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the

March 28, 2025 🔳 FREE

HOLYOKE - The Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade was held last Sunday morning in front of a large crowd and contingents from several surrounding communities and beyond took part in the event. Holyoke's pride was also in full force as the Grand Colleen and her court, city officials, and performers from the Irish community made for another successful event.



Serving the city since 1995

Dean Tech is represented with a float.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.con

Green was the go-to color on parade day. This lucky lady dressed as a four leaf clover rollerskated in the parade. Below, Jericho defied gravity with a Wizard of Oz theme. See more photos on page 6.

un.turley.com





Hard work paying off, city's rating improves

By Gregory A. Scibelli ascibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE - The mavor's office announce this week Standard's & Poor rating agency has affirmed the City of Holyoke has an A+ bond rating at this time.

The same agency gave the city high praises for its financial management policies

The city also received an SP-1+ for short-term borrowing "rating for \$32.2 million in bond anticipation notes (BANs). SP-1+ is the agency's highest rating for a municipal note. It is given

when a borrowing municipality is "determined to possess a very strong capacity to pay debt service.

The ratings are welcome news for a city that has struggled in recent years with budgeting issues. The city has struggled with balancing its budget prior to Mayor Joshua Garcia coming into office, and had almost no free cash available not long ago.

Also not helping the city are factors like the receivership for the Holyoke Public Schools. The receivership gave the city almost no say in the school budget figures. There has also been constant struggles between the city council and the mayor's office for many year's running.

According to the mayor, who made the announcement, a good bond rating is needed, especially as federal funding begins to dry up under the new president and his administration.

"Having the capability to pivot and respond to uncertainty is important. If federal funds are not forthcoming or if federal grants are withdrawn, for example - which has already happened — the City could be

forced to borrow to pay for necessary projects if there are no other revenue sources to tap into. That's when a strong bond rating is very, very helpful: the better the rating, the lower the cost," the Mayor said.

In the announcement, treasurer Rory Casey also commented on the rating.

"I'm thrilled that S&P recognized the hard work that has been put in over the past three years," Casey said. "Their affirmation is proof that our strategy of focusing on long-term financial health

See RATING, page 10

Next HHS theater production debuts April 3 to 6

Holyoke High School Music Department will present the classic "Little Shop of Horrors.'

The play will run from April 3 to 6 in the Holyoke High School North Auditorium and begins

HOLYOKE - The at 7:30 p.m. the first three lows: When Seymour nights with a 2 p.m. matinee performance on Sunday, April 6. Tickets are \$8 for students and seniors while they are \$10 for the rest of the public.

> The play plot shared by the school is as fol-

(played by Aidan Fontanez-Courchesne) finds a mysterious plant after a total eclipse of the sun, strange things start happening at Mr. Mushnik's (Eben Beudry) flower shop. Meanwhile, Audrey (Ashanty Provost) dreams of leaving Skid Row and her boyfriend, the sadistic dentist Orin Scrivello (Linken Geddis). As the mysterious plant "Audrey II" starts to grow, audience members should be prepared for the hijinks and horror that will ensue.

Program aims at bringing in more revenue for city

By Gregory A. Scibelli gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – Earlier this month, Mayor Joshua Garcia presented the Holyoke City Council with an opportunity to gain money for the city on tax-exempt property owners.

His concept is not new, and is utilized in other town and cities such as Agawam. The program is known as PILOT, and it stands for Payment In Lieu Of Taxes.

It's purpose is to bring in a portion of the money a tax-exempt property - properties owned by non-profit organizations and quasi-public institutions — would pay were it not tax-exempt to help pay for critical municipal services that benefit everyone.

According to an

announcement from Garcia's chief of staff Stephen Fay, Garcia and City Solicitor Lisa Ball have been approaching tax-exempt organizations about paying PILOTs and have learned that the city needed a better, more systematic approach to these conversations so that the process is fair and equitable and less of a "shake-down" situation.

Mayor's Τhe Government Restructuring Advisory Council took up the issue of non-profits acquiring properties in Holyoke and taking them off the tax rolls.

Garcia empowered the Advisory Council to research consultants the city could contract with to help explore the issue and help draft a policy. A discussion with



Pride Month kicks off early

ready to show your pride, Holyoke. The Holyoke Pride Committee is rolling out an unforgettable series of vibrant and inclusive events this June to honor and uplift the LGBTQIA+ community. Whether you're a long-time ally or new to the celebration, there's something for everyone to enjoy-and you won't want to miss a moment.

Kick Off Early with the 'Over the Rainbow' Fundraiser Before the full celebration begins in June, Holyoke Pride invites you to start the party early with

HOLYOKE - Get the 'Over the Rainbow' fundraiser on April 11. It's more than just a night out-it's a chance to fuel the spirit of Pride while showing your support for the community.

