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Business not getting done

Fighting leads to abrupt end to council meeting

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The city council meeting on Feb. 18 came to an abrupt end after an hour and a half debate on the topic of the professional union contract.

The union contract negotiation transfers had been broken up into items two, three, four, five and six on the city council agenda.

Some councilors wanted to take all of these items up as a package, as they all appeared to be intra-departmental transfers to make the contract possible.

However, City Councilor Kevin Jourdain argued that item two could technically count as an interdepartmental transfer, which would place it under different rules.

“There is an extra set of rules here relative to item two...the mayor, three through six, he has not made these as intra-de-

partmental transfers and therefore there is no more interdepartmental rule problem” Jourdain said. “Item two, though, still presents, potentially, an interdepartmental transfer process.”

The transfer in item two is in the mayor’s salary, but through the transfer would be moved to other salaries. The law department believes that as the money is for the same purpose, the interdepartmental rule would not apply.

Jourdain wanted to have a discussion with the Department of Revenue to ensure that this item could be counted as an intra-departmental transfer.

Based on this and other questions, City Councilor Linda Vacon called for all of the items to go to the finance committee for further discussion.

Attorney Michael Bissonnette mentioned that the law department had already approved item two as an intra-departmental transfer.

“I think it is unfortunate. See BUSINESS, page 10



Girls Inc. of the Valley participants and staff came together in the City Council Chambers to celebrate E-Week.

Courtesy photos by Hilary Lynn Photography

Girls Day hosted at City Hall

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – Holyoke hosted a Girls Day celebration on Feb. 20 as a way to encourage girls and gender nonconforming youth to go into different STEM fields.

“Our mission is to inspire youth to be strong, smart and bold through things like encouraging them

to pursue careers and education in things like STEM,” Girls Inc. Volunteer and Community Engagement Coordinator Sasha Viands said.

“Girls Inc. of the Valley and many other organizations are encouraging girls to explore STEM careers,” Mayor Joshua Garcia said. “With this kind of education and the confidence it

instills young women can see themselves as engineers and as scientists, as innovators, supervisors, as well as bosses.”

The day also acts as a celebration of how far women have come over the last century.

“100 years ago in 1925 the career paths for young women included domestic related services, such as

maids and servants, teaching, secretarial work and typing,” Garcia said. “The educational opportunities for girls and young women were extremely limited and so were the jobs and job prospects... Girls Day is a celebration and an affirmation of the progress that has been made over the last 100 years.”

See GIRLS, page 6

Finalists selected for Peck logo contest



Zarayalee Perez Ramos, a sixth grader from STEM, designed a logo for the Peck logo contest.



Yamil Ramos, a fifth grader from Donahue, enjoyed drawing a phoenix for the Peck logo design contest.



Seventh grader Dawyne Lopez from Metcalf had a creative integration of the Peck name with a phoenix drawing for the Peck logo design contest.

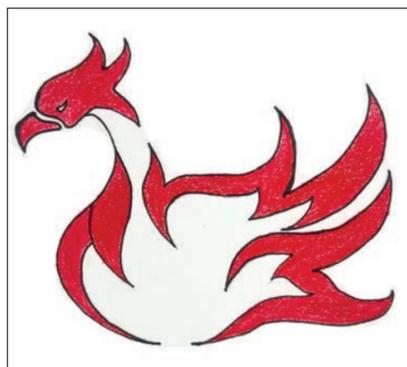


Sixth Grader Malachi Agudelo from Metcalf submitted a lovely phoenix logo for Peck.

Submitted photos



Fifth grader from Lawrence Alivia Magual came up with a creative logo for Peck.



Aishanelys Velez, a seventh grader from STEM Academy, drew a phoenix for the Peck logo design contest.

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – Earlier this month, Holyoke Public Schools held a contest to design a logo for the new Peck Middle School.

Students who will be attending Peck were asked to submit logo design ideas for their new school.

“It is so fun to be able to have students have an impact and an effect on their new school,” Chief of Strategy and Turnaround Erin Linville said.

It was important to Linville and other staff that the students truly had a say in the design of the logo, and they thought this contest was a perfect way to do so.

“We really wanted to center student voices like we did in our process to decide on the name of the school and with what the mascot and colors would be,” Linville said. “We are building this school for the students so they should be reflected, represented and have significant input on what the identity of the school is going to be.”

They were asked to keep in mind the mascot of a phoenix as well as the school colors of red and black as they worked on their logo designs.

Over 50 students submitted logo design ideas for the contest. A committee received the selections and narrowed the options down to six.

“We evaluated the 50 plus designs based on fit and connection,” Linville said. “We wanted to make sure the design was appealing and clear.”

The finalists are: Yamil Ramos (Donahue, grade 5), Alivia Mangual (Lawrence, grade 6), Dwayne Lopez (Metcalf, grade 7), Malachi Agudelo (Metcalf, grade 6), Aishanelys Velez (STEM, grade 7) and Zarayalee Perez Ramos (STEM, grade 6).

A survey was then sent See LOGO, page 6

KNIGHTS BEGIN PLAYOFFS



Chauncey Ruiz takes a free throw during Holyoke boys basketball’s matchup with Chicopee Comprehensive last Monday. The Knights won that matchup and went to the Western Mass. semifinals. See more photos on Page 7.

Turley photo by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

City celebrates installation of business-sponsored banners

HOLYOKE – The City of Holyoke is proud to announce the successful installation of its new city banners, a vibrant initiative designed to decorate and promote our community while showcasing the commitment and civic pride of our local businesses and organizations.

Thanks to the incredible support from our sponsors, these banners now adorn key locations throughout Holyoke, including Northampton Street, Holyoke Community College, and the Holyoke Mall. Each banner highlights the logo of a sponsoring business or organization, showcasing their

dedication to beautifying and enhancing the spirit of our city.

The artwork for the banners was guided by the Holyoke Tourism Advisory Committee, a volunteer board comprised of local businesses to promote visitation to Holyoke through the Explore Holyoke brand. “We know visitors will connect with the vibrant banners and try to know more about our city,” said Aaron Vega, Holyoke’s Director of Planning & Economic Development and Chair of the Tourism Advisory Committee. “This banner program is just a part

of the many ways we hope to drive visitors to discover more at ExploreHolyoke.com.”

Mayor Joshua Garcia expressed his gratitude, stating: “This project is a testament to the unity and pride of Holyoke’s residents and businesses. We thank each sponsor for their invaluable contribution to making this vision a reality. Together, we are creating a welcoming, visually stunning city for all to enjoy.”

The City of Holyoke extends heartfelt thanks to the following businesses and organizations for their support: 1. City of Holyoke 2. Holyoke Police Department

3. Holyoke Fire Department 4. Greater Holyoke Chamber – Jordan Hart 5. Behavioral Health Network, Inc. – Jennifer Fournier 6. BlazeXpress – Duane Harden 7. Venture X Holyoke – Libby Smith 8. River Valley Counseling Center – Rebecca MacGregor 9. MiraVista Behavioral Health Center – Kimberley Lee 10. Holyoke Community College – Jane Johnson Vottero, M.S. 11. Hazen Paper Co – John Hazen 12. Positive Results Medical Billing Services – Candice Michaelsen 13. PeoplesBank – Matthew Bannister 14. Gillis Insurance Agency,

Inc. – Christopher Gillis 15. CHI Insurance Agency, Inc. – Patrick Asselin 16. Marcotte Ford – Suzanne Keller 17. Holyoke Community Charter School – Sonia Pope 18. MIFA Victory Theatre – Donald Sanders

For those who missed the initial invitation, a few street lamp locations are still available for sponsorship. This is a unique opportunity to join our banner initiative and proudly represent your business or organization in Holyoke. To reserve your spot, visit the City Banner Sign-Up Page today: City Banner Sign-Up Page Banner spaces are filling

quickly and are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Don’t miss this chance to contribute to Holyoke’s beautification and display your civic pride.

The City Banner Program is a collaborative effort between the City of Holyoke and its business community, aimed at fostering civic pride, supporting local organizations, and creating a vibrant streetscape for residents and visitors alike. Banners will remain on display for a minimum of 12 months, ensuring maximum exposure and community impact.

UCCH to host corned beef dinner

HOLYOKE – It’s that time of year to start celebrating Saint Patrick’s Day. At United Congregational Church of Holyoke, that means it’s also time to celebrate the March Community Meal by serving Corned Beef and Cabbage on Friday, March 14 at 5 p.m. Dinner will be followed by a family movie at 6 p.m.

The Community Meal is hosted on the second Friday evening of each month at the church at 300 Appleton Street. All Are Welcome to

attend, and the meal is completely free of charge. The menu changes monthly. 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.



Women’s History exhibit at museum

HOLYOKE – Wistariahurst Museum is celebrating the Third Annual Women’s History Month juried art showcase. This year, the theme is Love, in all forms. An opening reception will be held on March 13, 2025. “Love, in all forms” is an array of artwork of varying mediums that analyzes how love impacts our lives. The exhibition features the work of artists who identify as women and non-binary. These artists’ work reflects different experiences and

concepts revolving around love, and what love means to them. Love can be painful, a process, joyful, romantic, platonic, a feeling, an object, a memory; love is beautiful in all its forms.

Artists featured in this exhibit include Mariana Cicerchia, Katherine McClelland, Isabella Livoti and Dawn Allen among others. There are also several other local artists featured in this year’s exhibition alongside our featured artists.

