at 2:23, beating Wallstedt for his second of the evening and restoring the two-goal lead, 3-1.

Iowa put together their best push of the night over the next five minutes, culminating in a tally by Luke Toporowski to cut the margin back to a single goal, 3-2, at 7:26.

Just as it appeared the Wild would change the tide of the game, the T-Birds had other plans as Nikita Alexandrov drove the net front from the right circle and beat Wallstedt to the near post to make it 4-2 just 17 seconds after the Toporowski goal.

The Springfield attack poured it on from there. Michael Buchinger announced his presence at 8:49, jumping into a play as a trailer before snapping a wrister past Wallstedt to make it 5-2 off a cross-ice setup from Matthew Peca.

Another potential momentum shift came at 13:39 of the second when Dylan Peterson barreled in on net, taking a shot on Wallstedt before colliding with the Iowa netminder. Peterson was given a five-minute charging major, setting the stage for the Wild power play to try to climb back into the game. Wallstedt was forced to leave the game as Samuel Hlavaj came on in relief.

Instead of the moment sparking the home team, the T-Birds only further added to their lead when Peca intercepted a pass in the neutral zone, skated into the zone on the right wing, and snapped another perfect shot upstairs past Hlavaj for his team-leading 16th goal, making it a 6-2 game heading into the third.

The Wild had no answers for Zherenko in the third, despite Iowa

throwing 16 pucks on the T-Birds net and 50 total by the night's conclusion. The third-year goalie finished with a season-high 48 stops to earn the win, and Alek Kaskimaki capped off the offensive onslaught with his second goal in two nights at 17:12 of the third to round out the scoring.

Dalibor Dvorsky will be in action on Sunday and Monday at the AHL All-Star Classic presented by Spotlight 29 Casino in Palm Springs, California. The rookie star will first participate in the AHL All-Star Skills Competition presented by Silvercrest on Sunday, Feb. 2 (9:00 p.m. ET). Then, on Monday, Feb. 3, Dvorsky and the Atlantic Division will look to take home the 3-on-3 crown in the 2025 AHL All-Star Challenge presented by Spotlight 29 Casino at 9:00 p.m. ET. Both events can be seen on NHL Network and AHLTV powered by FloHockey.

Springfield next takes to the ice on Friday, Feb. 7 to begin a home-and-home set against the Providence Bruins at Amica Mutual Pavilion.

Baldwin adds schedule for tri-track

Ryan Preece Racing announced today that Luke Baldwin will compete in the full Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series schedule during the 2025 season. Baldwin will drive the No. 40 for Preece in eight of the 10 events and will pilot the No. 7NY for Tommy Baldwin Racing in the other two races, allowing him to compete for the championship.

The Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series 10-race schedule includes events at seven different tracks in four different states in the New England region. The schedule is the largest in the history of the series, founded in 2014.

"The competition level on the Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series continues to grow," Ryan Preece, NASCAR Cup Series driver for RFK Racing, said. "The series has a great payout for asphalt modified racing and with the jump to 10 races, they have established a strong schedule that we want to support. Luke has continuously shown his ability to win races and we're all excited to be behind him in this effort in 2025."

Luke is ready for the challenge.

"Being able to head up north a few extra times this year, it's going to be awesome," Luke Baldwin said. "Tri-Track is rapidly growing and it has some of the strongest competition in modified racing, so it will be tough. Working with the whole Preece family will be special - our relationship has

been strong for years."

The season-opener will take place at Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park on Saturday, March 29 as part of their Icebreaker weekend. The series will continue with a second event at Thompson on May 14, followed by Thunder Road (May 24), White Mountain (June 7), Seekonk Speedway (June 25), Stafford Speedway (July 16), Star Speedway (August 2), New London Waterford Speedbowl (August 23), Stafford (September 27) and Seekonk (October 25).

Jeff Preece, Ryan's father, will crew chief the car.

"I worked with Luke a few years ago at New Smyrna and he's a great kid," Jeff Preece said. "He has a hard-work ethic. I expect good things from us."

"The opportunity to work with Ryan came up and we couldn't pass it up. We are excited to see Luke race at some new tracks in New England against a competitive field of cars," Tommy Baldwin Jr. said. "The Tri-Track Series has some great drivers and a diverse schedule this year with more races than ever before."

