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March 7, 2025 ■ FREE

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Concerns raised about sports complex

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – Several community members have raised concerns about the sports complex planned to be built in ward 3.

This sports complex was announced in February of 2024 and is planned to be built behind Whiting Farms Road.

Residents of the area reached out with concerns about the lack of communication they have received from the city and the developers on this project.

“There has been no communication whatsoever with the community at all and it leaves a real sour taste in your mouth because this is going to impact us directly,” Ward 3 Resident Jordana O’Connell said.

The residents of ward 3 want to remain up to date on the information about the complex and have expressed their frustration on the lack of communication there has been thus far.

They want to be updated on the plans for the phasing of the project, the budget for the project and a feasibility study.

Additionally, the residents raised concerns about

how this project would impact the drainage in the area.

“Woodland Street has had a drainage problem for the last 30 years at least,” Ward 3 Resident Beth Strycharz said.

“The value of my home is my retirement fund, I need it to stay up.”

– Kerry Schoeffel

“I’m struggling with water in my basement, so that is going to destroy my horse, because there is no way they can develop this and not screw up the drainage,” Ward 3 Resident Kerry Schoeffel said. “There is no adequate drainage.”

This drainage problem has caused frequent issues for the Woodland Street residents and they fear that if the complex were to be built by their street it would only add to this issue.

Furthermore, they were concerned that this project could negatively impact their property values.

“The value of my home is my retirement fund, I need it to stay up,” Schoeffel said.

They also discussed their worries around how the project would affect traffic, pollution, noise and light in their neighborhood.

“The traffic is going to be insurmountable,” Strycharz said. “If you drive the streets now when two cars are coming down the street you have to pull over because you can’t get around the other cars due to the parking situation. So the traffic is going to be a huge issue.”

Moreover, the land area that will be developed for this project is a mostly wooded area. The residents do not want to lose this piece of nature that so many in their neighborhood enjoy.

Director of Planning and Economic Development Aaron Vega revealed that the developers of the complex are still working on the initial stages of the process.

“They are working on site acquisition and doing their due diligence as far as the fundraising and the business model which takes a long time,” Vega said.

See COMPLEX, page 5

Battle of the Bars helps raise money for committee

HOLYOKE – On Friday night, the St. Patrick’s Committee of Holyoke held the fifth annual Battle of the Bars bartending event at the Holyoke Knight of Columbus Council 90 to fundraise for the Committee.

Bartenders from six local bars competed for tips to see who wins and will host the trophy celebration.

Facing off in teams of two, Round One was taken by Donovan’s Irish Pub, represented by Trista Kasperowski, raising \$5,997, against Pic’s Pub & Pizzeria, represented by Matt Dulude, who raised \$1,639.

Round Two was captured by JP’s Restaurant, represented by Mary Kate Glasheen, with \$9,416 against Halfway House Lounge, represented by Colleen Flanagan, who raised \$7,639.

Round Three was taken by Griffin’s Cafe, represented by Ashleigh McNulty, raising \$1,122, against Francie’s Tavern, represented by Chy Clemens, who raised \$779.

In the end, JP’s Restaurant came out on top with \$9,416 raised, and the entire night’s fundraiser brought in over \$26,500,



Ali Slezek working the room for tips and Mary Kate Glasheen behind the bar helped JP’s Restaurant win the Battle of the Bars by raising more than \$9,400 for the St. Patrick’s Committee.

Submitted photo

an absolute record total for the event. A trophy celebration will be held at JP’s in the upcoming future. All money raised goes towards the St. Patrick’s Committee of Holyoke Marching

Forward fundraising campaign to present the 2025 St. Patrick’s Day Parade Weekend and to preserve the St. Patrick’s Day Parade and Road Race tradition for generations to come.

Outdoor games played indoors at HPL

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Public Library held an outdoor game day inside for teens to come and enjoy on their February break from school.

The teens were invited to play a variety of games,

including ladder ball, a jumbo connect four, pling pong, corn hole and air hockey.

Teen Librarian Robin Sinihao also provided a puzzle for teens to work on if they wanted a break from the louder and more interactive games.

Through this event,

Sinihao wanted to give teens a way for them to have some fun despite the recent weather.

“The weather is pretty terrible and I think people are looking for active things to do indoors,” Sinihao said. “I hope they have fun and get to burn off some energy,”

Additionally, she was

excited to see the library filled with teens playing around, as the recent weather has made it hard for people to make it out to the library.

“I’m looking forward to the rowdiness, the laughter and the rambunctiousness,” Sinihao said.

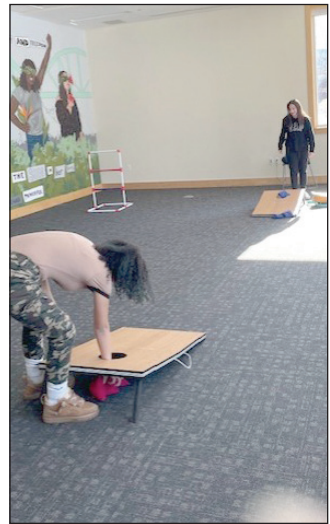
She also hoped that it would help to show the teens that they could come into the library for a variety of things.

“There are other things to do in the library aside from checking out books,” Sinihao said.

Sinihao got all of the games from the library’s collection of things.

“We have yard games, board games, musical instruments, like a keyboard and a steel drum,” Sinihao said. “In the kids’ rooms their library of things has binoculars and a microscope...it is a wide variety of stuff and we are still working on expanding it.”

See GAMES, page 5



Teens enjoyed playing corn hole at Holyoke Public Library.

Photos by Robin Sinihao



The jumbo connect four at the Holyoke Public Library outdoor games event drew some teens.



Kids came into Holyoke Public Library for the outdoor games program and had fun exploring the different activities.



City council debates first reading rule

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke city council held a special meeting on Feb. 24 to discuss items they had not gotten to during their meeting on Feb. 18.

During this meeting they began to discuss what constitutes a first reading of an item under city council rules.

This discussion began over items two through six on the agenda, which requested appropriation of funds to create a schematic design plan for fixing or replacing roofs on many of the school buildings in Holyoke.

This vote needed to be taken so that Maintenance Administrator Sean Sheedy could send the council’s approval to the Massachusetts Association of School Committees so Holyoke could receive reimbursement for these projects.

City Councilor Kevin Jourdain stated that the city council had always had the rule in place that the city council president would read out the item and then the council would have to take a vote to pass the first reading.

However, City Council President Tessa Murphy-Romboletti proposed a rule change, based on information she had received from Attorney Michael Bissonnette.

Murphy-Romboletti stated that her reading the item into the record at a previous meeting and the item then being sent to a committee counted as a first reading of the item.

Bissonnette agreed with this ruling.

“The city council voted to send an order to the finance committee,” Bissonnette said. “According to the supreme judicial court of Massachusetts...that case says that a referral to a committee constitutes the first reading.”

City Councilor Linda Vacon raised concerns over this, as she did not want to go without the vote to approve the first reading and jeopardize the legality of the vote.

“My concern is that if we do not pass both readings and the vote is found to be illegal, that we will endanger all of the funding,” Vacon said.

Bissonnette responded that doing the vote as he recommended would not jeopardize its legality.

“That would not be the case,” Bissonnette said. “The MSBA has a long policy of recognizing city council votes as they are sent forward through the city clerk.”

Jourdain, while understanding that it would not impact the legality of the vote, was still hesitant to jump right to approving the second reading of the items.