The opening recep-

tion of “Love, in all forms” will be held Thursday, March 13, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Wistariahurst is an artist-friendly space that encourages creativity and supports the growth of this region’s artists. Open Gallery Hours will be held from March 13 to April 15 on Mondays (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.) and Tuesdays (4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.), which will also be free and open to the public. We hope that you stop by and explore “Love, in all forms!”

Marshal Mania set for next Saturday

HOLYOKE – The St. Patrick’s Committee of Holyoke will host the 2025 Marshal Mania Kick-Off Party on Saturday, March 1, at the Log Cabin in Holyoke.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Eavesdrop, an Americana-pop/Folk-Soul band from the Pioneer Valley, will start at 8:00 p.m., followed by Unforgettable Fire, the #1

Premier U2 Tribute Band. Liberty Bank generously sponsors this year’s event.

There will be a cash bar, food for sale from the Log Cabin, and raffles.

Tickets are \$20 per person.

Contact Jeff Walsh at jeffwalsh127@gmail.com at 413-530-3944 or Johnny Driscoll at johnnydriscoll@live.com at 413-530-3328.

City to raise Irish Flag March 1

HOLYOKE – The Hibernians of Hampden/Hampshire Counties invite the public to participate in the Irish Flag Raising Exercise on Saturday March 1 at 10 a.m. at Holyoke City Hall to celebrate the Irish American Heritage Month of March.

Mayor Josh Garcia and Holyoke City officials plan to be in attendance.

Hibernian President Joe O’Connor will preside as Master of Ceremonies. Other dignitaries planning to be in attendance: representing Holyoke St. Patrick’s Parade Committee will be 2025 Parade President John Beaulieu and Parade Grand Marshal James Lavelle; Barbara Twohig President of the Massachusetts State Ladies Ancient Order of

Hibernians; Mary Kate O’Connor President of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 2 and President Sean Cahillane of the Irish Cultural Center of Western New England. Piper Matt O’Connor will play the pipes at the event and Sheila Moreau will sing the American and Irish Anthems.

There are over 31.5 million residents who claim Irish Ancestry in America. The U.S. Congress designated March as Irish American Heritage Month in 1991.



Saint Patrick Novena offered

HOLYOKE – Saint Jerome Parish located at 169 Hampden Street in Holyoke is once again hosting a Novena to Saint Patrick beginning on Sunday, March 9 and concluding on Monday, March 17. Nine priests from throughout the Diocese will be serving as the celebrants of the Novena Masses. All are invited to attend. Information about Mass times and celebrants may be obtained by contacting the Parish Office at 413-532-6381.

ARTery to feature Bouzarjmehr

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Art is excited to announce its opening reception for March’s Featured Artist, Mehrnoush Bouzarjmehr, on Saturday, March 1, from 12 to 3 p.m. at the ARTery. The exhibition will be on display at the ARTery, located at 289 High St. in Holyoke, MA, throughout the month of March. Regular gallery hours are Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. or by appointment.

Visit www.holyokeart.com or call 413-420-8303 for more information.

Mehrnoush Bouzarjmehr brings a rich, multi-layered artistic history to her work. Born in Iran, she worked for two decades as a midwife, a role that influenced her deeply. In 2017, after immigrating to the United States, she reignited her passion for painting, working with mediums such as oil, acryl-

ic, watercolor, gouache, and traditional Persian techniques like Tazhib and Gol-o-Morgh. Her work has been featured in exhibitions throughout the Northeast, earning several awards. Bouzarjmehr now calls Holyoke home, where her art is infused with the city’s beauty and energy.

“For me, painting is more than blending colors—it is the creation of life in silence. Every painting is a piece of my soul, bringing peace and life wherever it goes”, said Mehrnoush.

We invite art lovers and the community to experience the soulful and evocative works of Mehrnoush Bouzarjmehr. Don’t miss this opportunity to explore her journey and vision through her vibrant, story-filled creations. Join us at The ARTery to celebrate art that inspires and connects.



Greater Springfield Habitat’s Women Build kickoff is March 12

WEST SPRINGFIELD – In honor of Women’s History Month, International Women’s Day, and Habitat for Humanity International’s Women Build Week, our local affiliate will kick off its own “Women Build” event.

Held Wednesday, March 12, at White Lion Brewing Company’s Community Boom Room (1500 Main St) in Springfield, the event starts at 6pm and is free to the public. No registration is necessary.

Women Build provides an opportunity for women to take the proactive step in helping limited-income women and their families build stability through affordable homeownership. After all, more than 70% of Habitat homeowners are women.



Habitat for Humanity will hold a Women Build kickoff event on March 12. Submitted photos

To participate, individuals and teams fundraise or obtain a sponsorship. Then, they build for a day (or two), together, contributing to make a home more affordable. It costs approximately \$255,000 to build a Habitat home, not including labor, in Hampden County.

There are a variety of sponsorship levels available. They include (1) individual opportunity; (2) team options; and (2) sponsor packages. Individual fundraisers and teams will have access to an easy-to-use, secure online donation platform that can be shared with family, friends, acquaintances, and colleagues.

No experience is necessary. All tools and materials

are supplied on a build site. All are welcome, even men, and expert instruction is provided. Every dollar raised will support local projects and affordable housing within Hampden County.

GSFH 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.

For more information, contact Olga Calligos, Homeowner Programs coordinator, at calligos@habitat.org or (413) 739-5503 x1003.

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USDA INSP. FRESH PORK SIRLOIN CUTLETS \$2.19 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF SHORT RIBS \$8.88 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN WHOLE CHICKEN 88¢ lb	USDA INSP. BEST YET COOKED SHRIMP 31/40 COUNT 1 LB BAG \$6.67 ea
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Auto dealer Gary Rome joins fundraising campaign

HOLYOKE – For the fifth year in a row, auto dealer Gary Rome is partnering with the HCC Foundation for a one-day campaign to raise money for student support programs and academic resources at Holyoke Community College.

The annual “Together HCC: Drive to Change Lives” campaign is set for Tuesday, March 4, and will run for 24 hours, from 12:01 a.m. to midnight. With a goal of 500 donors and \$230,000, this year’s success would put the campaign’s six-year cumulative support total above \$1 million.

“Each year, our giving

day demonstrates the extraordinary power of community support,” said Julie Phillips, HCC director of development. “Reaching \$1 million in cumulative giving would be remarkable, but what’s more significant is how these gifts have removed barriers and created opportunities for countless students.”

Donations can be made through a secure portal on the HCC website: hcc.edu/drive

The goal of the campaign is to raise money for six areas that directly support HCC students: academic excellence and innova-

tion; scholarships; the Thrive Student Resource Center and Food Pantry; the President’s Student Emergency Fund; the President’s Fund for Opportunity and the HCC Foundation’s general, unrestricted fund.

One of the key partners in the HCC campaign is Rome, an HCC Foundation board member and owner of Gary Rome Hyundai in Holyoke. Rome has pledged to donate \$5,000 when 125 people donate to the campaign and add the comment “#TogetherHCC” to the dealership’s Facebook campaign

post on March 4.

“Education transforms lives,” said Rome. “I see it firsthand in our community through HCC graduates who become our employees, colleagues, and leaders.”

Additionally, long-time HCC supporters Peg Wendlandt ’58 and her husband Gary Wendlandt will provide \$100,000 in challenge gifts throughout the day. Altogether, the one-day campaign has the potential to unlock more than \$125,000 in matching donations.

The HCC Foundation launched “Together HCC:

A Campaign for Caring” in March 2020 to build community support and raise money for students experiencing financial distress during the pandemic. As part of that campaign, members of the HCC community – students, staff, faculty, alumni, relatives, and college friends – were asked to use the hashtag #TogetherHCC to share stories and images on social media that demonstrated the resilience of the college community in response to the COVID-19 crisis.

In its first year, the campaign raised \$40,000

for the President’s Student Emergency Fund and was selected as a finalist for a national Bellwether award. Since 2021, with Rome signed on, HCC has added the “Drive to Change Lives” theme and collectively raised more than \$700,000 for student support programs.

“Every gift to the ‘Together HCC’ campaign matters,” said Phillips. “When we remove barriers for one student, we’re not just changing their life, we’re transforming their family’s future and strengthening our entire region.”

Committee to honor Sullivan

HOLYOKE – Join the St. Patrick’s Committee of Holyoke as we honor Frederick L. Sullivan, Esq., the 2025 Ambassador Award recipient. A plated breakfast will be served, and speeches will be given to honor Fred Sullivan and his work in connecting with the Republic of Ireland. Tickets are \$25 per person, and tables of 8 can be reserved. Sponsorship of \$1,500 is available, which includes tickets for 8 and a full-page color ad in the pro-

gram book. Full-page color ads are \$200. Cairde/Friend patronships are available for \$50, and regular Patron support is \$20. The event will be held on Sunday, March 23 with registration going from 7:30 to 8 a.m. The breakfast program will begin at 8 a.m. The event will be held at Wyckoff Country Club in



Frederick L. Sullivan, Esq.,

Holyoke. Please RSVP by March 7; for tickets, sponsorship, or any questions, please contact Kathy Gallivan at kgallivan04@gmail.com or (413) 777-8700.