Headlined by local sensation Richard Parris Scott and the Band, the evening will also feature powerhouse performances from Avery Joi, Chestina Thrower, Natasha Ellis, and Evyan Diaz. With music that moves you and an energy that fills the room, this night promises unforgettable memories. Plus, thrilling prizes awaitdon't miss your chance to

win big while supporting a great cause.

Friday, April 11 from 7 to 11 p.m. at De La Luz Soundstage, 114 Race Street, Holyoke Tickets are available on a sliding scale (\$20 - \$50)-please give what you can! Tickets available at holyokepride. org Pride Month Events - June 2025 Pride Month officially kicks off with the iconic Flag Raising Ceremony on June 2 at Holyoke City Hall at 5 p.m. Feel the rush of pride as the flag soars high, reminding us of our commitment to love, equality, and the power of community.

es. Applications may be

sent by mail to Noreen

Tassinari, Scholarship

Chair, Valley Press Club,

P.O. Box 5475, Springfield,

Mass. 01102 or electroni-

cally to NTassinari77@

decades, The Valley Press

Club has presented over

\$140,000 in scholarships to

eligible students. The Valley

Press Club consists of

active and retired journalists

and public relations profes-

sionals from corporate and

nonprofit organizations.

Over the course of six

gmail.com

City Hall to host Sikh flagraising

HOLYOKE - A Sikh flag-raising ceremony will be held Tuesday, April 1, at noon at Holyoke City Hall.

April is a significant month for the Sikh community. Vaisakhi is celebrated, which marks the beginning of the New Year and honors the creation of the Khalsa and the Sikh articles of faith. These articles impart the values of equality, selfless service, and social justice.

The movement to recognize Sikh Heritage Month began with the aim of commemorating and celebrating the rich heritage, history, culture, and contributions of Sikhs.

The ceremony will include the reading of a proclamation by Holyoke Mayor Joshua A Garcia. Members of the local and regional Sikh community will offer prayers.

Sikhism, which originated in the Punjab region of South Asia, is the fifth largest independent ethnic religion in the world. More than 700,000 Sikhs reside in the United States.

Press Club announces scholarships now available

based in Springfield, Mass., will award \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors in Western Massachusetts and Northern Connecticut who are interested in pursuing a career in journalism.

• The Valley Press Club Scholarships, funded by contributions and dues to the Press Club, are for students planning careers in print, online or broadcast journalism.

• The Republican Scholarship, funded by The Republican, is for students

The Valley Press Club, living within the newspaper's circulation area who are planning careers in print journalism.

• The 22News Scholarship, funded by WWLP-22News is for students planning careers in broadcast journalism.

• The MassLive Scholarship is for a Massachusetts high school senior planning to pursue a career in print, online or broadcast journalism/communication. This scholarship is available to a student who is underrepresented in the field of journalism and is planning to attend an institution of higher education in the field.

• The Edward J. Malley Jr. Memorial Scholarship, established in memory of a chief photographer for the Springfield Newspapers, is for students planning careers in photojournalism.

• The Rhonda Swan Memorial Scholarship, established in memory of the award-winning journalist, editor and author, is for students who are underrepresented, in the Springfield, Mass. area, planning careers in journalism.

Primary emphasis is placed on career goals, writing ability, scholastic aptitude and overall achievement as measured by an applicant's high school transcript, class rank, academic awards, SAT scores and extracurricular activities. The deadline for submissions is April 4.

Scholarship applications are available at www. ValleyPressClub.com or high school guidance offic-

Easter Bunny hopping down to mall

HOLYOKE – Spring is on its way and Holyoke Mall is egg-cited to kick off the season with visits and photos from the Easter Bunny once again this year. Mr. Cottontail arrives at Holyoke Mall on Friday, March 28. Reservations are now open so reserve your time slot at www.whereisbunny.com. Guests who pre-book will receive a reservation gift.

The Easter Bunny can be found in his spring garden in Honor Court, on the lower level near Hobby Lobby, for greetings and pictures. The Bunny's Gazebo will be opent

• Monday to Friday: 2 to 7 p.m., extends to 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on April 7 • Saturday: 10 a.m. to 9

p.m.

Children of all ages love visiting the Easter Bunny, so get dressed in your Easter best and bring the whole family to capture that perfect moment.

The Easter Bunny will also have 2 special events this season:

• Bunny Cares Sensory Friendly Event: Sunday, April 6: 9 to 10:30 a.m.

• Pet Photo Night: Monday, April 7 and Tuesday, April 8, 4 to 7 p.m.