“If we are going to make a change of this nature there should be an order filed, we should have a meeting at charter and rules, we should have Mr. Bissonnette in, we can talk about this case,” Jourdain said. “We can talk about what this city has been doing 15 times a meeting for 100 years, always doing

See DEBATES, page 5

St. Patrick's Breakfast set for March 20 at Log Cabin

HOLYOKE – Join us on Thursday, March 20, from 7:30 to 9 a.m., at The Log Cabin, for the annual St. Patrick's Breakfast—a must-attend event that brings together community spirit, tradition, and meaningful connections.

This celebrated gathering is more than just breakfast; it's a chance to honor Holyoke's rich Irish heritage, build relationships, and make a genuine impact in the community. The event is open to everyone, and all are encour-

aged to take part in this morning of pride, unity, and inspiration. Whether you've been part of this tradition for years or you're joining for the first time, now is the time to get involved.

Why This Breakfast Matters

The St. Patrick's Breakfast highlights the strength of our connections and the pride we share in Holyoke's history. It's where neighbors, friends, and local leaders come together to

celebrate milestones, foster opportunities, and pave the way for a brighter future.

Calling all small business owners

This year, we're offering an exclusive opportunity for small businesses to shine. Through the Shamrock Charm sponsorship, your promotional materials will be placed directly at the table of every attendee—enhancing your visibility and demonstrating your support for the community.

Sponsorship spots are limited, and early registration is essential to secure your place. This is your chance to connect with an engaged audience, boost your local presence, and contribute to an event that strengthens community ties.

Reserve Your Spot Today

There's no better time to commit to this inspiring event. By signing up now,



you'll secure your place at a celebration that unites us all. Bring your enthusiasm, your pride, and your appetite for connection as we come together to honor tradition and community.

For ticket registration, sponsorship details, and further event information, visit holyokechamber.com or contact Lisa Totz, interim director at 413.534.3376, director@holyokechamber.com.

Dominoes club hosted at library

HOLYOKE – Love the strategic game of dominoes? Come play it at the Holyoke Public Library from 5 to 7 p.m. every Monday starting Monday, March 10. The weekly games will be held in the first-floor board room. For more information, call Abbey at 413-420-8101 or email abuedinger@holyokelibrary.org. The event is geared toward adults.

MiraVista expands 'Top Talent Tuesday' hours

HOLYOKE – MiraVista Behavioral Health Center is proud to announce the expansion of its Top Talent Tuesday hiring event, now running from 9:30 AM to 7:00 PM every Tuesday in March, providing even more opportunities for nurses to explore careers in behavioral health. This extended schedule allows busy nursing professionals the flexibility to meet with MiraVista's nursing leadership, participate in on-the-spot interviews, and even receive same-day hiring decisions.

With a growing demand for mental health services

for both adults and adolescents, MiraVista is committed to strengthening its team of compassionate, dedicated nurses who play a vital role in supporting individuals on their journey to recovery. The organization is offering a sign-on bonus of up to \$15,000 for qualified nursing candidates, recognizing the invaluable contributions of top nursing professionals in behavioral health.

"As the demand for mental health services continues to rise, MiraVista remains at the forefront of providing innovative, patient-centered care for indi-

viduals facing mental health challenges and substance use disorders, said Coreen Lord, MiraVista's Director of Talent Acquisition. "Top Talent Tuesday offers nurses a direct pathway to becoming part of a team that values clinical excellence, professional growth, and a strong sense of purpose in the work they do."

Lord added that nurses are the heart of patient care, and their impact extends far beyond clinical responsibilities. "At MiraVista, we foster a positive, supportive environment where nurses are empowered to make a differ-

ence every day. By extending our Top Talent Tuesday hours, we hope to connect with even more nurses looking for a career that is both professionally and personally fulfilling."

MiraVista offers a collaborative, team-oriented workplace that prioritizes employee well-being, professional development, and work-life balance. The organization is deeply committed to its mission of providing exceptional behavioral health care while fostering a workplace culture that values compassion, respect, and continuous learning.

Public meeting March 12

HOLYOKE – The City of Holyoke will hold a public information meeting on Wednesday, March 12, to discuss proposed improvements on Main Street between South Canal and Mosher Streets. The meeting will be held at Nueva Esperanza Mercado, 409 Main Street, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

The purpose of this hearing is to give the public an opportunity to provide feedback related to proposed improvements designed to increase safety along the Main Street corridor and improve pavement conditions. Conceptual plans include reha-

bilitation of existing pavement, reconstruction of sidewalks, addition of bicycle accommodations, improved pedestrian crossings, and traffic signal upgrades. The project has been submitted to MassDOT for inclusion in the state's Transportation Improvement Program which, if approved, could allow for full federal funding of the construction costs of the project, with the City being responsible for design and right-of-way coordination. Those unable to attend this meeting are invited to email Matthew Sokop, City Engineer, at sokopm@holyoke.org with questions or comments.

NAMI to host family program March 11

HOLYOKE – NAMI Western Massachusetts is pleased to offer their NAMI Family-to-Family Education Program in person, starting Tuesday, March 11, beginning at 6 p.m. in Holyoke.

NAMI Family-to-Family is a free, 8-session education-

al program for family, significant others, and friends of people with mental health conditions. It is a designated evidenced-based program. This means that research shows that the program significantly improves the coping and problem-solving

abilities of the people closest to a person with a mental health condition.

NAMI Family-to-Family is taught by NAMI-trained family members who have been there and includes presentations, discussions, and interactive exercises.

Committee to honor Frederick 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 program 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 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.holyokestpatricksparade.com. The 72nd Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade will be held on Sunday, March 23, and the 48th Holyoke St. Patrick's Road Race on Saturday, March 22.

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Six HPS educators receive prestigious Grinspoon Award

HOLYOKE – Six Holyoke Public Schools educators were surprised and honored on Monday, March 3 when Superintendent Anthony Soto entered their classrooms bearing flowers, balloons, and a proclamation from Holyoke Mayor Joshua A. Garcia to let them know they were selected to receive Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Awards this year.

Since 2003, the award has been distributed annually to honor Western Massachusetts educators for their dedication and excellence. More than 100 Western Massachusetts educators are honored each year. The awardees are:

• **Jill Beyer-Hamel**, special education teacher at E.N. White Elementary, is a dedicated and highly effective teacher, recognized for her collaborative approach and comprehensive understanding of her students' individual needs. She works closely with colleagues to discuss inclusive teaching practices to ensure that each student receives the necessary sup-

port to thrive. With a passion for fostering an engaging and enjoyable learning experience, she cultivates a positive and inclusive classroom environment that promotes both academic and personal growth. She has also served on the district's Teacher Retention Working Group and Teacher Advisory Group.

• **Alexis Finn**, English language arts teacher at Holyoke STEM Academy, is an extraordinary educator who plans and delivers impactful, standards-aligned lessons for her students—and supports her fellow teachers by sharing her knowledge through professional development sessions, as well. Ms. Finn excels at building meaningful relationships with students and families, fostering trust, high expectations, and a supportive learning environment. She demonstrates leadership beyond the classroom as a member of STEM's Instructional Leadership Team and the district wide Middle School Working Group. She also coach-

es multiple sports teams through the Boys and Girls Club.

• **Julia Miele**, first grade teacher at McMahon Elementary, is an outstanding teacher whose students consistently show strong growth. She uses data to inform instruction with a growth mindset and focus on students' assets. She believes in each student and supports her students to meet high expectations. Ms. Miele builds strong relationships with each student, their families, and her colleagues. Her warm presence radiates beyond her classroom to collaboration time, meetings, professional development, and at school events. She is also a member of the districtwide Teacher Advisory Group.