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

HCC to host ‘Fresh Check Day’

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College will host a day dedicated to promoting mental health and wellness on Tuesday, March 11.

“Fresh Check Day” will run from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Campus Center cafeteria.

This innovative program, developed by the Connecticut-based Jordan Porco Foundation, is designed to bring together the campus community to “check in” on the mental health and wellness of college students. The event is free and open to all.

Organized by HCC’s Office of Community Standards and Wellbeing, in partnership with other campus departments and student volunteers, Fresh Check Day at Holyoke Community College aims to create a supportive and engaging atmosphere. The event will transform the HCC cafeteria into a vibrant expo-like set-

ting with interactive exhibits, food prizes, and giveaways.

“At HCC, we recognize that mental health is just as important as physical health,” said Jessica Hill, director of community standards and wellbeing. “Fresh Check Day is a vital opportunity for us to come together as a community to raise awareness, reduce stigma, and provide resources that support the well-being of our students. By prioritizing mental health, we empower our students to thrive both academically and personally, ensuring they have the tools to succeed beyond the classroom.”

Highlights include interactive exhibits and activities designed to educate and engage students on mental health topics, such as stress management, anxiety, depression, and suicide prevention; community engagement opportunities where students can connect

with their peers and to campus resources in a positive, community-focused environment; and prizes and giveaways.

The Jordan Porco Foundation is a nonprofit based in Wethersfield, Conn. It was founded in 2011 by Ernie and Marisa Porco after they lost their son Jordan to suicide when he was a freshman in college.

The goal of Fresh Check Day is to create an approachable and hopeful environment for discussing mental health and supporting student wellness. The event features peer-to-peer activities, interactive booths, and various resources aimed at promoting mental health awareness and suicide prevention among college students.

For more details about Fresh Check Day at HCC, please contact Jessica Hill at 413-552-2551 or jhill2@hcc.edu

Annual ‘Battle of the Bars’ gets ready to rumble this weekend

HOLYOKE – The St. Patrick’s Committee of Holyoke will hold the fifth annual Battle of the Bars bartending event at the Holyoke Knight of Columbus Council 90 to fundraise for the Committee to offset the costs of the bands and entertainment on Parade Weekend. The event will be held Friday, Feb. 28, from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. The event will feature one bartender from each of the Bars listed below. They will battle each other to see who can raise the most tips for donations to the Parade. In addition to one final winner, each round will have a cash prize winner.

Event Chair Kelly McGivern says, “We are so excited to have these six amazing bartenders and establishments back again for another fun-filled year. With Holyoke and South Hadley a part of the Holyoke Regional

Committee, we are beyond lucky for all of the support of everyone who comes out each here to kick off our green season and support us.”

The event is open to the public and encourages them to support their favorite bar, bartender, and the Holyoke St. Patrick’s Day Parade. The 2024 winner was Trista Kasperowski with Donovan’s Irish Pub. The

media is invited to attend. More information on the event can be found on the Committee website here: holyokestpatrickspade.com/events/2025-battle-of-the-bars.

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.



6 - 7 p.m.

Donovan’s Irish Pub - with Trista Kasperowski
Pic’s Pub & Pizzeria - with Matt Dulude

7 - 8 p.m.

JP’s Restaurant - with Mary Kate Glasheen
Halfway House Lounge - with Colleen Flanagan

8 - 9 p.m.

Griffin’s Cafe - with Ashleigh McNulty
Francie’s Tavern - with Chy Clemens

Dobbin Tartin party kicks off green season

HOLYOKE – Kick off the start of March and Parade Season by getting decked out in your favorite Holyoke tartan. This seventh-annual event celebrates the retirement of Dobbin, the horse from the Yankee Pedlar to the Holyoke Merry-Go-Round.

All funds raised at the event go to support the St.

Patrick’s Committee of Holyoke and their annual Parade Weekend. Come pick up new and favorite tartan items at this exclusive event.

Tickets for this event will only be sold at the door. They are \$5 per person or \$10 per family, cash or check only. Admission includes unlimited rides on the mer-

ry-go-round, face painting, hair braiding, glitter designs, crafts, and a photo booth. There will also be a raffle, the White Hut food truck, and beer and wine will be available for purchase.

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

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Guest Column



Can I get extra Social Security for my military service?

Dear Rusty:

Please help, I served from 1964 to 1966 in the US Army.

I have been trying to contact Social Security in order to request extra benefits for veterans. The telephone is a recording and you never get to speak to anyone. The web site at www.ssa.gov is useless to me. I went to the SS office and there was a huge line outdoors in the freezing cold. I am disabled and cannot stand on a line in this cold. Please advise me about my options. Financially, is it worth the trouble?

Signed: Disabled American Veteran

My profound thanks for your service to our country.

FYI, the "special extra credit for military service" you refer to does not provide an incremental Social Security benefit amount for military veterans. Rather, it adds an additional amount to your recording earnings for the years you served, which may or may not affect your Social Security benefit. FYI, I've written numerous articles on this topic, one of which you can read at this link: www.socialsecurityreport.org/ask-rusty-older-veteran-asks-about-special-social-security-credit-for-military-service/.

In your case, serving between 1964 and 1966, if you told Social Security of your military service when you applied for benefits or gave them a copy of your DD-214, they would have added up to \$1,200 per year to your recorded military pay record (FYI, those who served after 1967 were automatically given earnings credit for their military service years).

However, whether those special extra credits would affect your SS benefit depends on what your lifetime earnings record was when you later claimed SS. When you applied for benefits, Social Security reviewed your lifetime earnings record and used the highest earning 35 years of earnings over your lifetime (adjusted for inflation) to calculate your "Primary Insurance Amount" or "PIA," which is what you get if you claim benefits to start at your SS full retirement age.

If, after your military service, you had 35 or more years of earnings which were higher than what you earned while serving, Social Security would have used those later higher earnings to calculate your benefit, and your military earnings wouldn't affect your benefit. If, however, any of your military earnings including the "special extra credits" were among the highest over your lifetime, then those higher military earnings would be included when calculating

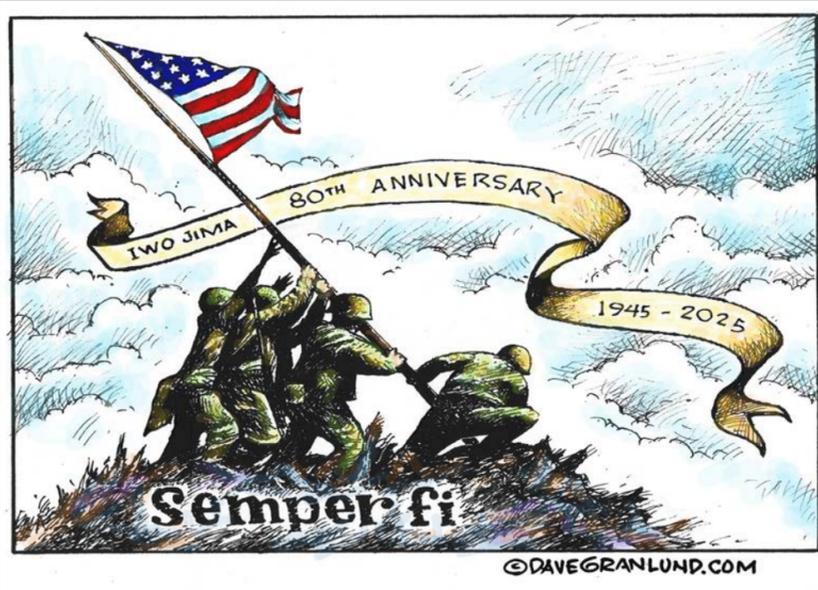
your benefit.

So, whether you will benefit from these "special extra credits for military service" depends largely on your post-service earnings history. If your military earnings were among the highest earning years over your lifetime, and you provided SSA with a copy of your DD-214 when you applied for Social Security, then your current SS benefit already includes consideration of your military service.

Social Security should have asked about your military service when you applied. If you didn't advise SS of your military service when you applied for Social Security, or if you aren't sure, you should contact the SSA at 1.800.772.1213 and ask if you were given those "special extra credits for military service" when you applied. However, if you had at least 35 years of higher earnings after you left military service, your current SS benefit is already based on those later higher earning years, and you will not get anything additional from those "special extra credits" for your military service years.

FYI, we know it is often difficult to contact the Social Security Administration by phone, as well as trying to visit SSA offices without an appointment, which is why our AMAC Foundation provides this free service). SSA is now allowing in-person visits "by appointment only" and you can call the above number to schedule an in-person appointment at your local SSA office. But before you do, please consider what I've said above. And remember that your SS benefit is based on the highest earning 35 years over your entire lifetime and each year represents only 1/35th of your benefit amount. So, is it worth the trouble? That depends on whether your military earnings, including the "special extra credits for military service," are among the highest over your entire lifetime. If the answer is "yes" then it is likely worth it; if "no" then perhaps not.

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



Guest Column



By Ellenor Downer

Snow bunting

I received an email from an Oakham resident said he and a friend on Feb. 12 started a flock of about eight snow buntings as they drove along Adams Road in New Braintree.

He said, "The buntings are seen here every winter." On Feb. 18, I drove over Adams Road and saw the same flock of snow buntings. Their white bellies will be visible as they flew up from the side of the road.