To celebrate the start of spring, we will also be joined by Ed Popielarczyk for his Spring Spectacular Magic Show on Saturday, March 29. The fun-filled show will take place from 11 a.m. to 12 noon on the Lower Level, Macy's Court. This event is free, open to the public, and • Sunday: 11 a.m. to 6 is best suited for children ages 12 and under.



HCC gallery hosting high school art show

HOLYOKE - High school art students from western Massachusetts will see their work displayed in the Taber Art Gallery at Holyoke Community College during the 2025 Pioneer Valley High School Art Show.

The show runs for one week only, starting today, Monday, March 24. It concludes Thursday, March 27, with a reception for artists and their families from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the gallery.

This is the first time the Taber Art Gallery has hosted the biennial high school art show since 2017.

"This exhibition highlights the creativity and resilience of our regional students, showcasing their growth and unique perspectives," said Taber director Rachel Rushing. "We are thrilled for both the artists and the community to reconnect through this celebratory show."

schools include Agawam, Belchertown, Granby, Minnechaug Regional, St. Mary's, South Hadley, West Springfield, Wilbraham and Monson Academy, and Westfield.

The Taber Art Gallery, located off the lobby of the HCC Library on the second floor of the HCC Donahue Building, is free and open to the public Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. during regular school sessions.

Participating high

Calling all fiber artists - yarn sale Saturday!

GRANBY – The at 11 a.m. Stop by and find the Friends of the Granby Friends of the Granby Public Library and the ity yarn as well as tools, Library Knitting Group are notions, bags, pattern books sponsoring a Yarn Sale on Saturday, March 29, 2025

amazing discounts on qual-

Library, who support Library Programming. For more information

p.m.

and more. All proceeds benefit 413-467-3320.

please call the library at



\$1200/week 207-607-9333

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- Walk to Five Islands Wharf and Ledgewood Preserve Beach • Close to Reid State Park



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Reach Out Today 413.538.9020 ACCESSCAREPARTNERS.ORG







In The News

Wistariahurst Museum hosting 'sensory-friendly' Easter Egg Hunt

HOLYOKE Wistariahurst Museum is egg-static to bring back our Sensory-Friendly Egg Hunt for a second year. This festive egg hunt focuses on gentle exploration and enjoyment. Designed for families with sensory sensitivities, this egg-ceptional event is tailored so every bunny feels comfortable and welcome. This year's egg hunt will take place indoors throughout the halls of Wistariahurst. Weather permitting, outdoor games and activities will

add some egg-stra fun to the event. Each child can gather six eggs and choose prizes ranging from candy to fidget toys. Hop to it and register for one of the available time slots. Registration is available on Wistariahurst's Eventbrite page.

Seiler hatched the idea for Wistariahurst's Sensory Friendly Egg Hunt in 2024. "We saw an opportunity for the museum to offer this city tradition to kids who may not thrive at the large-scale egg

hunt downtown. We wanted to be a space that could offer more inclusion for this fun event," Seiler noted. Wistariahurst is egg-cited to bring this event back for April of this year after the success of last year's egg hunt.

Families can sign up for Museum Director Megan timed entry to ensure smooth check-in between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Sunday, April 13. Families are welcome to enjoy the egg hunt any time during their timeslots, and each time slot will be limited to 10 families. The egg hunt

will continue until 1:30 p.m., allowing children to explore at their own pace and enjoy a stress-free experience! Families are welcome to explore the gardens and enjoy outdoor games, weather permitting, during the event. Outside of this event, we have open hours on Mondays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Tuesdays from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., and our gardens are open every day from dawn until dusk. We hope to see all of our peeps at this egg-stra special event.



UCCH offering chance to 'connect' at concert

HOLYOKE - We all need connection. The United Congregational Church of Holyoke is inviting the public to join us as we host the Westfield State University Chorale for a free of charge concert on Saturday, April 12 at 7 p.m.

The concert is called "Connections", a choral experience exploring the bonds of human experince. The performance features music by Ola Gjello, Zanaida Robles, Josquin Despres, Emma Lou Diemer, William Dawson and Margrit Kits. The WSU Chorale is directed by Scott Bailey.

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

Rummage Sale to be held at St. Paul's Church

HOLYOKE – St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 485 Appleton Street, Holyoke will hold their Annual Rummage Sale on Saturday, April 26 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Auditorium.There will be bargains for everyone including clothing, house- office at 413-532-5060.

wares, bedding, towels, books, toys, and holiday and craft supplies. Free ample parking is located behind the church and all are welcome.For more information, please contact Trudy Monson 413-335-1145 or call the church

MassHire Holyoke relocating to STEAM

HOLYOKE – MassHire ers, and community partners. We invite the public to visit our beautiful new space and explore all that we have to offer.