• **Maria Negroni**, science teacher at Sullivan Middle School, consistently exemplifies the qualities of an exceptional educator. Ms. Negroni is always thoroughly prepared; she develops thoughtful lesson plans and engaging activities for

every class. Her high expectations challenge students to strive for their best, while her unwavering support helps them realize their potential. A fantastic team player, Maria collaborates with colleagues and shares resources and ideas to enhance the learning experience. She goes above and beyond to support students and their families, offering guidance and assistance wherever needed.

• **Richard Rodriguez**, school adjustment counselor at Holyoke High School North, has created a safe, welcoming, restorative, and reflective environment in the student support room, which is a model in the district. Mr. Rodriguez builds trusting relationships with countless students and changes lives every single day. He teaches students the importance of mindfulness, human connections, restorative practice, asking for help, and seeing the humanity in each and every person. He works to support all students so that they feel safe, seen, and that

they belong so they can be successful in school and beyond.

• **Emma Rose**, music teacher at Lawrence Elementary, was nominated for her leadership within and beyond the classroom. Ms. Rose has built a thriving music program at Lawrence, where her students in grades PreK-5 develop their musical talents and an appreciation for the joy of music. She has also demonstrated exceptional leadership and initiative by serving as the co-department head of the district's Music program. One of her most impressive achievements has been the development of a comprehensive elementary school curriculum, tailored to meet the diverse needs of our students.

These six PVETA award winners, along with other nominees, were recognized during a dinner hosted by Superintendent Anthony Soto and Mayor Joshua Garcia at Wyckoff Country Club on Thursday, February 27.

The award winners will also be recognized during a

dinner hosted by the Harold Grinspoon Charitable Foundation in April.

Winners will receive an engraved plaque, a check for \$250, and tuition incentives and scholarships offered by seven major colleges and universities in the region—Elms College, Bay Path University, Mount Holyoke College, Springfield College, Western New England University, Westfield State University, and the University of Massachusetts. Winners will also receive three-month memberships at the Springfield Jewish Community Center and at a regional YMCA of their choosing.

All winners are further invited to apply for the selective Classroom Innovator Prize of \$250. Created to foster educators' interest and engagement in project based learning, teachers can submit a project-based learning idea. All winners interested in this important teaching methodology will be supported by professional development opportunities.

Lifeguard certification offered

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Parks & Recreation Department is offering a lifeguard Red Cross certification training course at the Holyoke Boys and Girls Club (70 Nick Cosmos Way).

The session will take place May 3, 4 and 18. Participants need to attend all three classes. Applicants must be 16 years of age. Strong swimmers are encour-

aged to apply. Participants must pass a pre-skills test at the start of class. \$175.00 for Holyoke residents and \$275.00 for non-residents.

A Lifeguard Re-Certification Class will also be offered on May 18. The class will run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Holyoke Boys and Girls Club (70 Nick Cosmos Way).

Update your skills while

also extending your certification for another two years. The cost is \$125 for Holyoke residents and \$225 for non-residents.

Please register at the Holyoke Parks and Recreation Department, 413-322-5620.

Participants must register and be paid in full before attending the class. Limited space available.

Shuttle service available during green season holiday events

HOLYOKE – The City of Holyoke and the Tourism Advisory Committee are excited to announce the details of the Road Race and St. Patrick's Day Free Shuttle bus services.



Thanks to funding from the Mass Gaming Mitigation Grant, the OPED team and Tourism Advisory Committee are delighted to offer shuttle services for the Road Race and St. Patrick's Day Parade.

The Shuttle will run on a loop every 30 minutes from the MGM Casino to City Hall in Holyoke. The MGM Casino provides free parking, so simply park your car and enjoy a

safe ride to the festivities in Holyoke. Pick up will be at MGM Springfield on MGM Way in front of South End Market, and drop off will be at the Holyoke City Hall parking deck on Dwight Street.

Enjoy a fantastic weekend with all the best that Holyoke and Springfield have to offer.

March 22 and 23. The buses will run on a loop every thirty minutes from MGM and Holyoke City Hall.

• 11:00 a.m.: First shuttle leaves MGM Casino for Holyoke City Hall

• 4:30 p.m. (4:45 p.m. on Sunday): Last shuttle leaves City Hall for MGM

Casino

Special Thanks to our operator Michael's Busline

"We're excited to offer this service once again", Aaron Vega Director of Planning and Economic Development said, adding "It's a great partnership with MGM and of course the amazing Parade Committee to ensure the weekend is filled with celebration and is safe for all involved".

Visit Explore Holyoke for more information about events and happenings in Holyoke and a full page of Parade related activities.

For more information, please contact the Office of Planning and Economic Development keittj@holyoke.org or vegaa@holyoke.org.

Providence Place announces concert

HOLYOKE – If you missed our kickoff concert last month, you will not want to miss the next! Our second Spring Concert Series of 2025 is on Sunday, April 6 at 2 p.m. in Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel at Providence Place.

Providence Place is

located at 5 Gamelin St. in Holyoke, right behind the Holyoke Mall.

The April 6 concert performance is the Roberts and Nix Duo featuring Shelley Roberts, soprano; and Michael Nix, classical guitar and banjo: Songs and solos from England, Spain and

America. This event is free and open to the public with ample parking available, no RSVP is necessary.

For more information on the concert or if you are interested in learning more about our retirement community, please contact Katelyn Bacon at 413-534-9700.

Read The Holyoke Sun online at www.sun.turley.com

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Hibernians Kick Off the High Holy Days of March

In concert with the festivities surrounding the 2025 Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade, The Hibernians of Hampden/Hampshire Counties invite the public to attend the **Annual Communion Breakfast**, Sunday March 16 at 8 a.m.

Memorial Mass at St. Jerome's Church - Breakfast at 9 a.m. at Wyckoff CC, 233 Easthampton Rd., Holyoke; Honoring *Owen Donohue* with the 2025 Hibernian Christian Charity Award; Guest Speaker will be *Teri Schindler* - writer, director, producer; worked for NBC, HBO, and ESPN; won an Emmy for her work in 2000 Sydney Australia Olympics; founding member of WNBA; First woman to produce live NCAA broadcasts; all American Swimmer; married to announcer Mike Gorman; daughter Kristen and son-in-law Marc.

For reservations call Atty. John J. Driscoll at 413-534-0445 by March 14. Tickets are \$25 per person. Tables of 10. Tickets may be purchased at eventbrite.com

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

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Saturday, March 15th 5-7pm
Irish Night Dinner
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Guest Column

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor



Should I wait until age 70 to claim Social Security?

Dear Rusty:

I am a married woman, at my full retirement age and the primary earner in my marriage.

How do I know if I should take my Social Security now or wait till 70? I will lose quite a bit if I take it now. How will it affect my taxes if I take it now while still working a full-time job?

Signed: Undecided

As you apparently already know, waiting until you are 70 to claim Social Security will result in you getting your maximum possible monthly SS retirement benefit. After your full retirement age, you get about 8% more each year you delay claiming up to age 70. But deciding exactly when to claim should consider both your financial needs and, importantly, your life expectancy.

If you don't urgently need the money now and your life expectancy is at least "average," then waiting until age 70 to claim is usually the right choice. But if you urgently need the money or your life expectancy is less than average (mid-80s for a woman your current age), then claiming before age 70 is usually prudent.

Regarding taxation, Social Security benefits may be taxable if your combined income from all sources exceeds the threshold for your IRS filing status. If you file taxes as "married/jointly" and your combined income including your work income exceeds \$32,000, then half of the SS benefits you received during the tax year becomes part of your taxable income.