The snow bunting is seven inches long with a plumpish body. In winter, snow buntings are streaked with buff and black. The ear patch and the back is streaked with buff as well as the flanks and breast. The belly is

white and the bill yellow-orange. The male's crown is black and the female's buff.

The male in summer is a striking white and black. The head and breast are white and the back, tail and bill are black. The female in summer plumage is a more subdued version of the male with her head a gray color.

Snow buntings summer on the tundra and rocky shores, their breeding grounds. The female lays three to nine creamy blue or gray eggs in a nest of moss, grasses and earth placed on rocky ground. Their song is a musical warble and calls include "tew" and soft, buzzy notes.

In winter, they inhabit

open fields, roadsides and beaches in the southern Canada and the United States.

Brown creeper

Last week, I saw a brown creeper moving up a tree near one of my bird feeders and suet cakes. When they get near the top of the tree, they fly down to the base and climb up the tree in a different spot on the tree.

Birds and more at my feeder

Sunday during the storm, I spotted an opossum under my feeder digging in the snow for seeds. At this point, it switched to rain and the opossum had wet fur. Besides

See YARD, page 5

Backyard sugaring a fond memory to revisit

It has been a few years since we tapped our maple trees and boiled down the sap.

My husband and I agreed that with the upcoming forecast of cold nights and warm days it was time to get out our supplies and give it another go 'round.

Our backyard syringing days go back to the dating phase of our relationship. Enjoying homesteading activities together made me certain that he was a "keeper."

I'm pulling this column straight from the archives and rereading it to be sure we get off to a good start.

Maybe you too will give sugaring a try!

Although the sap from most native species of maple can be used to make syrup, sugar maple sap is most desirable because it has a high sugar content. Sugar maples also bud out later than other species, a good feature considering sap from trees that have begun to break bud will produce syrup with an off-taste.

The trees you tap should be at least 10-12 inches in diameter at 4.5 feet off the ground. One tap is sufficient

for rain and debris from getting inside.



healthy maples that size, three for those over 25" in diameter and two for those that fall in between.

Tapholes are usually made 3-4 feet from the ground for ease of maintenance. You'll want to drill slightly upward 2.5-3 inches into healthy sapwood (not dark heartwood).

Space taps evenly around the tree. The metal spout or spile is inserted into the taphole and set in place with a gentle tap.

For small scale production, clean water or milk jugs with work great to collect the sap- simply cut a small hole to accommodate the spout. Over the years we have upgraded to plastic spiles that attach to tubing inserted into a hole in a five gallon food-safe plastic container.

Whatever containers you use, be sure to make sure they are covered to prevent

See GARDEN, page 5

HOLYOKE
the Sun
TEAM



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

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

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

Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

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



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The Holyoke Sun welcomes election letters to the editor

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

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

For more information, call 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspa-

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

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



your health

By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN
Guest Column



Should you challenge a medical bill?

medical bill that they could not afford or didn't agree with.

Most of them didn't reach out to the health-care provider because they didn't think it would make a difference. But, she wrote, "the experiences of those who did reach out provide evidence to the contrary."

"Most respondents who reached out reported at least one form of financial relief, bill corrections, or better understanding of the bill," she wrote. "These findings suggest that patients benefit from reaching out to the billing office on receiving a problematic bill, and those who do not reach out may be missing financially advantageous opportunities."

The study found few differences in the households reporting problem bills – the residents had different levels of income and education. But these factors did affect a person's willingness to call about their medical bill.

"Those who were uninsured, Medicare insured, and less educated were less likely to reach out to the billing office," Duffy reported. "These differences in self-advocacy may be widening the gap in financial burden of health care between those with higher and lower socioeconomic status."

Self-advocacy is not easy, and challenging a med-

ical bill can be time-consuming and frustrating. Some of the people in Duffy's study said they had spent five hours or more contesting a bill, and quite a few said they didn't feel the people in charge were respectful to them.

But if the outcome is a reduced bill or a payment plan, it can be worth the effort. It's estimated that Americans are carrying more than \$200 billion in medical debt, the majority of it by people who owe \$10,000 or more. While the three major credit agencies no longer include medical debts under \$500 on credit reports, it can still impact credit scores if the health organization reports it to the credit agencies.

Tellingly, only 3.5 percent of the respondents sought help from an advocacy organization to contact the billing office, Duffy said. The time burden plus the fact that many of the people surveyed didn't reach out at all indicates "there may be an unmet need for formal assistance navigating bills," she wrote.

Patient advocates are one source of such formal assistance. They navigate the intricacies of the health-care system itself and its mind-boggling billing systems, too. A medically trained patient advocate can look at an itemized medical

bill and spot duplications and inconsistencies that a lay advocate may miss.

To avoid mistakes and misunderstandings, understand your health insurance coverage; ask questions when you don't. Know what your deductibles, coinsurance, copays and out-of-pocket maximums are. Ask why your doctor is ordering certain tests or procedures. Call your insurer in advance to find out how much you'll be asked to pay. Always document the answers you receive, who you spoke to, and when. Get promises in writing. And if you're uninsured, be upfront about it.

After all that, if you still receive a bill you think has errors, advocate for yourself and you may save yourself some money.

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.

GARDEN, from page 4

here, but just enough to show my nephew how it's done!

I kept notes from the last time we tapped our trees. Once we had collected 21 gallons of sap to boil down. My husband started with about 15 gallons of sap in the pan and as the water evaporated he added more – there is a careful balance between scorching and adding too much, not easily explained unless you've had the experience and monitored the candy thermometer.

Finish your syrup by no longer adding sap and waiting until the syrup is 7.1 degrees higher than boiling water. Then, syrup can be filtered and stored in sterile containers at 185 degrees or higher for proper seal.

Forty-three gallons of sap are needed to make 1 gallon of syrup. It takes about 7 hours of boiling to get that precious gallon if you use a rectangular pan 2 foot wide by 1 foot deep.

Let these statistics be your guide so that you won't get in over your head the first time you try it. Nothing is worse than having sap go to waste because you are too darn tired to boil into the late hours of the night.

Nothing is better, however, than the first bite of maple syrup drenched blueberry pancakes the following morning!

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.

Estimates suggest that up to 80 percent of medical bills contain at least one error. That's why I always recommend to my clients that they not pay a medical or hospital bill until they have received an itemized bill and carefully reviewed it.

There are a lot of reasons for mistakes in medical billings, which can cause you to incur a bigger-than-expected bill or your insurance to be denied, as I wrote recently.

Some common types of medical billing errors include:

- **Incorrect diagnostic codes:** For example, an administrator might enter the wrong code, indicating that a patient had an X-ray on both legs when only one leg was imaged.
- **Typos:** A typo can cause a single saline drip to be registered as many more.
- **Incomplete or incorrect information:** Information for

a patient or provider might be entered incorrectly or incompletely.

• **Duplicate billing:** The same service might be billed for more than once.

When you receive an unexpectedly large medical bill, the first thing to do is take a deep breath, ask for an itemized bill (which you are legally entitled to), and review it for errors. If you think there are errors – or the bill is just too big for you to handle – the worst thing to do is to ignore it.

Instead, challenge it. A study just published in JAMA Health Forum found that it's worthwhile.

Erin Duffy, a research scientist at the University of Southern California's Shaeffer Center for Health Policy and Economics, surveyed a cross-section of health consumers and found that one in five – fully 20 percent – reported that their household had received a

breeding territory. Each fall, juvenile loons undertake their first migration to their wintering grounds. The article said, "First, they have to manage the energetic costs of migration—sadly, not all survive the trip from their lakes to their wintering grounds. Those that make it to the ocean encounter a new and unfamiliar world, filled with prey species that they have no experience catching and predator species like sharks and seals that they have no experience evading. Without their parents to show them the ropes, they have to quickly learn where to forage and how to evade these new predators. And carry-over effects resulting from the environmental

conditions they experienced on their lakes during development can also influence their survival – those juvenile loons that were raised on lower quality territories may start off in worse shape than others, which can reduce their chance of survival. All of these factors combine to mean that there is a 53% chance that a loon will survive from hatch to adulthood (age three)."

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

YARD, from page 4

the opossum, I had squirrels and the usual black-capped chickadees, white-breasted nuthatches, tufted titmice, downy woodpeckers, dark eyed juncos, bluejays and mourning doves.

Bald eagle

An Oakham resident saw a bald eagle land on the ice on Lake Dean. Late last month, fishing derby participants saw an eagle at Lake Dean.