"Our entire team is excited to get to work at Thompson for the first time in March," Preece said. "Our goals every time we go to the race track are to win and we feel Luke is ready for the challenge."

Railers score win over Mariners

PORTLAND, ME – The Worcester Railers HC (18-19-2-4 42pts) took down the Maine Mariners (16-23-3-0, 35pts), on Sunday afternoon by the final score of 5-2 in front of a crowd of 4,421 at Cross Insurance Arena. The Railers are back on the ice next at the DCU Center taking on the Atlanta Gladiators on Wednesday, February 5th at 7:05 p.m. EST.

Worcester scored first Sunday afternoon when Matt Ustaski (1-0-1) scored 5:23 into the first. Maine answered back with a goal of their own from Wyllum Deveaux (1-1-2) to tie the score at 1-1 heading into the second. Connor Welsh (1-0-1) was the second period's lone scorer giving the Railers the 2-1 lead. Maine tied it early in the second period with a goal from Lynden McCallum (1-0-1), but shortly after the Railers grabbed the lead right back when Cole Donhauser (1-1-2) scored a shorthanded goal to give the Railers the 3-2 lead. The Railers finished the third period by scoring two more goals, the first scored by Mark Cheremeta (1-0-1) 15:52 into the third, and the second an empty net goal from Matias Rajaniemi (1-0-1) giving the Railers the 5-2 victory.

The scoring got started by the Railers 5:23 into the first when Matt Ustaski (2nd) found the back of the net off a pass from Jordan Kaplan. Maine tied the score at 1-1 just under ten minutes later off the stick of Wyllum

Deveaux (8th). Shots favored Worcester 20-10 in the first period.

It took nearly 17 minutes of second period action for either team to score. It was Connor Welsh (5th) who scored giving the Railers the 2-1 lead. His shot from the left point deflected off of a Maine Mariner and beat Bischel high. Shortly after the Railers goal, they went on the penalty kill following a five-minute major for boarding called on Griffin Loughran. The Railers successfully killed the first 2:32 of the Maine power play to wrap up the second period. Worcester outshot Maine 31-17 in the second period.

The Railers started the third period by killing the remainder of the Maine power play, but shortly after the penalty expired Maine was able to net one. It was Lynden McCallum (15th) who scored for the Mariners. The Railers did not wait long to regain the lead, as Cole Donhauser (5th) forced a turnover at center ice and took it all the way home and scored the shorthanded goal giving the Railers the 3-2 lead. Mark Cheremeta extended the Worcester lead to 4-2 with his breakaway goal 15:52 into the third period. Matias Rajaniemi (2nd) capped off the Railers five goal night with his empty net goal 17:27 into the third, securing the 5-2 win for Worcester. Shots favored Worcester 8-7 in the third and 40-25 in regulation.

CLIENT TESTIMONIAL

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RAIL, from page 2

ing connectivity, and modernizing our transportation network. Today marks yet another significant milestone in making West-East Rail a reality.”

“We are excited to see West-East Rail mark this milestone and move forward with the conceptual design of the project. We look forward to being a partner in helping to create more transportation options for residents here in Palmer and western Massachusetts,” shared Kimberly Robinson, Executive Director of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission.

For more information on the development of Compass Rail, you can visit their website at Mass.gov/Compass-Rail.

United Congregational Church serving Polish food

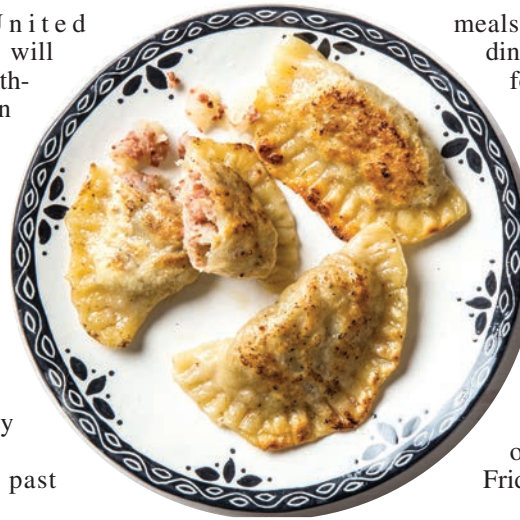
HOLYOKE – The United Congregational Church of Holyoke will be serving Polish food at their monthly Community Meal, which falls on Valentine’s Day, Feb. 14.