But if your combined income is over \$44,000, then up to 85% of your SS benefits becomes taxable income (the thresholds are

lower for those who file as a single). So, your full-time work income will likely affect how much of your Social Security benefits are subject to income tax by the IRS.

In the end, only you can decide when you should claim Social Security. Taxation of benefits may be a factor to consider since you are still working full time (thus more of your SS benefits will be taxable). But waiting longer to claim results in a higher benefit for the rest of your life (your SS retirement benefit will be .667% more for each month you delay, up to age 70). If the "rest of your life" is a long time and you don't urgently need the money, waiting is often the right choice. If not, claiming earlier may be wiser.

If you want to get a more personalized estimate of your life expectancy, I suggest you use the tool we use here at the AMAC Foundation: www.socialsecurityreport.org/tools/life-expectancy-calculator/.

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

And just like that it's springtime again

Well, maybe I am getting a bit ahead of myself. This coming weekend the days will feel a little longer because of Daylight Savings, when we "spring forward" an hour.

The evenings will begin to lure us outside after supper, maybe for a walk or just a look-see around the yard. For me, one sign of "spring" is starting my pepper seeds indoors.

They are the earliest transplants I grow at home, and I am so excited to get started! Regular readers of the column may remember that I love growing peppers. Perhaps it is because I have the perfect spot—stone edged raised beds—that contain the heat and help them to grow quite successfully.

By week's end my pepper seeds will have been sown in moist lightweight seed starting mix and placed on bottom heat. Seventy-eight to 80 degrees is perfect for germinating pepper seeds; at those temps I expect to see sprouting in eight days or so.

Once they sprout, I will place the flats within inches of my shop lights and adjust the lights as they grow. When the second set of leaves form, known as the "true leaves," the pepper seedlings will find their way into six packs or their own two inch pot.

By late April or early May, they will be given a larger pot once more; usually a four inch pot will do. After a hardening off period, I will transplant them into the ground once it has warmed considerably—usually by June first.

A couple weeks prior to that I provide black plastic mulch on top of soil to get it pre-heated and ready for these



by Roberta McQuaid

peppers, and they are just that. Make a decadent snack by filling with veggie cream cheese, or stick to healthier eating by adding one or two to a personal salad.

Paprika peppers also fall into the sweet pepper category. Fruits are up to six inches long and three inches wide at the top and come to a blunt point.

Dry and grind to make your own paprika spice in a coffee grinder. Indispensable when sprinkled on deviled eggs!

Frying or pickling peppers go by the names Sweet Banana, Sweet Hungarian, or Cubanelle among others. They are good candidates for frying because of their thin walls and scant water content.

Sweet Banana was noted in 1941 as an All American Selections winner and is still growing strong 60+ years later!

Pimento peppers are those used to stuff with green olives. My Italian husband just loves it when his sister Denise makes this holiday treat!

They grow a squatly three by four inches and are ripe when red or orange, depending on variety. Expect these to take a bit longer than the other types, a full 85 or more days from transplant to harvest.

If you too are a pepper lover, and want to see the earliest yields possible, get ready, get set, and get sowing those pepper seeds!

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.



Turn your clocks ahead on Sunday, March 9

The Holyoke Sun welcomes election letters to the editor

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

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

For more information, call 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspa-

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

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

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the Sun
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The Holyoke Sun is published every Friday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.



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www.sun.turley.com

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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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Museum exhibit rings in Women's History Month

H O L Y O K E – 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 reception 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!"



DEBATES, from page 1

the same thing."

He wanted to have a meeting discussing this change in procedure before the council began to implement it.

"I am willing to listen and have a meeting," Jourdain said. "If we are going to make major changes then let's talk about the appli-

cation of this case."

Given this argument, Murphy-Romboletti ruled that the council would take a vote to pass the first and second reading for this meeting, but she said that the same would not necessarily occur moving forward.

"I am the president and I am going to take the way that I see fit at our next meeting," Murphy-Romboletti said. "If

that is not okay with you, you can take the action that you need to take...I get it, change is hard, sometimes the law changes, sometimes the law department tells me, 'this is what you should do,' and I will listen."

With this decision made, the council unanimously voted to approve each of items two through six on the agenda.

COMPLEX, from page 1

It is due to this that the ward 3 residents have received minimal communication from the city and the developers. They simply do not have information to give the residents yet.

Vega hopes to have the developers in for a redevelopment authority meeting in February so they can receive an update on the development process.

Additionally, Vega hopes to have more information on the next steps of the project by the end of the calendar year, but that all depends on the timeline of the developers.

He also reassured residents that all of the concerns they brought up will be addressed through the site plan.

"Those concerns about traffic, lighting, all of that will be part of the site plan review," Vega said.

In response to the worries about drainage, Vega promises that there are regulations around the issue that the developers will be sure to abide by to ensure that they do not negatively impact the community.

As this project continues to go forward, Vega and other city employees working on the project will do their best to ensure that ward 3 residents are informed of the development plans.

GAMES, from page 1

If people are interested in seeing this collection, they are welcome to come by the library at any time during their hours.

Additionally, Siniaho encourages people to come out to the library for the events they have planned throughout the month of March.

"The library has all sorts of activities at all times," Siniaho said.

One example of these activities is that every

Thursday at 4 p.m., the library holds a crafternoon for teens. There is another similar program for kids at 4 p.m. on Wednesdays.

At this program teens can come in and unwind from the school day by doing some crafts with their friends.

Another available program at the library is the weekly genealogy lab. This lab is from 2:30 to 5:30 every Wednesday and people are welcome to drop in anytime within those hours.

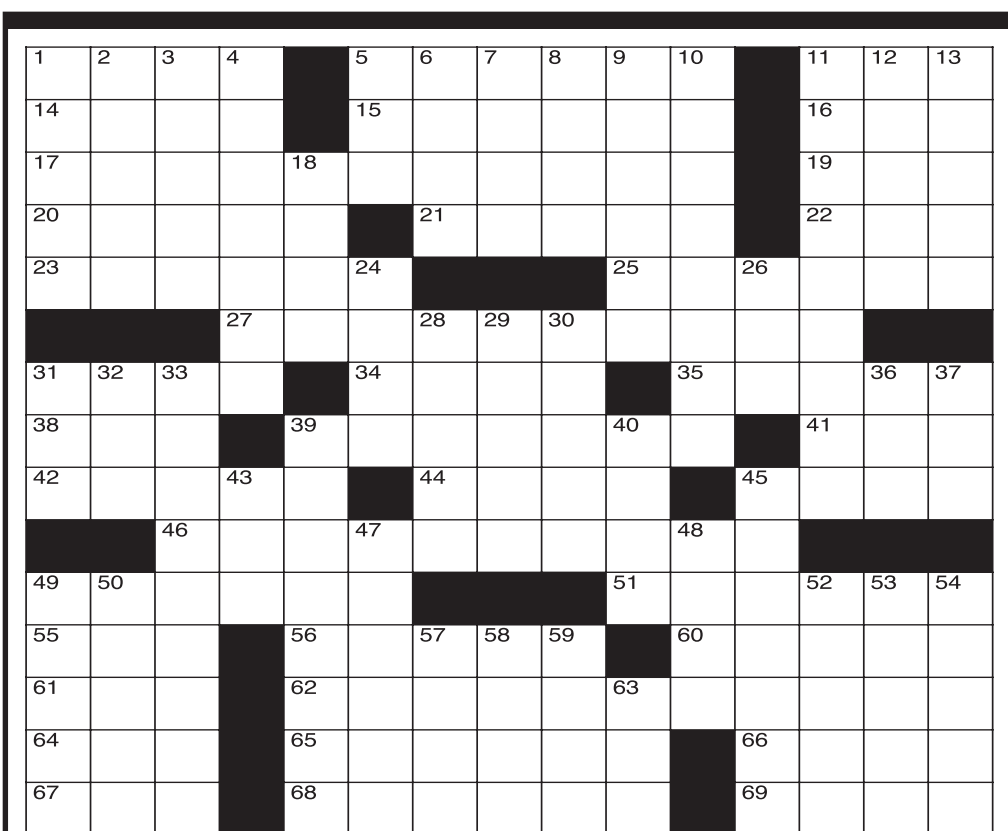
Siniaho is planning another big event for the end

of March. People of all ages are welcome to come in at 11 a.m. on Mar. 29 for puzzle racing.