Loon facts

The Loon Preservation Committee newsletter mentioned facts about the first migration and acquiring

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

CHURCH DIRECTORY



Your Community Church

Blessed Sacrament Parish

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

First Baptist Church

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

Our Lady of the Cross Catholic Parish

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

St. Peter's Lutheran Church

Rev. Debora Stein
34 Jarvis Ave., Holyoke
Office: (413) 536-3369
Office: stpetersholyokeye@gmail.com
Pastor: revdebma@gmail.com
Website: www.stpetersholyokeye.org
Social media: facebook.com/stpetersholyokeye
OFFICE HOURS:
Monday - Wednesday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Thursday 2 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. (Call first)
WORSHIP:
Sundays at 9:30 a.m. (also on Facebook Live) & Thursdays at 7 p.m.
Other: Prayers with Pastor - Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. - on Facebook Live.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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

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- CLUES ACROSS**
- Greek mythological figure
 - Small amount
 - Play a role
 - River in Georgia and Alabama
 - Water in the solid state
 - Ancient Greek sophist
 - Having a strong sharp smell or taste
 - Fleece
 - Writer/actress Dunham
 - Behave in a way that belittles
 - Comedienne Gasteyer
 - Zoroastrian concept of holy fire
 - Conceits
 - Slowed down
 - Nourishment
 - Midway between east and southeast
 - Fights
 - Comedienne Tyler
 - Standing operating procedure
 - Locks
 - Old
 - Song sung to one's lover
 - Whale ship captain
 - Moved quickly on foot
 - Volcanic craters
 - Large musical instrument
 - Liquefied natural gas
 - Ethiopian town
 - Not closed
 - A team's best pitcher
 - Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
 - Disfigure
 - Prefix denoting "in a"
 - Sleep
 - S. American plant
 - Soul and calypso song
 - Fruit of the service tree
 - Continent
 - Albania's capital
 - Poisonous plant
 - Argues
 - Assists
 - Town in Galilee
 - Russian leader
 - Promotional materials
 - Wings
 - Not odd
 - Expression of creativity
 - Conceptualize
 - A digital tape recording of sound
 - Peyton's little brother
 - Cost, insurance and freight (abbr.)
 - Difference in potential
 - Owner
 - 1 (German)
 - Chinese conception of poetry
 - The world of the dead
 - Sign language
 - Coincide
 - Religious observance
 - Confined condition (abbr.)
 - Polite interruption sound
 - Texas ballplayer
 - Type of sword
 - Abba __, Israeli politician
 - Basic unit of a chemical element
 - Native American people in California
 - Swiss river
 - Hebrew calendar month
 - Easily swindled person
 - One point south of southwest
 - Small island (British)

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 9

Teacher's union to remove offensive material following Velis hearing

Yesterday, leadership for the Massachusetts Teachers Association announced that they would be reviewing and removing offensive and antisemitic materials from the set of resources the Union provides to its member teachers. This announcement follows a week of backlash after Senator John C. Velis (D-Westfield) and other members of the Special Commission on Combating Antisemitism questioned

MTA leaders during a public hearing about numerous antisemitic images and its unbalanced resources for teachers on the Israel-Palestine conflict.

"Yesterday's acknowledgement by MTA leadership is long overdue. Both Jewish and non-Jewish teachers have been fighting courageously to have these blatantly antisemitic resources removed, and for far too long, their concerns have fallen on deaf

ears," shared Senator John C. Velis, Co-Chair of the Special Commission. "That being said, taking the time to reflect is always a good thing, and I think that yesterday's statement and the feedback we continue to hear emphasizes why the Commission's meeting was so important."

"The images on the Massachusetts Teachers Association website were antisemitic, offensive and

never should have been shared in the first place," shared Governor Maura Healey

Prior to the Commission's hearing on Feb. 10, the MTA board of directors rejected a motion by many rank-and-file union members to take some of the materials down. During the hearing Velis shared his concerns with not only the dozens of blatantly antisemitic visuals accessible through the

union's website, but also the promotion of one-sided educational materials about the conflict.

"I believe that removing the antisemitic materials is only one step of correcting this grave injustice and the education malpractice presented in these materials. Additionally, and as importantly, adding additional resources to reflect the nuance and balance of this incredibly complex subject is

absolutely paramount," Velis said. "As I've said from the beginning, I believe that it is critically important that we listen to and engage with all perspectives, not just with words, but with actions. I've learned many things over this Commission's short life, first and foremost being how engrained antisemitism is in so much of our society and why the creation of this Commission was so vitally important."

Valley Opportunity Council offering free tax preparation

Valley Opportunity Council, which manages the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program that provides free tax preparation to those of low and moderate-income, began offering tax preparation and filing appointments on Tuesday, Jan. 21.

VITA tax preparation appointments are available through April 30, at three VOC locations: 20 Lathrop St., West Springfield, 516 Chicopee St., Chicopee; and 300 High St., Holyoke.

To schedule an appointment, call (413) 612-0206. Those eligible for the VITA program must live in Massachusetts or Connecticut with an income of up to \$67,000. Appointments are available on weekdays, evenings and weekends.

Certified volunteer tax professionals help qualified individuals prepare and file basic state and federal tax returns and prior year returns. VOC also offers free electronic filing of tax returns, allowing for individuals to receive

their refunds much quicker than paper filings and save up to hundreds of dollars in filing fees.

The core mission and goal of VITA is to assist low-to moderate-income taxpayers in satisfying their tax responsibilities and minimize financial hardships, in turn saving taxpayers thousands of dollars in filing fees. The VITA program is sponsored by VOC and the Internal Revenue Service.

The Valley Opportunity Council is the largest and

most diverse Community Action Agency in Western Massachusetts with an annual budget of \$45 million. With this Federal designation, the VOC has established a powerful network of support and collaborative services intended to encourage community members to actively achieve self-sufficiency for themselves and their families. VOC employs over 250 staff members and has 150 local vendors, providing a significant economic investment in the community.

Local nonprofit offers \$1,000 scholarship

Local charitable organization Nick's Waves of Change is holding a special scholarship program of \$1,000 towards college for two students. One student from Belchertown High School, and one to another high school senior in Western Massachusetts.

Nick's Waves of Change was created for Nicholas R. Boileau who passed away from acute

myeloid leukemia in 2021, and in his memory, the organization strives to create "waves of change" throughout the community.

The application can be found on their website, www.nickswavesofchange.org under the "Scholarship Opportunities" tab, as well as requirements for the grant award. Completed applications are due April 17, 2025.



Joshua Garcia, Holyoke City Mayor, with Suzanne Parker, Executive Director for Girls Inc. of the Valley, unveil the Girl Day flag to which will be flown at City Hall to celebrate Engineering Week.

Courtesy photos by Hillary Lynn Photography



The event sought to encourage girls to pursue STEM fields

Submitted photos



City Council President Tessa Murphy-Romboletti gave a speech to encourage the youth to keep pushing forward for what they want out of life.



The youth from Girls Inc. of the Valley were encouraged to take a seat in city council chambers as they listened to speeches from city leadership.



Youth from Girls Inc. of the Valley gathered in City Hall for the Girls Day celebration.

GIRLS, from page 1

As part of this celebration, a group of teens from Girls Inc. were invited into City Hall to get a tour and hear speeches from Garcia, City Council President Tessa Murphy-Romboletti and City Engineer Victoria Houle.

Viands was happy to see so many strong leaders from Holyoke present in the room.

"There was so much representation of strong, smart and bold women in engineering in the city of Holyoke and other leadership," Viands

said. "We had Tessa Murphy-Romboletti here and that was super powerful."

Each of the speakers worked to inspire the young people in the room and to encourage them to find their path in life.

"I am very happy to have been invited to come here," Houle said. "It can be difficult to figure out what you want to do for the rest of your life...and engineering is empowering in giving you independence in your everyday life."

Garcia made a point

of listing out some of the accomplished women that work in Holyoke.

"Our city engineer is a woman, our city solicitor and an attorney for the city of Holyoke is a woman, the city auditor is a woman, our purchasing officer, our building commissioner, our personnel director, our Council-on-Aging director, our library director, our chief assessor, our tax collector, our clerk are all women," Garcia said.

The speakers also shared some of their own experiences. Murphy-Romboletti

spoke to the teens about what it has been like for her to be the council president.

"I knew there was an opportunity for some new leadership, so I took that and I was elected by my fellow councilors," Murphy-Romboletti said. "As a woman you may be held to a higher standard...but if you are the type of person who feels like you want to lead, we need you."

Knowing this, she encouraged the teens to stand up for themselves and to keep pushing forward for

what they want to achieve.

"Do not be afraid to stand up for yourself and to believe that you deserve to be in a room that you may not have been invited into a hundred years ago," Murphy-Romboletti said.

Those who organized Girls Day hoped that it would show the youth that there are many paths available for them as they continue forward with their education and/or their careers.

"There is a certain vision or perception of what it means to pursue engineer-

ing or STEM careers and it is really important for young people to realize it is not so rigid in terms of what they can do," Viands said. "It is important to remind young people that they are capable of doing anything they set their mind to."

If people are interested in learning more about Girls Inc. or becoming involved in any of their programming, they are welcome to reach out to Viands at sviands@girlsincvalley.org or 413-335-0059.



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LOGO, from page 1

out to future Peck students and staff so they could select their favorite logo. HPS staff received 576 responses to this survey.

Linville and the other staff who helped with this logo contest are planning how to announce to the student winner that they were chosen.

Following this, Linville and the others will bring in a professional graphic designer to work with the chosen student to finalize the design. There will then be a grand reveal in March of the new logo.

This logo will be imple-

mented all around Peck. Whether it be displayed around the school, put on shirts, mugs or other school merchandise, everyone will get a chance to see and admire it.

"The logo will be placed around the school and on different types of swag," Linville said. "It is definitely going to be broadly used."

Linville hopes to honor all of the students who were selected as one of the six finalists.

"Our ideas right now are to give them a certificate and a t-shirt or some sort of swag with the new logo," Linville said.

Linville is grateful for

everyone who helped with the logo process. She sends a special thank you to STEM Music Teacher Aaron DiPilla who was a key partner in this process.

"He has been a lead thought partner to me and I appreciate the expertise and wisdom he has provided me through the process," Linville said.