MassHire Holyoke provides a wide range of career and workforce development services, including job search assistance and workshops, fully equipped resource center, career coun-

seling, training programs, and employer recruitment support. Whether you're an individual looking for your next career opportunity or a business seeking top talent, our team is here to help.

We look forward to welcoming you to our new home. Stay tuned for more details about our grand opening and upcoming events.

Parks & Rec Department offering lifeguard certification training course

Holyoke is excited to

announce that after 29 years

at 850 High Street, we are

relocating to a new office

at the STEAM Building,

208 Race Street, Holyoke,

effective March 31, 2025.

Our new location will pro-

vide a welcoming environ-

ment designed to better

serve job seekers, employ-

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 encouraged to apply. Participants must pass a pre-skills test at the start of a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Holyoke

class. \$175.00 for Holyoke residents and \$275.00 for non-residents.

lifeguard А Re-Certification Class will also be offered on May 18. The class will run from 8

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.

Dominoes club held 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.

Tourism Committee accepting grant applications

HOLYOKE – The City of Holyoke's Tourism Advisory Committee (TAC), under the direction of the City's Office of Planning and Economic Development in collaboration with the Local Cultural Council, has available funds designated from the Mass Gaming Mitigation Funds to support events related to tourism in the City of Holyoke.

The Tourism Advisory

Committee (TAC) supports projects that demonstrate a clear public benefit to Holyoke.

These funds can be used for event costs including talent booking, space rental, event level sponsorship and general costs associated with event planning.

Funding will be made available to the widest range of community tourism needs possible. Up to \$2,000 per event can

be requested through the application.

Requests will be considered for events between June 2025 and July 2026. Visit the Tourism Advisory Committee (TAC) page on holyoke.

org for a link to the application form and guidelines. Applications will open April 2 and close on May 2. Awards to be announced by the end June 2025.

Mini-golf, games at HPL

HOLYOKE - The library will host a miniature golf and game event on Saturday, April 12 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. There will be human foosball and other outdoor games, prizes at a lucky ticket auction, miniature golf taking place on every floor of the library, and much more. There is no cost for the event and all are welcome to attend.



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Opinion



Will my Medicare premium change because I sold investment property?

Dear Rusty:

I have questions concerning the deduction of money from my Social Security benefit amount as relates to the sale of investment property.

I am 66 years old and have been drawing Social Security since I turned 62. My wife is 56 and is a housewife and has no taxable income. Our income comes from our rental property and my Social Security benefit. I have decided to liquidate two of our properties, one was sold in December 2024, and one is in Escrow and is scheduled to close in March 2025.

My normal Adjusted Gross Income has been running about \$30K-\$32K. However, last year with the sale of the property I will receive a long-term capital gain profit of about \$255,000. I did a rough calculation on what my AGI will be for 2024 and it looks to be about \$318,000. How will this affect my Social Security benefit and will it have an effect on the amount I pay for my Part B Medicare Plan going forward? I have a Medicare Advantage plan.

My next question is about 2025, after the next property closes and I file taxes), my AGI with the long-term capital gain profit could be between \$700,000-\$800,000. How will this affect my benefits going forward?

Signed: **Prudent Investor**

Dear Prudent Investor:

Actually, the gross amount of your Social information on the Security benefit will Income-Related Monthly not be affected by these

amount. How much higher depends on how much you exceed the income level for your IRS filing status. Using 2025 rules, if you file as married/jointly and your taxable income (MAGI) is more than \$212,000 but less than \$334,000 then, instead of paying the standard 2026 monthly Part B premium, you'll each pay \$370 per month for Medicare Part B and likely a supplemental amount of \$35.30 if your Advantage plan includes prescription drug coverage

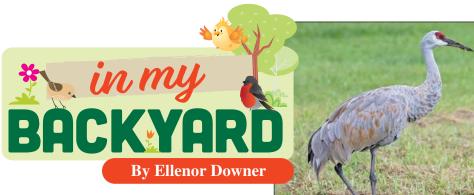
Your Medicare premiums are recalculated every year, again based on income from two years prior. Thus, in 2027, IRMAA will also affect your Medicare premiums and your net Social Security payment because of your 2025 real estate transaction. If your MAGI in 2025 will be over \$750,000, then IRMAA will increase each of your 2027 Medicare Part B premiums to \$638.90 and likely also add a supplement of \$85.80 per month each to your Medicare Advantage premium for prescription drug coverage.

The good news is in 2028 all of this will be behind you and your Medicare premiums will revert to whatever the standard monthly premiums are for that year because your income levels thereafter will presumably be below the then-IRMAA thresholds).