People are welcome to sign up in teams of two to four to complete a 500 piece puzzle.

To keep updated on other fun programs at HPL, go to their website at <https://www.holyokelibrary.org/> or drop by in person.

Community members are also invited to sign up for the library's newsletter, which is available through their website.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Cut a little bit off
- 5. State with confidence
- 11. River in NE Scotland
- 14. Not narrow
- 15. Lacking social polish
- 16. Amount of time
- 17. Frame
- 19. Automobile
- 20. Toadstools
- 21. High school dances
- 22. Utilize
- 23. Challenged
- 25. One-sided
- 27. Showing extreme greed
- 31. Potted plants
- 34. Everyone has one
- 35. Lake in Botswana
- 38. E.T. rode in one
- 39. Juniors' parents
- 41. Small amount

- 42. Mother of Perseus
- 44. Ornamental box
- 45. Gov't investigators
- 46. Uncertain
- 49. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
- 51. The vast grassy plains in S. America
- 55. Your consciousness of your own identity
- 56. Noted consumer advocate
- 60. Spanish sports club
- 61. Body part
- 62. Tractability
- 64. Woman (French)
- 65. Ready and willing to be taught

- 5. A number everyone has
- 6. Marine invertebrate
- 7. One who takes you to court
- 8. Indicates outer
- 9. Parallelograms
- 10. Strains
- 11. Cross
- 12. A way to remove
- 13. Some pages are dog-__
- 18. Ukraine city
- 24. A citizen of Denmark
- 26. Summer month (abbr.)
- 28. Hindu queens
- 29. Jewelry brand
- 30. Fictional rider of Rohan
- 31. Wet dirt
- 32. Russian city
- 33. Observed

- 36. Furious
- 37. Drivers' licenses
- 39. Musical composition
- 40. Auction
- 43. They __
- 45. Women
- 47. Inspire with love
- 48. Japanese ankle sock
- 49. Appears
- 50. Old World lizard
- 52. The leading performer
- 53. Type of protein
- 54. Pennsylvania town
- 57. Art __: around 1920
- 58. __ Blyton, children's author
- 59. Abnormal breathing
- 63. A place to sleep
- 66. Muslim ruler title
- 67. Depressed
- 68. Gradually gave way
- 69. Clear-thinking

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 7

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

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

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

Deadline: March 30, 2025

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

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

Applicants for the scholarship must be:

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



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

CHURCH DIRECTORY



Blessed Sacrament Parish

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

First Baptist Church

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

Our Lady of the Cross Catholic Parish

Pastor: Fr. Albert Scherer, OFM Conv.
Email: pastor@ourladyofthecross.com
Holy Cross Ave., Holyoke
Parish Offices are located at: 15 Maple Street, Holyoke (413) 532-5661
parish@ourladyofthecross.com
OFFICE HOURS:
Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
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

Your Community Church

St. Peter's Lutheran Church

Rev. Debora Stein
34 Jarvis Ave., Holyoke
Office: (413) 536-3369
Office: stpetersholyokey@gmail.com
Pastor: revdebma@gmail.com
Website: www.stpetersholyokey.org
Social media:
facebook.com/stpetersholyokey
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)

SPORTS

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Offense rolls as Knights advance in tournament

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke High School boys basketball team continued its great season with a win in the Round of 32 of the Division 2 State Tournament. Last Thursday night,

Holyoke defeated Wakefield 93-56.

Jordan King-Perilli and Aden Cabrera had 17 points each. Calvin Godbolt and Jacob Andujar had 13 points each and Chauncey Ruiz

scored 12 points as Holyoke is now 16-4.

The second round of Holyoke was going to feature Oliver Ames High School as the Knights' opponent.



Calvin Godbolt goes for a shot.



Chauncey Ruiz gets a put-back.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Jordan King-Perilli takes the left side approach to the hoop.



Jaycob Andujar takes a free throw.



Left, Cameron Tejada shoots on the run. Right, Aden Cabrera goes for a layup.

International Volleyball Hall of Fame hosts Morgan Classic



International
Volleyball
Hall of Fame™

HOLYOKE – The 2025 International Volleyball Hall of Fame Morgan Classic Tournament & Clinic was a resounding success Feb. 22 and 23, with the clinic selling out and more than 100 players participating in a premier learning experience.

On the court, the New York University men's vol-

leyball team dominated the competition, winning the championship match in straight sets against Illinois Wesleyan.

Led by tournament MVP Lucas Osiecki, along with standout performances from Luke Boyer and Devyn Nguyen, NYU extended its undefeat-

ed streak to 13-0. Illinois Wesleyan put up a strong fight, particularly in the final set, but ultimately fell short against the top-ranked team.

In the consolation match, Springfield College (who won the previous eight consecutive Morgan Classic Tournaments), delivered a

commanding performance against Arcadia University, sweeping them in three decisive sets.

Led by Joey Preische, Evan Costley, and AJ Seveland, the Pride showcased their offensive efficiency, hitting .563 in the opening set and never looking back. Springfield's Jake

DesLauriers and Arcadia's Tucker Elicio earned All-Tournament Team honors for their efforts.

The tournament once again reinforced the prestige of the Morgan Classic, bringing together top-tier collegiate programs and athletes while celebrating the rich history of the sport.

COLLEGE NEWS

Parker nets 13 off the bench for Owls

WESTFIELD – Senior forward Eric Johnson (Houston, Texas) delivered a double-double with an 18-point, 10-rebound performance to lead the top-seeded Westfield State Owls to the 2025 MASCAC Conference Championship title with a convincing 93-63 victory over the second-seeded Salem State Vikings on Saturday afternoon from the Woodward Center in Westfield, Mass.

The championship victory secures Westfield State (21-6) the MASCAC's automatic qualifying bid into the NCAA Division III Tournament, which begins

next week. Westfield also earned their third MASCAC title in the last five seasons and fourth championship under head coach Rich Sutter. It will be the Owls sixth NCAA tournament appearance.

The Owls enter the national tournament on a two-game winning streak and will await their seeding and opponent during Monday's selection show. Salem State (12-15), making their first championship game appearance since 2019, ends their season after a strong run into the title game.

The championship

game, played before a capacity crowd at the Woodward Center, saw Westfield State overcome an early 5-3 deficit to build a commanding 59-37 half-time lead while shooting a blistering 69.7 percent from the floor (23-33 FG), including six of nine from beyond the arc. The Owls then cruised to a 30-point victory after outscoring the Vikings by eight in the second half. The Owls shot an impressive 50.7% from the field while holding Salem State to just 41.0% shooting, demonstrating their superiority on both ends of the court.