She is also grateful for everyone in the community who put forward their time and effort throughout this process. Gathering community voices was one of Linville's main goals and she is glad that so many people responded to this project.

SPORTS

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T-birds get big win in shootout

BRIDGEPORT — The Springfield Thunderbirds (26-19-2-3) walked a tight-rope and escaped with a 3-2 shootout win over the Bridgeport Islanders (12-33-3-3) on Sunday afternoon at Total Mortgage Arena.

From the game's onset, T-Birds starting net-minder Vadim Zherenko was dialed in, as he fended off a ferocious first-period barrage as the Isles launched 15 shots at the Springfield net. Despite managing only five attempts at the opposite end, the T-Birds kept the game even heading into the second.

For a second straight day, the T-Birds offense came to life in the back end of the middle frame, beginning with Otto Stenberg cashing in for the game's opening marker at 11:05. Hugh McGing gathered the puck behind the goal line and slipped it into the left circle for a pinching Anton Malmstrom. The Springfield defenseman's shot glanced off Henrik Tikkanen before coming to rest in the crease for Stenberg, who tapped it into the yawning net to give Springfield the 1-0 lead.

Both teams exchanged unsuccessful power plays during second-period action, but a strange sequence of events at 5-on-5 resulted in the next key moment in the game. It began at the 17:27 mark when Matthew Peca one-timed a pass from MacKenzie MacEachern from the right-wing circle. The captain immediately celebrated what he believed to be a goal, but referees deemed it hit the crossbar, and play continued. Just seconds later, Brian Pinho beat Zherenko on a break-away at the opposite end of the rink, and the Isles believed they had tied the game, 1-1.

After a replay review, the officials determined that Peca's shot did, indeed, find the back of the net, and as a result, the Pinho goal was wiped away, and Springfield had the 2-0 lead heading into the third.

Despite what has been a difficult season, the last-place Islanders refused to waver in the third. Eetu Liukas finally solved Zherenko with a perfectly placed wrist shot from the left side at 10:13 of the final period, setting the stage for a chaotic finish to regulation in a 2-1 game.

After Springfield killed off one Islander power play, Tikkanen raced to the bench in the final minute, and with a cavalcade of bodies around the slot, Sam Bolduc found a home for a point wrist shot at 19:07, and the game was tied heading into overtime, 2-2.

The Islanders had most of the high-danger chances in the 3-on-3 period, but Zherenko locked back in and answered the bell on three Bridgeport attempts while getting a break as Bolduc rang a shot off the post.

Peca got the T-Birds off on the right foot in the shootout, beating Tikkanen through the right armpit to give Springfield the edge. Zherenko took care of matters from there, stopping Matt Maggio and William Dufour before getting an assist from the post on Chris Terry's attempt to push the shootout into a fourth round. The shootout triumph was Springfield's first away from home since Dec. 31, 2022.

Winners of three straight, the T-Birds continue their five-game road swing on Friday night when they visit the Hartford Wolf Pack for a 7:00 p.m. puck drop at the XL Center.



Chauncey Ruiz takes the left-hand approach to a layup. *Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com*



Julian Fasoli goes for the three-pointer.



Aden Cabrera fights to get a shot off.



Calvin Godbolt flies for the layup.



Jordan King-Perilli tries to layup under pressure.

Central stops Holyoke in semifinals

HOLYOKE — The Holyoke High School boys basketball team was defeated by Chicopee Comprehensive late in the regular season. But the Knights got revenge on the Colts in the quarterfinals of the Western Mass. Class A Tournament last Monday, 62-51. But Central, a team Holyoke defeated once this season, got their revenge, holding down the Knights 84-53 in the semifinals of the tournament, ending Holyoke's pursuit of a sectional title. The Knights are getting ready for their first state tournament game, where they will host Wakefield High School in the Round of 32 in the Division 2 State Tournament. That matchup was scheduled for Feb. 27 at 7 p.m.

Girls fall at Spartans

HOLYOKE — The Holyoke High School girls basketball team had a matchup with East Longmeadow on Feb. 13, falling 41-32. In the defeat, Kiara Perez had a big matchup with 21 points. She accounted for most of the scoring by Holyoke, which is 4-15.

Contact the Sports Editor

We would love to hear from you. Please send all sports-related press releases, photos and information to Sports Editor Greg Scibelli at: sports@turley.com or call, 1-413-283-8393.

COLLEGE NEWS

Pond scores 20 points in Westfield State win

WESTFIELD — Jordan Grant (Gray, Maine) delivered a game-high 22 points as Westfield State pulled away in the fourth quarter to defeat Worcester State 89-75 in a MASCAC quarterfinal game from the Woodward Center on Tuesday night.

With the win, the Owls advance to the semifinals, where they will face top-seeded Bridgewater State on Thursday at 6:00 p.m. in Bridgewater.

The Owls took control late, riding a massive fourth-quarter effort from Maddie Pond (Holyoke, Mass.), who poured in 14 of her 20 points in the final frame to propel Westfield State to victory. The game remained tight through three quarters, but Westfield's ability to make key plays down the stretch proved to be the differ-

ence. The Owls' three seniors led the charge, with Grant's 22 points, Pond's 20, and Olivia Hadla (Westfield, Mass.) adding 17. The trio combined for 59 of Westfield's 89 points, showcasing their leadership and experience in a high-pressure postseason battle.

Kayley Downie (Easthampton, Mass.) also played a crucial role, knocking down three three-pointers to provide a perimeter spark. Morgan Berthiaume (Webster, Mass.) led the effort on the glass with eight rebounds, while Pond added five steals on the defensive end. Tavi Williams (Springfield, Mass.) contributed valuable minutes with six points and three steals, helping disrupt Worcester's offense and generate transition opportunities.

Despite the loss, Worcester State put forth an

impressive effort, playing a well-coached and physical game that kept them in contention until the final minutes. Mia Haynes (Worcester, Mass.) was dominant inside, scoring 20 points on 10-of-14 shooting while pulling down six rebounds. Katie Hurynowicz (Tyngsboro, Mass.) posted a double-double with 18 points and 12 rebounds, knocking down 8-of-10 free throws while also adding five blocks on the defensive end to keep Worcester within striking distance. Lena Waldron (Quincy, Mass.) also finished with a double-double, adding 15 points and 10 rebounds, and three blocks of her own as the Lancers controlled the glass, outbounding Westfield State 54-44, including 17 offensive boards.

The game was a back-

and-forth battle for most of the night, with Worcester jumping out to an early lead behind Haynes' hot start. Westfield responded with an offensive surge in the second quarter, fueled by their transition game and three-point shooting. Hadla connected on a pair of threes to spark a run, while Grant asserted herself in the post, scoring through contact and getting to the free-throw line. At halftime, the Owls led 52-44, setting the stage for a tense second half.

Worcester controlled much of the third quarter, using their size advantage to crash the boards and create second-chance opportunities. Hurynowicz and Waldron dominated the interior, forcing Westfield to adjust defensively. A late push from the Lancers saw them cut the deficit to just three, as the score

was 65-62 going into the final quarter.

A Haynes baseline jumper at the 7:51 mark of the fourth quarter gave the Lancers a 68-67 lead before Westfield responded with a relentless fourth-quarter attack, spearheaded by Pond's 14-point outburst. She knocked down a clutch three to tie the game early in the quarter and followed it up with a series of aggressive drives to the basket. Grant continued to be a force in the paint, while Hadla's steady ball-handling and scoring touch helped keep the Owls in control. Worcester continued to fight, with Haynes and Hurynowicz making key baskets to keep the pressure on, but Westfield's experience and shot-making ability proved too much to overcome in the final minutes.

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For more information on this position please contact **Robin @ 617-398-5144 schochet.com**

The **Town of Russell Sewer/Water Department** is accepting resumes for the full time position of **SEWER/ WATER OPERATOR** at **Town of Russell WWP, 200 Main Street, Russell, MA 01071-0131** or email **russellw-water@townofrussell.us**.

Applicants will need a Grade 4 Wastewater, 1T Water, and a 1D Water licenses or the ability to acquire them.

Inquire at office or thru email.
Worthington Police Department Full-time Police Officer

The Worthington Police Department is seeking qualified candidates for **Full-time Police Officer**. Applicants must be a minimum of 21 years of age or older, a U.S. Citizen and possess a valid driver's license. They should also have a high school diploma/GED, license to carry and be certified by Massachusetts Municipal Police Training Committee and be POST certified.

This is a benefited position with a salary range of: \$52,000.00 - \$75,733.00. The successful candidate shall be highly motivated, self-disciplined, possess a community policing philosophy and live in or near Worthington. This position has the potential to be elevated to Police Chief.

Send letter of interest, resume and three references with relevant contact information to:

Worthington Police Department P.O. Box 247 Worthington, MA 01098
Or via email to: **sboard@worthington-ma.us**
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FOR RENT



All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.
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**City of Holyoke
Notice of Public Hearing**

The DGR Committee of the Holyoke City Council will hold a public hearing to hear a special permit application of Alan Fini for the creation of a Fini family cemetery at 2 Fini Road (179-00-003) per 9.3. Hearing will take place on **Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 6:30 pm** at Holyoke City Hall 536 Dwight St and can be accessed remotely via www.zoom.us Meeting ID 883 8438 1077 Meeting Passcode 750869 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 with same Meeting ID and Passcode. For a copy of the application or to provide comments, please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org or by phone 413-322-5525.