Dinner will be served at 5 p.m. and will feature rolled stuffed cabbage, pierogies, salad and dessert.

A family movie will immediately follow at 6 p.m.

The Community Meal is hosted on the second Friday evening of each month at the church at 300 Appleton St. All are welcome to attend, and the meal is completely free of charge.

The menu changes monthly; past



meals have featured lasagna, Thanksgiving dinner, corned beef and cabbage, 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.

Public Notices

Public Auction Sale
February 22, 2025
at 8:30 a.m.
460 Race St., Holyoke MA
All Sales Cash
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| Lot | Name | Pallets |
|-------|----------------|---------|
| 14465 | J.Hancock | [2] |
| 15885 | L.Cortes | [3] |
| 15157 | K.Barkcom | [3] |
| 15199 | M.Labasco | [7] |
| 15317 | M.Santos | [4] |
| 15338 | S.Quinones | [1] |
| 15348 | R.Vazquez | [1] |
| 15389 | S. Gonzalez | [2] |
| 14162 | A.Wolf | [2] |
| 15538 | E.Pellitier | [1] |
| 15587 | R.Diaz -Lozada | [1] |
| 15746 | R. Maceo | [1] |
| 15761 | D.Cruz | [1] |
| 15833 | J.Wilson | [3] |
| 15851 | C.Sim | [1] |
| 15956 | P.Evans | [2] |
| 16065 | J.Henry | [3] |
| 15761 | J.Pelkey | [4] |
| 16061 | A.Mcneil | [1] |
| 16103 | K.Whelihan | [3] |
| 15957 | N.William | [2] |
| 16046 | S.Holewka | [1] |
| 16176 | S.Jacob | [1] |
| 16163 | J.Jackson | [6] |
| 16177 | C.Pacheco | [2] |
| 16257 | M.Martinez | [12] |
| 16236 | A.Ayers | [2] |
| 16299 | B.Corriveau | [1] |
| 16301 | J.Healy | [3] |
| 16320 | R.Gould | [2] |
| 16321 | R.Gould | [2] |
| 16314 | J.Perez | [4] |
| 16332 | R.Webster | [1] |
| 16333 | M.Tower | [8] |
| 16334 | A.Balcom | [2] |
| 16334 | A.Balcom | [2] |
| 16089 | T. Hewitt | [2] |
| 16097 | J.Cloutier | [9] |
| 16114 | M.Warren | [1] |
| 16118 | N.Reyes | [1] |
| 16140 | M.Owens | [3] |
| 16172 | C.Acevedo | [1] |
| 16144 | A.Maynard | [5] |

02/07, 02/14/2025

City of Holyoke
PUBLIC HEARING
NOTICE
The Holyoke Planning Board will hold a Public

Hearing on **Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.com** ID: 836 3939 8493; CALL IN *67 646 558 8656 to hear, pursuant to the Holyoke Zoning Ordinance, Section 6.4.6.4, a Special Permit for an Increase in Sign Size for a ground sign at 850 High Street (009-04-005).

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

Applicant:
Sign Dynamics Inc.
Planning Board:
Mimi Panitch
02/07, 02/14/2025

City of Holyoke
PUBLIC HEARING
NOTICE

The Holyoke Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.com** ID: 836 3939 8493; CALL IN *67 646 558 8656 to hear, pursuant to the Holyoke Zoning Ordinance, Section 6.4.6.4, a Special Permit for an Increase in Sign Size and for Multiple Signs for Citizens Bank, at 1575 Northampton Street, Holyoke MA (105-00-061).

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

Applicant:
Philadelphia Sign Company
Planning Board:
Mimi Panitch
02/07, 02/14/2025

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. HD25P0176EA
Estate of:
Alfred Haberman
Also known as:

Alfred I Haberman
Date of Death: 12/01/2024
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR FORMAL
ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Greenfield Savings Bank of Greenfield, 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: **Greenfield Savings Bank of Greenfield, 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 02/25/2025. 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: January 28, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
02/07/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No. HD25P0171EA
Estate of:

Joseph W Hohol, Jr.
Also Known As:
Joseph W Hohol
Date of Death: 10/15/2024
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Judith D Hohol of Holyoke, MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Judith D Hohol 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.
02/07/2025

City of Holyoke
PUBLIC HEARING
NOTICE

The Holyoke Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.com**; ID: 836-3939-8493; CALL IN *67 646 558 8656 to hear, pursuant to the Holyoke Zoning Ordinance, a Site Plan Review Amendment (Sec 10); New Leaf EV Modification (File #101-C) and Special Permit Amendment, (Sec 6.1.7); New Leaf EV (2025-5) Parking Reduction, submitted by Whiting Farms Rd EV Charging, LLC to be located at 245 Whiting Farms Road, Holyoke MA (174-00-013).