Salem State opened the scoring with Omri Merryman's (Lynn, Mass.) jumper two minutes into the contest, and the Vikings built a small 5-3 lead after LJ Hicks (Gardner, Mass.) connected on a three-pointer with 17:34 remaining in the first half. However, Westfield State quickly seized control when Xavier Lewis (Long Island, N.Y.) knocked down three first-half triples, including one at the 18:57 mark that gave the Owls their first lead at 3-2. From there, Westfield State's offense found its

See OWLS, page 7

COLLEGE NEWS

Rohan scores 30 points for Cougars

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College men's basketball saw their season come to a close on Saturday afternoon, falling on the road 105-75 to regional opponent Bunker Hill CC. The Cougars fought valiantly throughout the contest as they did during the entire 2024-25 campaign.

Dylan Rohan (Holyoke, MA / Holyoke HS) had a big game in the finale, scoring 30 points which included five three-pointers. Rohan finishes the season as the Cougars'

leader in points (476), three-pointers (67) and free throws made (65). James Fitzgibbons (Hadley, MA / Hopkins Academy) closed the season grabbing 10 rebounds in final game. Fitzgibbons finishes the year as Holyoke's leader in rebounds (190).

Men's basketball ends the season with a 2-20 regional record and a 2-22 overall record. Both victories came on the road.

Nine members of this year's team can return to play next season.

Thunderbirds take the win in a shootout over Providence

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – The Springfield Thunderbirds (27-19-2-4) dispatched 2-0 and 3-2 deficits en route to a 4-3 shootout win over the Providence Bruins (30-17-4-2) on Saturday night at Amica Mutual Pavilion.

The game's scoring began with a flurry in the final three minutes of a first period that had been quiet until that point. Vadim Zherenko had a tremendous highlight-reel moment past the period's midpoint as he stretched out the right leg to make a breakaway save on a Vinni Lettieri backhand bid.

Providence, though, got back to work and took advantage of a 5-on-3 situation when Oliver Wahlstrom

beat Zherenko as the first penalty expired to give the Bruins a 1-0 lead at 17:04. Wahlstrom's goal marked his first in the AHL in nearly five years, as he was playing his first game in the league since March 11, 2020.

The Bruins lead grew to 2-0 just two minutes later as Riley Tufte crashed the net to tip a Patrick Brown centering attempt by the skate of Zherenko. In the process, however, Tufte was penalized for interference on Zherenko after the puck crossed the line.

While Tufte's goal stood, the T-Birds' power play got a pivotal answer with just 12 seconds left in the first as Dalibor Dvorsky snapped a five-game goal

drought with a sizzling wristler from the right circle off a cross-seam pass from Nikita Alexandrov.

The Springfield power play continued its potent night just 2:07 into the second period, as Matthew Peca deflected a Matt Luff snapper past Michael DiPietro to tie the game, 2-2. Peca's goal tied his career-high in a single season (23) and tied Adam Gaudette for the longest goal-scoring streak in team history, as the captain has tallied a goal in six straight contests.

The Bruins generated most of the chances the remainder of the middle frame, but Zherenko stood firm in his crease, turning aside all 17 Providence

attempts to carry the 2-2 game into the final period.

Tufte made things difficult on the T-Birds again when he broke in and beat Zherenko on a forehand chip shot 22 seconds into the final period, restoring the Providence lead to 3-2.

From that point onward, though, Zherenko made sure the home team would not get any insurance, keeping the deficit at a single goal. After getting a clutch penalty kill with less than 3:30 remaining in regulation, Corey Andonovski picked a fantastic time to net his first goal as a T-Bird. The newly acquired winger stopped at the bottom of the left circle and proved to be in the perfect spot as a MacKenzie

MacEachern rebound off DiPietro's pads found his stick. Andonovski snapped it by DiPietro, setting the stage for Springfield's third straight overtime game.

The visitors carried the play in the extra session with five of the six shots on net, but DiPietro fended off each bid, including a breakaway effort by Luff. For a third straight contest, the game advanced to a shootout. After neither team converted on the netminders in the first two rounds, Tanner Dickinson finally elevated a backhand under the crossbar to give Springfield the edge. Needing a goal from John Farinacci to extend the shootout, the Bruins got just that, as the centerman faked

beautifully to the backhand side and forced a fourth round.

Alexandrov had his chance at redemption after coming up short on a game-winning attempt on Friday, and the T-Birds' jack-of-all-trades made a magnificent backhand-to-forehand maneuver to beat DiPietro. Tufte was unsuccessful in his bid to solve Zherenko in the bottom of the round, and the T-Birds completed their comeback and victory. Zherenko finished the night with 42 saves in regulation and overtime, followed by three saves on four shootout attempts. In defeat, DiPietro stopped 31 attempts in 65 minutes before the shootout.

Worcester Railers outlast Bloomington Bison

WORCESTER – Officially, baseball is the only sport with double-headers, but it felt like the Railers-Wrenches played one Saturday night.

Worcester tied the first game, 4-4. It won the second one, 2-0. That added up to a 6-4 victory over the Bloomington Bison and two more points in the North Division playoff race.

The home team got big offensive performances from Griffin Loughran, Matthew Kopperud (again), Lincoln Hatten and Matt DeMelis. Loughran and Kopperud were 1-1-2. DeMelis scored two goals. Hatten had the first three-point game of his career going 1-2-3.

Worcester winger Ryan Mahshie did not record a

point. He did, however, record a hit that changed the nature of the night. At 14:26 of the second period, Mahshie delivered a clean, hard body check that led to a fight. He knocked down Bloomington's Josh Boyer with a couple of hard punches early and got the building energized.

"That hit by Mahshie was the turning point of the game," coach Nick Tuzzolino said.

The first 27 1/2 minutes of the match were wild. There are next-goal-wins games, but this was like next-shot-wins. The teams traded eight goals in that span and Worcester chased Bison goalie Yaniv Perets after Kopperud made it 4-3 at 2:43 of the second period. Bloomington tied it

at 7:30 on a goal by Jake Murray, who had a great night at 1-3-4. Kasimir Kaskisuo replaced Perets, but Tuzzolino stuck with Hugo Ollas.

Ollas played shutout hockey the rest of the way. Kaskisuo played well, also. The Railers finally regained the lead on DeMelis' goal at 7:24 of the third period then Anthony Callin hit an empty net at 18:21.

How did Worcester regroup and play shutdown hockey after the early barrage?

"I yelled loudly," Tuzzolino said.

"We talk about it all the time. Our biggest flaw as a team is goals against. If you look at the numbers, we have the worst goals-against stat in our division for the

spot we're in. If we fix that, we're gonna win games, plain and simple.

"We have to understand that if we don't sell the farm and play systematically, we're gonna beat most teams."

The victory allowed Worcester to be able to control its fate. If it wins the rest of its games, it makes the playoffs no matter what anybody else does. That is the math, anyway. The reality is different, particularly since the home team faces a tough schedule.

Worcester plays three at first place Trois-Rivieres next week, then three against third place Norfolk here from the 13th through the 15th. Both teams can score. Tuzzolino is hoping he won't need a megaphone.

Registration now open for Quabbin Valley baseball

The Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League is looking to infuse new talent into its league for the 2025 season.

Registration for the 2025 season is now open and any interested players can go to www.quabbin-valleybaseball.org to get registered, or to seek more information or make inquiries about the league. The league website will also be updated over the next month with information about the upcoming season.

There are many open roster spots available in the league for the 2025 season, which is tentatively scheduled to begin on Sunday, April 27. The league plays most Sunday from late April through mid-August with playoffs following that. The league plays a 15-game schedule and typically fields six teams each year. Games are usually

played at 10 a.m. with fields in Easthampton and South Hadley normally used.