Kocayne Givner, DGR Chair
02/21, 02/28/2025

**City of Holyoke
Public Hearing Notice**

The Holyoke Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday March 26, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.**, in the City Hall Annex, Room 403, Holyoke MA to hear the petition of Timothy McGee, who is requesting a variance from the Holyoke Zoning Ordinance, Sec 4.7.6 Abandonment or Non-Use, at a property known as 15 & 17 Ridgewood Ave (126-00-053).

A complete copy of the application may be seen in the Office of Planning & Economic Development, 20 Korean Veterans Plaza, Rm 401, 8:30-4:30, M-F.

Applicant: Timothy McGee
Board of Appeals: Josh Knox
02/28, 03/07/2025

**City of Holyoke
Notice of Public Hearing**

The DGR Committee of the Holyoke City Council will hold a public hearing to hear a special permit for home occupation application of Amanda and Marcos Garcia for a remote accounting work business at 25 Bregon Lane (164-00-004) per 4.8.2. Hearing will take place on **Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 6:30 pm** at Holyoke City Hall 536 Dwight St and can be accessed remotely via www.zoom.us Meeting ID 883 8438 1077 Meeting Passcode 750869 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 with same Meeting ID and Passcode. For a copy of the application or to provide comments, please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org or by phone 413-322-5525.

Kocayne Givner, DGR Chair
02/21, 02/28/2025

**City of Holyoke
Public Hearing Notice**

The Holyoke Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, March 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 Special Permit for an Increase in Sign Size, Sec 6.4.6.4, for a "Sumo.Sushi.Hibachi.Bar" sign, at 50 Holyoke Street (Parcel 176-00-010B), submitted by Holyoke Mall Company, LP.

The complete application may be viewed through the Holyoke Planning Dept M-F, 9a.m.-4p.m.
Applicant: Irene Coleman
Planning Board: Mimi Panitch
02/28, 03/07/2025

**MORTGAGEE'S
SALE OF REAL ESTATE**

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by 117. All Gas No Breakz LLC to Crowd Lending Fund One, LLC, dated March 10, 2023 and recorded at Hampden County Registry of Deeds on March 10, 2023, in Book No. 24934, at Page 74, modified by Assignment to

Willard Street Capital, LLC dated March 15, 2023 and recorded at Hampden County Registry of Deeds on June 6, 2023, in Book No. 25033, at Page 66, and to Webster Business Credit, A Division of Webster Bank, N.A., dated March 15, 2023 and recorded at Hampden County Registry of Deeds on June 12, 2023, in Book No. 25038, at Page 597, and to Willard Street Capital, LLC dated November 20, 2024 and recorded at Hampden County Registry of Deeds on December 4, 2024, in Book No. 25679, at Page 316, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder Willard Street Capital, LLC, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at public auction at **1:00 PM, on March 11, 2025** on the mortgaged premises being known as 74-76 Newton Street, Holyoke, MA, being all and singular the premises described in said mortgage to wit:

A certain lot of land with the buildings thereon situated in Holyoke, Hampden County, Massachusetts bounded and described as follows, viz:

Beginning at a point or intersection of the easterly side of Newton Street, with the southerly side of Essex Street; thence running:

Beginning at a point of intersection of the easterly side of Newton Street, with the southerly side of Essex Street; thence running:

SOUTHWESTERLY on said Newton Street; sixty-six (66) feet; thence

SOUTHEASTERLY and at a right angle to said Newton Street; seventy (70) feet; thence

NORTHEASTERLY and parallel with Newton Street, sixty-six (66) feet to said Essex Street; thence

NORTHWESTERLY on said Essex Street seventy (70) feet to the place of beginning.

Containing four thousand six hundred and twenty (4,620) square feet, more or less.

Being the same premises as conveyed to the mortgagor by deed of ASJ Properties, LLC, dated October 19, 2022, recorded at Hampden County Registry of Deeds on March 10, 2023 in Book No. 24934, at Page 70.

The above described premises will be sold SUBJECT TO and with the benefit of all restrictions, easements, covenants, conditions, building and zoning laws, to any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, water and sewer charges, municipal or other public taxes, assessments or liens, rights of tenants and parties in possession, if any.

TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of \$7,500.00 DOLLARS shall be required to be made to the mortgagee in cash, by certified or by cashier's check at the time and place of the sale as a deposit. The successful bidder will be required to execute an Auction Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, by certified check, by cashier's check, or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee's attorney within thirty (30) days thereafter at the offices of BARSH AND COHEN, P.C., Attorneys for the Mortgagee, 500 Turnpike Street Suite 201, Canton, MA 02021, in exchange for which and at such time and place, the deed shall be delivered to the purchaser for recording.

The Mortgagee reserves the right to amend the foregoing terms of sale by written or oral announcement made before the auction sale, during the sale thereof or at the commencement of or during any postponed sale, the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, and to post-

pone the sale up until the time the property is declared sold by the auctioneer.

The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in the Notice of Mortgagee's Sale or its publication.

OTHER TERMS TO BE ANNOUNCED AT THE TIME AND PLACE OF THE SALE.

Dated: February 5, 2025
(signed:)

Willard Street Capital, LLC
Present Holder of said Mortgage

By its Attorneys,
Barsh and Cohen, P.C.
Neil Cohen, Esquire
Attorney for the Mortgagee
500 Turnpike Street
Suite 201,
Canton, MA 02021
(617) 332-4700
02/14, 02/21, 02/28/2025

**City of Holyoke
Notice of Public Hearing**

The Holyoke License Board will be holding a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, March 5, 2025, at 5:15 pm.** You can join via Zoom.com; ID 87183788872; CALL IN: *67 646 558 8656 or in person at 20 Korean Veterans Plaza Room 406, regarding the application for a **Transfer of an on premises All Alcohol License from GCA LLC DBA Gateway City Arts, 92-114 Race Street to LightHouse Personalized Education for Teens DBA De La Luz, 92-114 Race St.** pursuant to M.G.L. Ch. 138.

Applicant: LightHouse Personalized Education for Teens

License Board:
Jose Correa, Chairman
02/21, 02/28/2025

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No.
HD25P0169GD
In the matter of:
Roy Arnold
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 **Careone Holyoke** of Holyoke, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Roy Arnold** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Nancy Godbout** of Granby, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

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

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **03/21/2025.** 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: February 21, 2025
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
02/28/2025

**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. HD20P1215EA
Estate of:
Daniel C Boyle
Date of Death: 05/17/2020
CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
ORDER OF COMPLETE
SETTLEMENT**

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/13/2025

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 10, 2025
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
02/28/2025

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No.
HD25P0357EA
Estate of:
Maurice J. Ferriter
Date of Death:
12/24/2024
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petitioner of Holyoke, MA a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

John J. Ferriter 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 su-

pervision 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.
02/28/2025

**LEGAL NOTICE
CITY OF HOLYOKE
GAS & ELECTRIC
DEPARTMENT
GATEHOUSE EMERGENCY
GENERATOR**

Sealed bids for the above contract will be received by Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept until **2:30 p.m., March 13, 2025**, at the Office of the Manager, 99 Suffolk St, Holyoke, MA 01040, at which time the bids will be publicly opened and read.

Additional information may be obtained from:
Chi Wong
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept
99 Suffolk St
Holyoke, MA 01040
cwong@hged.com
(413) 536-9308

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

Please mark sealed envelopes **"Bid for Gatehouse Emergency Generator"** and address them to:
James M. Lavelle, Manager
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept
99 Suffolk St
Holyoke, MA 01040
02/28/2025

**LEGAL NOTICE
CITY OF HOLYOKE
GAS & ELECTRIC
DEPARTMENT
HADLEY STATION
SERVICE TRANSFORMERS**

Sealed bids for the above contract will be received by Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept until **2:00 p.m., March 13, 2025**, at the Office of the Manager, 99 Suffolk St, Holyoke, MA 01040, at which time proposals will be publicly opened and read.