A complete copy of the application may be seen in the Office of Planning and Economic Development at 20 Korean Veterans Plaza, 8:30 am-4:30 pm, M-F.

APPLICANT: Whiting Farms Rd EV Charging, LLC

PLANNING BOARD:
Mimi Panitch,
Chairperson
02/07, 02/14/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Housing Court
Department of the Trial Court
Western Division
Citation on
Appointment of Receiver
Docket No. 23H79CV000270
Western Housing Court –
Springfield,
37 Elm Street,

P.O. Box 559,
Springfield, MA 01102
(413)-748-7838.

City of Holyoke, Petitioner, v. The Estate of Virginia A. Redfern a/k/a Virginia J. Redfern, as owner of the property located at 160 Pine Street, Holyoke, Massachusetts, City of Holyoke (Lienholder), and Richard P. Redfern, Karen Ann Williams, Wayne A. Redfern, Kevin G. Redfern and Peter J. Redfern (Potential Owners), Party-In-Interest and the Massachusetts Department of Revenue and the Internal Revenue Service (Potential Parties-In-Interest).

To all interested persons: A Receiver has been appointed by Order of the Western Division Housing Court to rehabilitate the property located at 160 Pine Street, Holyoke, MA 01040 and such other relief as may be requested. You have the right to obtain a copy of the Court Order from the Western Housing Court.

You have a right to object to this Receivership. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before 9:00 a.m., March 10, 2025, AND attend a Review Hearing of the Receivership on March 17, 2025 at 9:00 a.m., at this Court. If you fail to appear or file a timely written appearance and objection, on or before March 17, 2025 at 9:00, action may be taken without further notice to you.

WITNESS, Hon. **Jonathan J. Kane**, First Justice of the Western Division Housing Court.
Date: January 29, 2025.
02/07/2025

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The Holyoke Sun
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TREASURER, from page 1

papers...it would revert to a write-in," Casey said.

Moving forward, the city believes that future finances will be in much better hands now that they will be able to screen any applicants for the position.

"This is a practical solution that will take the politics out of municipal finance, ensuring the best governance for Holyoke," City Council President Tessa

Murphy-Romboletti said.

The switch from an elected to an appointed treasurer was also supported by the state government.

"This proposal aligns with recommendations from the Massachusetts Department of Revenue and its broader effort between all branches of our government to modernize and strengthen our city's financial practices," Murphy-Romboletti said.

It was all of these deciding factors

that had the city government pushing for this special election and asking the public to vote in favor of the change.

"There are not many issues that we [the city council] agree on completely, but this is one of them, and it's something that we believe is important for the public to consider," Murphy-Romboletti said.

Garcia, Casey and the city council are grateful to all of the voters who came out during election day to make their

voices heard and to have this change be possible.

"We achieved our objective of strengthening internal controls," Garcia said. "I'm happy that we have achieved that objective."

Garcia hopes to continue to take steps to improve the city's internal stability and controls as he moves forward, so that the city remains internally strong no matter what is happening within the city politics.

IMMIGRANTS, from page 1

"We will not be distracted by the President's mass deportation agenda," they wrote.

Garcia and Soto carried a similar sentiment in their joint statement. Within their statement, Garcia mentioned that he had reaffirmed an executive order made by former Holyoke Mayor Alex Morse.

This order can be found at <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bNmQ8EudgXbX5g2EbZum827ULQFySHfC/edit?usp=sharing&oid=102051596112813911178&rt-pof=true&sd=true>.

Within this executive order it confirmed that Holyoke police will not enforce immigration detention requests from ICE or CBP if it seeks excessive or unnecessary detention of a person in custody of the police.