The Quabbin Valley league is an all-abilities league and all are welcome to join. Eligibility is players who are age 28 and over. You must be 30 to be eligible to pitch in the league. Your age for eligibility is whatever age you will turn in 2025.

The next league board meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 23 at 11:45 a.m. at the Hangar Pub & Grill in South Hadley. The league has also scheduled two open practices on Sunday, March 30, and Sunday, April 6. Both practices are scheduled to be held at Beachgrounds Park in South Hadley and are weather-permitting. The league website and social media accounts will have updates as the preseason continues.

OWLS, from page 6

rhythm, moving the ball crisply and finding open shooters consistently.

Timmy Jacobus (Willemstad, Curacao) provided a scoring punch with consecutive three-pointers early through the first half, pushing the lead to double digits and energizing the home crowd. Salem State attempted to stem the tide as Jarnel Snow-Guzman (Lynn, Mass.) connected on a three-pointer to cut the deficit to 17-13 with 14:29 remaining, but the Vikings couldn't maintain the momentum. The Owls closed the first half with authority behind Lid Moreland's (Bridgeport, Conn.) aggressive drive to the basket, drawing contact and completing the three-point play to cap a 16-4 run that built the halftime advantage to 22 points.

Any hopes of a Salem State comeback were quickly extinguished as Westfield State opened the second half with a decisive 8-0 run, pushing their lead to 67-37. Johnson dominated the paint during this stretch, grabbing offensive rebounds and converting second-chance opportunities while altering numerous Salem State shot attempts on the defensive end. The Vikings continued to battle despite the growing deficit but struggled to find consistent offense against Westfield State's swarming defense.

The Owls' balanced attack proved relentless throughout the second half. Kenneth Rogers Jr. (Springfield, Mass.) had his fingerprints all over this game with a strong stat line of 13 points, seven rebounds, and five assists.

Senior guard Lid Moreland (Bridgeport, Conn.) matched Johnson

with a game-high 18 points while adding seven rebounds, six assists, three steals, and two blocks in a complete performance. Senior guard Kobe Parker (Chicopee, Mass.) provided crucial bench production with 13 points on an efficient 6-of-9 shooting performance, delivering timely baskets whenever Salem State threatened to build momentum.

Freshman guard A.Z. Allah (Springfield, Mass.) contributed 12 points along with five rebounds and six assists, showcasing his versatility by attacking the rim and creating for others.

For Salem State, Omri Merryman (Lynn, Mass.) led the Vikings with 11 points but struggled against Westfield State's focused defensive attention, shooting just 5-for-17 from the field. Despite facing constant pressure, the sophomore guard continued to attack throughout the game, trying

to spark a comeback that never materialized. Grad forward Liam Byrne (Melrose, Mass.) battled valiantly in the paint against the Owls interior defense, recording nine points and a team-high 11 rebounds while providing numerous hustle plays for the Vikings.

Junior guard Tyrese Rho (Boston, Mass.) added nine points and three assists. Jarnel Snow-Guzman (Lynn, Mass.) contributed eight points, including a key three-pointer in the first half.

The Owls dominated nearly every statistical category, including a 23-13 advantage in assists reflecting their superior ball movement and a strong 13-10 edge in offensive rebounds that led to numerous second-chance opportunities. Their relentless defensive pressure forced 20 Salem State turnovers, which they efficiently converted into 25 points on the other end.

Public Notices

be obtained from:

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

The right is hereby reserved to reject any or all proposals, or to accept any 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 #2 AWG EPR CU Underground Cable" and address them to:

James M. Lavelle, Manager
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept
99 Suffolk St
Holyoke, MA 01040
03/07/2025

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. HD25C0044CA

In the matter of:
Margarita Camacho
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Margarita Camacho of Holyoke, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Margarita Rivera-Melendez
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 03/27/2025.

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 27, 2025

Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate

03/07/2025
See PUBLIC NOTICES, page 8

The Holyoke Sun
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

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SEND US YOUR EVENT PHOTOS

Scan QR Code

Email items to thesun@turley.com

As a free service for our readers we accept and will print when space allows community event photos and announcements. Just scan the QR code above and send us your photos and any information.

Public Notices

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 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

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. HD25P0436EA Estate of:

Jeannette Rhea Blais
Date of Death: 05/12/2009

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by **Claudette E Blais of Holyoke, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Claudette E Blais of Holyoke, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/31/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the ad-

ministration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

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

Date: March 03, 2025

Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
03/07/2025

City of Holyoke Office Of Procurement 536 Dwight Street, Room 3 Holyoke, MA 01040

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS #2025-210PED Brownfields Grant and Project Coordinator

The City of Holyoke's Office of Planning and Economic Development (OPED) is seeking a Brownfields Grant and Project Coordinator, for an eighteen (18) month period providing professional consulting services, including grant support and consultation, to support community efforts to generate and implement creative strategies in redeveloping brownfield or suspected brownfield sites. Our goal is to have "in house" support to apply for brownfield grants for city projects, to offer consultation services (up to 10 hours per business/developer) for private business owners and developers and manage the city projects and/or help the city obtain services for projects.

The Request for Proposals (RFP) stipulates the procedures and requirements to be used by the City in its selection for these services. Full RFP Documents will be available starting March 3, 2025 at 10AM. **Submissions are due to the Purchasing Office NO LATER THAN 2PM on May 10, 2025.** At which time they will get evaluated for the most advantageous proposal.

The City's Chief Procurement Officer will evaluate all timely responses to ensure that all required submittals have been included and that all responses meet the minimum qualification criteria. Proposals that are deemed to be complete shall be presented to the evaluation panel. The City follows all applicable State and Federal Purchasing Laws including Ch.30B, 149, 30-39M, and 7C. The City reserves the right to reject and all proposals if in the best interest of the city.

03/07/2025

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. HD25C0049CA

In the matter of:
Wendi Janeen Coggeshall-Burr
CITATION ON PETITION TO
CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Wendi Janeen Coggeshall-Burr of Holyoke, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Amalena Burr 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 03/28/2025.**

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 28, 2025

Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
03/07/2025

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. HD08E0051

In the matter of:
**The Jane Curlin
Special Needs Trust**
Date of Trust:
February 12, 2010

CITATION ON PETITION FOR ALLOWANCE OF ACCOUNT

To all interested persons:
A Petition has been filed by: **Patrick O. Murray of Springfield, MA** requesting allowance of the **Thirteenth to the Fifteenth** account(s) as Trustee and any other relief as requested in the Petition.

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 **MARCH 31, 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 date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

Witness, HON. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: February 24, 2025
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
03/07/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division Docket No. HD25P0227EA

Estate of:
Irene M. Downie
Also Known As:
Irene Mary Downie
Date of Death:
January 12, 2025
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of **Petitioner Shawn Prince of Chicopee, MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.
Shawn Prince of Chicopee, MA

has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
03/07/2025

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. HD25P0431EA

Estate of: William T Farrell Date of Death: 01/23/2025 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **John J Ferriter of Holyoke, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **John J Ferriter of Holyoke, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/31/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

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

Date: March 03, 2025

Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
03/07/2025

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 Site Plan Review (Sec 10) and a Special Permit for Multiple Principal Structures (Sec 5.4); **Florence Bank** submitted by Holyoke Retail, LLC to be located at 1504 Northampton Street (015-00-012, -013, -059).

APPLICANT:
Holyoke Retail, LLC
PLANNING BOARD:
Mimi Panitch
03/07, 03/14/2025

LEGAL NOTICE CITY OF HOLYOKE GAS & ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT GAS CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTOR FY22 NGDISM PHMSA GRANT CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT

Sealed bids for the above contract will be received by Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept until **2:00 p.m. April 3, 2025**, at the Office of the Manager, 99 Suffolk St, Holyoke, MA, at which time bids will be publicly opened and read.