For reference, here is a link to Medicare's Adjustment Amount, or



Letters to the Editor



received an email from a Worthington resident. who saw two sandhill. cranes on Sunday, March 16.

It was most likely was just a coincidence. However, the next day March 17, I spotted a pair of sandhill cranes in my hayfield, a first ever sighting at that location.

Several people reported seeing sandhill cranes at various locations in town last year. There is a breeding pair, who successfully raised young, in nearby Hardwick.

The sandhill crane is a tall, 45," gray, heron like bird. It has a dark red patch on its forehead and a black bill. Some of the feathers on the sandhill crane's back are iron stained due possibly to preening from mud rich in that mineral.

Immature cranes are grayish with more rust stained feathers. They keep this plumage for two years. The female sandhill crane lays one to three olive eggs with dark marks in a mound like nest of weeds, grasses and marsh like plants placed on the ground or in shallow water. They migrate in flocks, feed on agricultural fields and roost in the center of shallow lakes or rivers. They display courtship behavior of jumping off the ground during their migraSandhill crane

animals.

tion. They feed on seeds,

agricultural grains and small

Common mergansers

seeing common mergansers.

My daughter saw common

mergansers in Hardwick.

A Hubbardston couple also

saw common mergansers.

A Brimfield resident, who

sends bird reports on a regu-

lar basis, saw common mer-

gansers at a pond in Warren

See BACKYARD, page 5

I received reports of

Early spring questions for the Garden Lady

isa, who gardens in Belchertown, had this question for the Garden " I Lady: saw a video online of

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HOLYOKE

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Letters to the **Editor Policy**

Letters to the Editor have a maximum of 350 words. We require writers to include their name, address

transactions, but the net amount of your SS benefit payment will change due to a provision known as Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount. IRMAA affects the Medicare premiums you pay from your Social Security benefit and a higher Medicare premium will result in a lower net Social Security payment.

Here's how this will work for you: Your Medicare premiums each year, typically for Medicare Part B and Part D are determined by looking at your "Modified Adjusted Gross Income," or "MAGI" from two years prior. MAGI is your normal AGI plus any non-taxable interest you may have had. Since the property you sold in 2024 will be reflected as part of your 2024 income, IRMAA will cause your 2026 Medicare premiums to be higher than the standard monthly 2026 "IRMAA:"

https://www.cms. gov/newsroom/factsheets/2025-medicareparts-b-premiums-and-deductibles

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.

someone using a weed whacker to cut down their raspberry plants. Why would they be doing that now? Aren't they cutting off

all of the fruiting buds? It's sure interesting that you mention this particular topic! My husband and I stared at our raspberry plants and talked about getting

out there to prune as well.

Before you grab t h e weed whacka n d e r head



out, though, you have to know your raspberries. Do you have "summer bearing" or "ever-bearing?"

If you have raspberry plants that bear one crop each summer, you would not cut them down to the ground now because you would be removing all of the fruiting buds. The berries grow on canes that are a year old.

All you would do to summer bearing raspberries now is prune out the canes that fruited last year if you haven't already done so. They will look old and the bark will be shedding a bit. Another giveaway is that when you cut into them there is no green "living" tissue.

> Very thin canes, or canes that are growing closer than six

inches apart can also be cut down to the ground.

Pruning is a bit different for those of us that have "ever-bearing" raspberries. You must decide if you want two smaller crops – one in the summer and one in the fall or one bumper crop in the fall.

Chances are that the video you saw was of someone turning their "ever-bearers" into "fall bearers" instead, by cutting the canes that fruited in the fall all the way down to the ground. New canes will grow and in late August-early September they will fruit, in abundance, hopefully.

If you like the idea of two crops, then do not prune away the canes that fruited last fall, but do cut off the tops of these canes. You'll see evidence of old berry clusters. Cut just below that

See GARDEN, page 5

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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WEB www.sun.turley.com

📑 @ The Holyoke Sun

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 newspaper 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.

In The News April is Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month, offering public education

BOSTON – April is Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month and the American Parkinson Disease Association will commemorate the month with a "Did You Know?" campaign that will educate the public about Parkinson's Disease.

They will highlight everything from statistics and symptoms to personal stories and ways to get involved while also helping those affected by Parkinson Disease feel empowered with the resources and support they need.

Through a nationwide network of Chapters and Information & Referral Centers, APDA works every day to provide the support, education and research that will help everyone impacted by PD live life to the fullest. The APDA Massachusetts Chapter and APDA I&R Center at Boston University School of Medicine work in tandem to support people living with PD throughout the Commonwealth and beyond, as well as their care partners and loved ones, by helping them assemble the resources, support and medical expertise they need to feel more empowered, connected and optimistic.