"Our purview is enforcing the local laws and if...you committed a crime then that is going to trigger certain things, but other than that in Holyoke our cops do not go around looking for

illegal immigrants, nor is it our responsibility to call federal immigration when we come across one," Garcia said.

If someone has committed a crime in the city, then they will be arrested and in the hands of law enforcement and the judicial system. However, Garcia affirmed that the police will not search out anyone here illegally.

City Council President Tessa Murphy-Romboletti supported Garcia and Soto's statement.

"The current administration is looking to weaponize law enforcement against children and families in order to divide us," she said.

She also wanted to affirm for people that Garcia's statement and executive order make it clear that police will still apprehend anyone who has broken the law.

"It's important to note that the Executive Order re-issued by the Mayor clearly mentions that the order doesn't apply to individuals who have clearly violated the law, been convicted of a crime, or have been before a judge

regarding a serious or violent felony," Murphy-Romboletti said. "This order is about protecting individuals from unnecessary or excessive detention that has already created unnecessary fear and uncertainty among members of our diverse community."

City Council Member Kevin Jourdain brought forward his own thoughts on the matter.

Jourdain mentioned that when he was council president he filed an ordinance that was adopted as law in Holyoke.

This states: "No elected official, department head or other city employee shall issue any order that shall knowingly violate any law or regulation of the federal, state or local government or the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or the Charter of the City of Holyoke, or any lawful order of a court of competent jurisdiction."

Due to this, Jourdain is not concerned about Garcia issuing an executive order that exceeds his legal author-

ity, as it would not be enforceable by city law.

"Having said that, I had the opportunity to review Mayor Garcia's Executive Order and it appears to make clear he is not supporting criminals or other potentially dangerous people that federal authorities may be seeking," Jourdain said. "Holyoke should happily cooperate with state or federal officials to get any criminal or dangerous person off our streets to protect our residents. Let me be clear in case there is any doubt: Holyoke is not a sanctuary city."

Moving forward, Holyoke will continue to look to the state for additional guidance on how to address immigration.

Additionally, the joint committee of the school committee and the city council have a meeting planned for Feb. 12, where they will be discussing Soto and Garcia's statement further.

If people are interested in hearing additional details on this statement, they are welcome to attend the meeting or to reach out to the mayor's office.

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Artist Joycelin Raho told the kids a bit about artist Romare Bearden, who inspired the collage-themed class.



Kids went up to select what papers they wanted to work with for their collages.



The kids at the Wistariahurst art class had fun getting creative with their different materials for the collage class.



Artist Joycelin Raho showed the kids what materials they had to create their collages.



Kids got to choose from a wide variety of papers as they began to work on their collages. *Turley photos by Quinn Suomala*



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ART, from page 1

The upcoming art classes include color and pattern murals, art with recycled materials, still life drawings with pastels and nature drawing.

Each art style is inspired by a different artist, which the kids will learn about during the class.

Seiler and Raho decided on the different styles based on what supplies Wistariahurst had as well as what some of their favorite artists are.

"She [Raho] wrote up a proposal of different ideas and we also looked at what supplies we already had in stock so it could be as cost-effective as possible," Seiler said. "She came up with a really great calendar of events to follow."

On top of these different art class-

es, Wistariahurst will also be displaying some new exhibits.

One exhibit is a photography exhibit that is on the second floor of the building. It focuses on Puerto Rican women here in Holyoke.

Another exhibit is Colors of Grief by Rick's Place. This is on the first floor gallery of the building and it displays artwork by children and focuses on how children can process grief through art.

"I think that is going to be a really beautiful exhibit and we are really excited and hope that people of all ages will come out and see it," Seiler said.

If people want to keep updated on the different events Wistariahurst puts on throughout the year, they can go to the Wistariahurst website at <https://wistariahurst.org/> or they can follow them on Eventbrite.

Tuesday Night 6:30pm
Pitch Night

Wednesday Night 5-6:30pm
Smoked BBQ
\$10 per person

Friday Night
Spaghetti Night 5-7pm
Trivia Night 7:30pm
\$5 per person, groups of 1 to 6 people

Saturday & Sunday 11-1pm
Corned Beef Sandwiches & Chicken Salad Sandwiches

Friday, Feb 28th 5-7pm
Baked Stuffed Fish Dinner
\$10 pp please sign up at the legion.

Saturday, March 22nd 4-7pm
Live Music by Dee Riley

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