Bid Deposit:
A Bid Deposit equal to \$150,000 must accompany all bids and may be in the form of a certified, treasurer's, or cashier's check payable to HG&E from a responsible bank or trust company; cash; or a bid bond from a licensed surety payable to HG&E.

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

Additional information may be obtained from:

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

The right is hereby reserved to reject any or all proposals or to

accept any proposals that in the opinion of the Manager may be in the best interest of the City of Holyoke.

Please mark sealed envelopes, "Bid for Gas Construction Contractor FY22 NGDISM PHMSA Grant - Construction Contract" and address them to: **James M. Lavelle, Manager**
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept
99 Suffolk St
03/07/2025

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. HD14P2428EA

Estate of:
James Ronald Gillis
Also known as:
James Gillis
Date of Death: 10/26/2014

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

A Petition for S/A - Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment has been filed by **Christopher T Gillis of Holyoke, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

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

Date: February 13, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
03/07/2025

CITY OF HOLYOKE OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT 536 Dwight Street, Room 3 Holyoke, MA 01040 REQUEST FOR QUOTES Problem Gambling Survey #2025-270PED

The City of Holyoke, Massachusetts, seeks quotes from qualified firms to develop and administer a survey to assess gambling attitudes and behaviors as well as risk for problem gambling, in support of the Office of Planning and Economic Development (OPED) and the Mass Gaming Mitigation Fund grant. Documents will be available starting on March 3, 2025 at 10AM and can be requested electronically from morrowj@holyoke.org

The full scope of services is outlined in the documents. Quotes must be prepared in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the City of Holyoke.

All quote packages shall be delivered by **2:00 P.M., Tuesday, March 18th 2025**, via email to **Jaime Morrow**, Interim Chief Procurement Officer at morrowj@holyoke.org

The City intends to select a contractor shortly after receipt of the RFQ responses. The City reserves the right to reject any and all quotes.

03/07/2025

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]
15916	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.Macbrrian	[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

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD25P0405GD

In the interests of
**Javan Miguel Rivera
of Holyoke, MA**
Minor

NOTICE AND ORDER: Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

1. Hearing Date/Time:
A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on **02/26/2025** by **Jazmin S Santos** of Holyoke, MA will be held **04/02/2025 08:30 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing**. Located: **Judge Hyland-In Person: 50 State St. Springfield, MA 01103 Courtroom 1 - 4th Floor.**

2. Response to Petition: You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to: File the original with the Court; and

Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

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

4. Counsel for Parents: If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.

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

Date: February 26, 2025
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
03/07/2025

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

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

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

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CLASSIFIED DEADLINES FRIDAY AT NOON

JUNK REMOVAL

A Call We Haul FAST REMOVAL
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We load it & take it.
413-531-1936
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Josh Rozell 413-636-5957

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Must have driver's license in good standing.
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HELP WANTED

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**
Subject line: Employment

Responses will be accepted and reviewed until the position is filled.
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OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

HCC hosting health careers open house March 26

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College will host an open house at its Center for Health Education & Simulation on Wednesday, March 26, for anyone interested in exploring educational programs and careers in healthcare, human services, and veterinary and animal science.

Visitors to the Health Careers Open House are welcome to tour HCC's state-of-the-art health edu-

cation facility from 4 to 6 p.m. and talk to representatives from the college's programs in nursing (RN and LPN), radiologic technology, veterinary and animal science, medical assisting, Foundations of Health (public health), CNA (certified nursing assistant), medical billing and coding, and human services.

The event is free and open to the public.

The building, located at

404 Jarvis Ave., just off the main HCC campus, is home to the college's nursing and radiologic technology programs, and medical simulation labs.

There will also be representatives attending from the offices of financial aid, admissions, advising, and workforce development to talk to prospective students about their educational options and career pathways.

"This is a fantastic

chance to dive into all of our health majors in one exciting event," said nursing resource coordinator Dee Wescott. "We welcome everyone to explore our cutting-edge simulation labs, connect with our dedicated faculty and staff, and discover the exceptional student support services that set us apart."

If you can't make it in person, please contact Dee Wescott at dwestcott@hcc.edu for more information.



A HCC nursing student works in a simulation room at the HCC Center for Health Education & Simulation. Submitted photo

United Congregational to host corned beef and cabbage 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; past meals have featured lasagna, Thanksgiving dinner, breakfast for dinner, steak sandwiches, and more. Parents must accompany their children.

The United Congregational Church of Holyoke is an Open and

Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ.

All individuals are welcome, 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.

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 may be obtained by contacting the Parish Office at 413-532-6381.

SUMMER CAMP GUIDE



The benefits of attending summer camp

Summer camp is something akin to a rite of passage for millions of youngsters each year. Many adults look back fondly on their experiences at summer camp, often crediting such times as formative periods in their lives. Summer camp benefits children in a myriad ways.

Campers continue to socialize throughout summer. Socializing isn't just for the school year. While children in high school might be independent enough to come and go with their friends during summer break, kids who are still in elementary school or middle school might not be old enough to handle such freedom. That

can make it hard to stay in touch with friends, which in turn can contribute to feelings of boredom and loneliness. Camp provides ample opportunities for young children to socialize during a time of year when they might not see their school friends as often as they're used to.

Campers can expand their horizons. Though some summer camps are exclusive to residents of certain communities, many tend to feature children from numerous towns or municipalities. Such camps provide an opportunity for campers to expand their horizons by engaging with youngsters who come from different backgrounds.

Camp can get kids off their devices. Modern children are growing up in a digital world, and parents know how hard it can be to get kids to put down their devices and get outdoors. But the key to making that pivot could be access to outdoor play spaces. Many summer camps are structured around outdoor play, making them a potentially invaluable ally as parents seek to help children cut back on the time they spend using their devices. Children who do not attend camp and live in households where both parents work or in single-parent households where Mom or Dad works may be forced to spend much

of summer indoors, which could increase the frequency with which they turn to devices to occupy their time.

Camp adds structure to summer days. Once a school year ends, the structure a school day provides vanishes into thin air. Couple that with extracurricular activities that go on hiatus during summer vacation, and kids accustomed to structure are left with little to do and no need to schedule their time.

There's no shortage of benefits to enrolling youngsters in summer camp, where kids can socialize, grow and get off their devices while engaged in structured but stress-free activities.

Camp by the numbers

Each year, campers of all ages head off to nearby recreation centers or travel to rural areas to claim their cabins and bunks. Here's a deep look at some of the statistics surrounding summer camps.

1,467: The number of day camps in the United States run by the YMCA. - *YMCA*

\$3.91 billion: The peak market size of the summer camp sector in the United States in 2019, before stay-at-home-restrictions affected statistics in subsequent years. - *Statista*

14 million: The average number of American summer camp registrants each year. - *American Camp Association*

1 week: The most popular session length for summer camp, although the majority of independent camp operators offer four-, six- and eight-week sessions. - *American Camp Association*

50: The percentage of respondents whose camps charge \$1,000 or more per session, with most programs costing between \$1,000 and \$1,500. - *CampMinder*

58 to 63: The percentage of female staff members at overnight and day camps, respectively. - *American Camp Association*

200 to 300: The average number of campers served each session. - *CampMinder*

7 in 10: The number of camps that run 10 or more different programs. - *CampMinder*

79: The percentage of camps that maintain a screen-free environment. - *CampMinder*

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