Throughout Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month and always, the APDA Massachusetts Chapter and APDA I&R Center at Boston University have a variety of programs and events planned, with many ways for people to get involved. April is the perfect time to register for the 39th Annual Massachusetts Optimism Walk, which will take place on Sunday, May 18 in Framingham as part of a nationwide initiative to raise awareness and vital funds for the PD community. The Optimism Walk series is a cornerstone of APDA's efforts to empower indi-

viduals living with PD and their families while advancing research towards better treatments and, ultimately, a cure. Additionally, throughout the month, APDA will share educational information and resources on all APDA social media channels using #DidYouKnow.

With approximately one million people living with PD in the United States: 21,000 of which are in Massachusetts and 90,000 new diagnoses every year, it is critical to engage, inform and support the PD community and raise public awareness about the disease. Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month is the perfect time to shine a spotlight on this issue.

"With a new diagnosis every six minutes, nearly 7,200 people in this country will learn they have PD in April alone," states Cathi Thomas, RN, MS, Program Coordinator at the APDA I&R Center at Boston University. "Here in Massachusetts, we are the boots on the ground. From support groups and exercise classes to educational events and access to PD experts, APDA is here for every member of our local PD community, working tirelessly to help make their journey more positive."

Beyond Massachusetts, APDA offers extensive virtual programming and a robust resource library with many resources available in Spanish and Mandarin/ Simplified Chinese to ensure that all members of the PD community have access to high-quality information and services no matter where they live and to help them to feel connected to the community even from a distance. From popular webinar series like Dr. Gilbert Hosts, Unlocking Strength Within, and Let's Keep Moving with APDA to a variety of virtual exercise

something for everyone.

Support from the public is crucial and Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month is an especially meaningful time to take action to help those coping with this progressive neurodegenerative movement disorder. People can support by raising awareness of PD and/or by making a donation that will enable APDA to continue their critical work and fund research that will lead to better treatments and ultimately, a cure. Every effort makes a difference.

T h e APDA Massachusetts Chapter and APDA I&R Center at Boston University offer a wide range of Parkinson's disease programs, resources, education, and support. To learn more, visit www.apdaparkinson.org/ ma, email apdama@apdaparkinson.org or call 800-651-8466

and movement classes, there is Disease Association is a nationwide grassroots network dedicated to fighting Parkinson's disease and works tirelessly to assist the more than one million people with PD in the United States live life to the fullest in the face of this chronic, neurological disorder. Founded in 1961, APDA has raised and invested more than \$313 million to provide outstanding patient services and educational programs, elevate public awareness about the disease and support research designed to unlock the mysteries of PD and end this disease. To join in the fight against Parkinson's disease and to learn more about the support APDA provides nationally through a network of Chapters and Information & Referral Centers, as well as a national Research Program and Centers for Advanced Research, people may visit us at www.apdaparkinson.org.

The American Parkinson

BACKYARD, from page 4

last week. There was a large section of open water. He also saw lots of mallard, Canada geese, a few black ducks and a hooded merganser.

Bald eagles

The Brimfield resident in an email on March 8 said. "Yesterday in Ludlow I visited an eagle's nest on the bank of the Chicopee River. Eagles have nested in this area for over ten years with four different nest locations. I first found a nest across the Chicopee River in Springfield that was visible from Ludlow. Then the nest was on the Ludlow side of the river for one year. I lost track of the nest for a few years when it was in a tree that subsequently fell down. I was told about the fourth and current nest three years ago. If the bird on the nest is the female that has been nesting in this area and had at least one young two years ago she is banded and is twenty years old."

Two of my grandchil-

dren and I saw a mature bald eagle perched in a tree at the edge of my hayfield on Saturday, March 15. I stopped the car and my granddaughter, Lizzie, got out of the car to take a photo with her cellphone. I said the eagle will probably fly away. As she approached, the eagle turned its head to watch her. As she approached it bent down, opened its tail feathers displaying the white feathers and then took off. She got a photo of its white tail.

The Brimfield resident saw two bald eagles at a pond in Warren, an adult and an immature. The immature eagle flushed up some ducks while flying around the pond. On another day he saw four eagles, two adult and two immature. An Oakham resident also saw a bald eagle recently.

Other birds

The same person saw a great blue heron, hooded mergansers, three ringed bill gulls and a small flock of red-winged blackbirds.

Earlier this month, he said, "Two fox sparrows showed in the afternoon, always nice to see them. A pair of blue birds are irregular visitors as are sharp-shinned hawks. Last week an adult chased juncos into a quince bush without success. And this week an immature sharpie was in the yard for awhile."