Additional information may be obtained from:
Chi Wong
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept
99 Suffolk St
Holyoke, MA 01040
(413) 536-9308
cwong@hged.com

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

Please mark sealed envelopes **"Bid for Hadley Station Service Transformers"** and address them to:
James M. Lavelle, Manager
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept
99 Suffolk St
Holyoke, MA 01040
02/28/2025

**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. HD25C0045CA
In the matter of:
Ilma Susana Loza
CITATION ON PETITION TO
CHANGE NAME**

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Ilma

Susana Loza of Holyoke, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Susana Ilma Loza
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 03/19/2025.**
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.
WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 19, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
02/28/2025

**Public Auction Sale
Saturday, March 15, 2025
at 8:30am
460 Race Street
Holyoke, MA
All Sales Cash
Immediate Removal
Day of Sale
Tools, Riding Mowers
Appliances, TVs, Toys
Furniture and more**

Lot	name	(pallets)
15276	P.Smith	[3]
15486	I.Alvarez	[2]
15688	J.Vazquez	[1]
15745	J.Santiago	[2]
15696	D.Mendez	[2]
15689	S.Kim	[1]
15754	J.Ferreira	[1]
15606	D.Korpiewski	[28]
15725	C.Cotto	[3]
15766	R.Virgilio	[1]
15779	C.Beaudette	[1]
15793	C.Rapisarda	[3]
15734	K.Barchus	[2]
15810	R.Morris	[3]
15800	G.Cruz	[10]
15815	M.Mendoza	[3]
15817	D.Poor	[5]
15811	L.Brodeur	[1]
15801	P.Sanchez	[6]
15839	K.Rodriguez	[3]
15821	W.Whiton	[1]
15777	W.Rosario	[4]
15870	J.Romard	[3]
15841	C.Cardona	[1]
15916	Y.Fardan	[3]
15925	A.Cruz	[1]
15911	S.Amoakah	[1]
15856	J.Malinoski	[1]
16002	G.Tranghese	[4]
15892	D.Cady	[2]
15889	K.Kieras	[1]
15981	N.Rivera	[2]
16032	V.Reyes	[1]
16022	A.Liberatore	[1]
16047	J.Arienti	[6]
15997	M.Alvarado	[1]
15994	C.Macbrian	[1]
16029	S.Wearing	[2]
16017	A.Ayala	[1]
16064	L.Hughes	[8]
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]

02/28, 03/07/2025



**think
OUTSIDE
of the
BIG
BOX
SUPPORT
COMMUNITY
BUSINESSES**

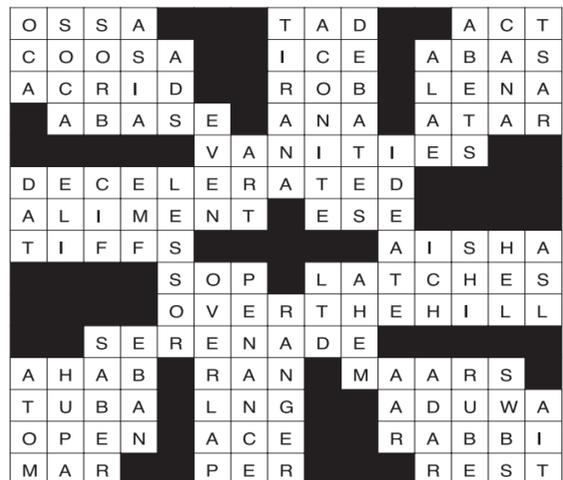
The Holyoke Sun
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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



**PUBLIC NOTICES
ARE NOW ONLINE**

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

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

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

BUSINESS,
from page 1

nate that somehow the accuracy, legitimacy of what the law department and the city solicitor has reported to the council and has exchanged with Councilor Jourdain several times, it is unfortunate now that once again, after over a month of meetings on this very topic, the council continues to believe...that we are not representing to him what DOR says," Bissonnette said.

Bissonnette respected that Jourdain had the right to bring questions to their attention, and he requested that the council not make further procedural motions on this topic.

"I think any other procedural motions at this point would be extremely dilatory, harmful to the city and certainly unfair to workers who have waited for a while to get this retroactive pay," Bissonnette said.

Jourdain wanted to take the time to ensure that the information being passed to the council was accurate. City Councilor Kocayne Givner was hesitant to delay this matter further.

"This information is not new, so I am not sure why we want to send it back to finance," Givner said. "It seems like it is pretty time

sensitive and we have all these people who have been waiting on their raise that has been legally negotiated."

Jourdain defended himself in questioning the law department, bringing up that the law department had made mistakes in the past and he felt that checking them by going to DOR or the Department of Legal Services was due diligence.

"I will just say that history has taught me that the law department has often been wrong, often," Jourdain said. "So we do our due diligence, maybe I just look into these things more than other people do."

He also argued that half the council was only upset by his questioning because they wanted to use the law department's decision as a way to get the item passed.

"These are protections that were put into place by the voters of Holyoke and they elected a council that, I am sorry, is split 7-6," Jourdain said. "That is their election, that is who they picked, and we don't just get to change the rules because we don't like how the election turned out."

In response to Jourdain, City Councilor Israel Rivera mentioned that it felt, to him, that it was only when certain councilors disagreed with something that rules and past

procedures were brought into the argument.

"Every time one person does not agree with something, we are citing rules and other instances and we do 30-minute speeches around ideologies and chastising others that are not voting in ways that agree with someone else," Rivera said. "That, to me, does not feel like a democratic process. It is wielding power that is not fair."

Rivera also brought up that different rules and procedures can be interpreted differently as time moves forward.

City Councilor Juan Anderson-Burgos also had a response for Jourdain.

"It seems like there is a certain I got you, I am right you are wrong, back and forth between the city solicitor and a specific city councilor here," Anderson-Burgos said. Additionally, Anderson-Burgos wanted to reply to the various comments made throughout the evening directed toward the newer councilors in regards to them questioning council rules.

"We have work to do here, not to talk about the election," he said. "This is not a vendetta...and since some city councilors have been here forever, think about this: this city has been in a rut for many years, so those years

belong to you, not the new city council. What the new city council is trying to do is get things done."

Anderson-Burgos also pointed out how the continued debates are slowing the government process.

"Our mayor is trying extremely hard to get things done and I feel you keep putting blockades so you can sit there and say, 'see? The mayor is doing a horrible job,'" he said. "To do things intentionally to not only make the people who are waiting to get paid suffer, and also to make the mayor look like he is doing a horrible job."

Following these responses, the council attempted to move the matter forward. However, they disagreed on what the next steps of the procedure should be.

Jourdain brought up that he did not believe that a first reading for the item had been conducted.

"To have a vote on the second reading...every single transfer that has come here, not just in this term, every time back to the time in memorium, we have had a vote on the first reading," Jourdain said.

Council President Tessa Murphy-Romboletti responded that, according to a legal opinion from the law department, her reading the item into the record the meeting

prior counted as a first reading.

"It got tabled at the last meeting and we took a motion to table it," Murphy-Romboletti said.

From there, the discussion escalated at about an hour and twenty minutes into the meeting, ending in Jourdain accusing Murphy-Romboletti of censorship and Murphy-Romboletti stating that he was out of order and not giving her proper respect.

"That is so unfair," Jourdain said. "I could talk all night on the way I am treated in these meetings...this is just censorship at this point. What are you going to have the police come and kick me out? That is next."

"Life is not fair," Murphy-Romboletti said. "You guys do a lot of stuff to me that makes things really unfair, to be honest, so if we are going to play that game...I am not getting into this with you, Councilor Jourdain."

Murphy-Romboletti then called a five-minute recess and, when the council returned, they took a vote to pass the first reading for item two on the agenda.

Then, they took another vote to pass the second reading for item two. This reading passed, 7-3, as Councilors Carmen Occasio, Linda Vacon and David Bartley had

all left the meeting at this point.

Jourdain protested this reading passing, as in the past going through a second reading on the same night as passing the first reading would require a two-thirds majority vote of the council.

"We just had two readings on the same night, in violation of section 22 of the charter, which requires a two-thirds vote of the body," he said.

Murphy-Romboletti then began to continue on with the meeting, however there was continued confusion over the next steps the council had to take.

As a result of this, the argument between her and Jourdain began again.

The city council ended their meeting after this argument. At this point they had only passed two items (items two and thirty) on their 65-item agenda.

"We have work to do here, not to talk about the election... What the new city council is trying to do is get things done."

- City Councilor Juan Anderson-Burgos

SUMMER CAMP GUIDE



MacDuffie offers fun summer camp

Camp MacDuffie is an exciting summer day camp for rising 1st to 8th graders.

Participants spend the morning engaged in a program area of their choosing, enjoy lunch by Sage Dining Services (included), and then stay active with various outdoor/indoor activities and field trips throughout the week.

Their program leaders are passionate and experienced, and they all look forward to creating a fun and supportive environment for your child to thrive in this summer.

Come along and join Camp MacDuffie this summer.

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MacDuffie Hoops Summer Camp available with Coach Steiner.

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This camp is for players who are serious about improving and want to sharpen their skills, build confidence, and grow their game.

The MacDuffie School is located in Granby, MA. Limited spots are available - Register today!

Don't miss your chance to train with Coach Steiner! Sign up now and get ready to work hard, compete, and have fun!

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- #TrainWithCoachSteiner
- #SummerBasketball
- #GetBetter

Day and overnight camp for girls

It's in our DNA. Our founder, Juliette Gordon Low, was a famous lover of nature. Today, Girl Scouts honors her legacy by promoting respect and love of the great outdoors far and wide.

Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts (GSCWM) summer camps offer a wide variety of programs for all different interests.

Summer camp is a great way for girls to explore leadership, build skills, and develop a deep appreciation for nature. In a girl-led environment, all campers are able to challenge themselves and take healthy risks while

surrounded by supportive friends and camp staff. No prior Girl Scout experience needed to attend Girl Scout camp!

Camping has been a cornerstone of the Girl Scout experience for more than a century. While girls are swimming, hiking, and honing their skills on the archery range, they're also achieving valuable life skills whether at Day Camp at Lewis Perkins in South Hadley or Overnight Camp at Bonnie Brae in Otis. Girl Scouts' dedication to progression in outdoor programming means campers practice age-appropriate skills and gain experience

they need to feel confident taking the next step in their outdoor journey.

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Camp Lewis Perkins and Camp Bonnie Brae are American Camp Association Accredited. More information and sign up here: <https://www.gscwm.org/en/members/for-girl-scouts/camp-and-outdoors/summer-camp.html>.

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