He said he takes in his feeders at night as bears should be out and about. He read an article that the skunk cabbage is up and is a sign that so are the bears. Black bears eat skunk cabbage leaves in the spring when they first emerge from the dens to "kick start" their digestive system. They also return to their favorite feeding grounds, often back yard bird feeders.

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

GARDEN, from page 4

point, leaving the rest of the cane. New buds will form here, and these will be your first, summer crop. Do also cut away any remaining dead canes, and thin or too close together canes as mentioned above.

Christi wrote in with this question about her Rhododendrons, "I noticed that parts of my rhododendron (as well as others in my neighborhood) are curled and perhaps dead. They normally curl when it gets really cold, but unfurl when it gets warm. Today is 65 degrees and parts have still not unfurled. I was wondering why this happened and what suggestions

you might have." Rhododendrons curl their leaves in the cold

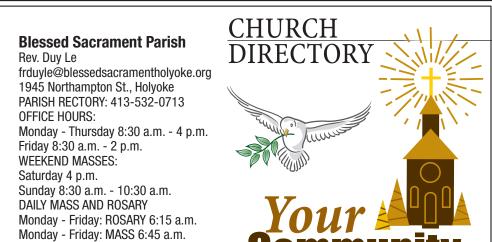
as a defense mechanism to reduce the overall surface area of the leaf in an effort to curb moisture loss. Sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't work as well.

Take, for example, if the plant was already stressed when it entered winter; then this process may not have the same effect. Perhaps we didn't have sufficient rain and supplemental water wasn't provided, then the plant's efforts of curling their leaves may not get them through the winter unscathed, especially the incredibly windy winter we had.

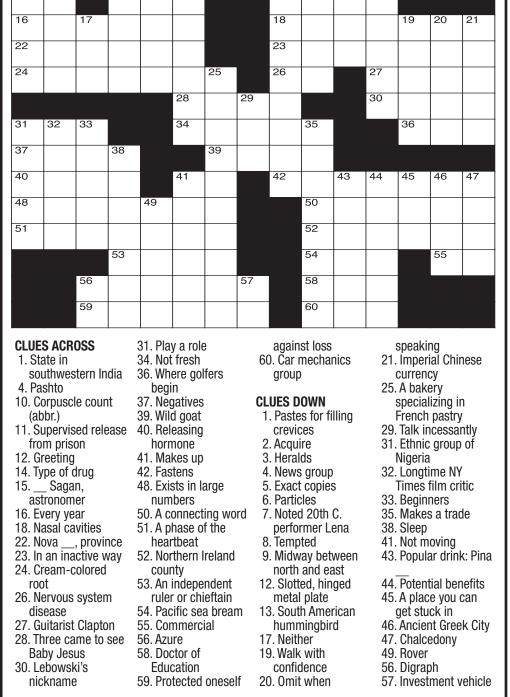
give the shrubs a drink and if indeed these branches don't respond as spring weather continues, it may be time to do some corrective pruning. Oftentimes, stems that are cut back to well within the shrub respond with new growth that will rejuvenate the rest of the plant, making it look better and better. Good luck!

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.

Once the ground thaws,



14



CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 10

Legal Holidays: ROSARY 7:30 a.m. Legal Holidays: MASS 8 a.m. **ROSARY AND MEDITATION** Monday Evening: 6 p.m. www.blessedsacramentholvoke.org FaceBook: @bspholyokema

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Congressman Richard Neal walks with the Ambassador of Ireland Geraldine Byrne Naso. Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Members of the City Council march.

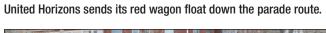


The Grand Colleen and her court head down the parade route.

We May be older,

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The Holyoke High School band performs.



Members of the Holyoke Medical Center march.







Holyoke Roots show off their skills. The Holyoke Caledonian Pipe Band performs.



Holyoke Pediatrics Associates wave at the crowd while marching.



Past Marshalls ride on a float.

Parade President John Beaulieu takes his spot in the parade.





Grand Marshall James Lavelle Rohan Award winner Devin Sheehan waves to the crowd.



City Councilor Israel Rivera walks the parade route with an adorable future councilor.



Mayor Joshua Garcia marches in his fourth parade.



Newly installed Police Chief Brian Keenan marches in his first parade.



Gallivan Award James Meenaghan.

Ancient Order of Hibernians had an Irish step dancer on their float.



JFK Award winner Bridget Moynahan heads down the parade route.



Receiver/Superintendent Anthony Soto waves to the crowd.

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Suburban League starts new award in honor of late coach

By Tim Peterson Sports Correspondent

CHICOPEE – The Pioneer Valley Girls Suburban Basketball League was always very special to Eileen Monaghan.

Growing up in Chicopee, Monaghan played for a Suburban League basketball team. She then coached her daughter's Suburban League teams. In recent years, Monaghan was one of the referees in the league.

Monaghan most likely would've been back on the basketball court refereeing Suburban League games this winter, but she was tragically killed last April.

Suburban League Commissioner Joe Ciejka, who's from Ware, couldn't recall another person who

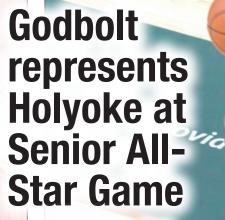
played, coached and was a referee in the Suburban League during the past 40 vears.

"I believe Eileen is the first person to play, coach, and has been a referee in the Suburban league," Ciejka said. "Eileen brought an incredible spirit to the Suburban League and the kindness of hearts. Even though her heart has been silenced, we're not going to let her spirit ever die."

The inaugural Eileen Monaghan Sportsmanship Award was given to the Gateway 5/6th grade basketball team prior to the start of the 5/6th grade Division 2 championship game between Easthampton and Hampshire, which took place at Chicopee Comp

See COACH, page 9





SPRINGFIELD – Last Thursday evening, Calvin Godbolt of Holyoke High School, represented the school in the High School Senior All-Star Games held at the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

Calvin Godbolt grabs a layup. Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Calvin Godbolt approaches the basket during the second half of the Senior All-Star Game.

Sun shines bright on Holyoke's 48th St. Patrick's Road Race

By Gregory A. Scibelli gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE - For the first time in several years, it was gorgeous weather for the Holyoke St. Patrick's Road Race last Saturday afternoon the city streets.

More than 6,000 people participated in this year's event, with nearly 5,000 participants finishing the 10K, or 6.2-mile course.

This year, it was Samuel Whittaker of Salem, CT, who finished the race in 31:24.

Alex Corbett, who placed second in last year's race, came in 23 seconds later at 31:47.

The top female finisher was Angelia Rafter at 34:13 and she placed 12th overall. Rafter is from Glastonbury, CT.

Among local finishers, Matt Provost of Monson was 19th overall at 35:09. Ryan Davis of South Hadley was a close 20th at 35:10. Lindsay Smith of South Hadley finished 22nd at 35:12.

While the race course, commonly known as a "hilly"

course throughout downtown Holyoke ending with a turn off Beech St. and up the hill on Hampden St. toward the finish line remained largely the same, there was one noticeable change in this year's event.

Presidential Timing took over the official timing duties after 4RUN3 went out of business last year. Those looking for more results from the events can go to www.presidentialtiming.com to look at more specific results from the race. Like previous timers, you can look up people by name and bib number to get more specific results.

The road race once again kicked off an excellent weekend celebrating the St. Patrick's Day holiday and also helped to prepare several participants in this year's event for future races in the coming months, including the Boston Marathon, which will take place on Monday, April 21.

With the weather being much warmer, there were less participants in costumes, though plenty of harriers were wearing the green tutus that are often a part of each year's race.







Samuel Whittaker crosses the first line first overall.



Female winner Angelia Rafter

See RACE, page 9



Elijah Quinn was one of Holyoke's top finishers at 36:34.

Owen Cubi is ready to celebrate as he finishes at 36:43.



Holyoke's Matthew Czepiel

Ryan Kennedy gets the race



Alex Corbett takes second in the race for the second year in a row.



The participants are off in the 48th running of the Holyoke St. Patrick's Road Race

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

The Holyoke Sun • MARCH 28, 2025 • 7

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The Town of Huntington is seeking a fulltime Highway Truck Driver/Equipment Operator/Laborer. Applicants must possess a Massachusetts Class B CDL with Air Brake Endorsement and possess or be able to obtain 2B or higher & 4G Hoisting Engineer's licenses within 6 months of hire. \$27.50 to \$28.79 per hou based on qualifications. Application and complete job description are available online at www.huntingtonma.us or by emailing admin@huntingtonma.us. Position is open until filled. Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer

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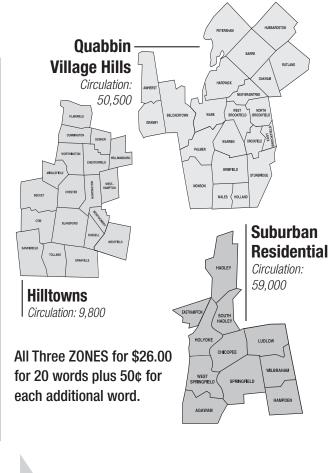
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OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

RACE, from page 7

The city also had excellent cooperation from the Holyoke Police Department, Holyoke Fire Department, the Massachusetts State Police, and Cataldo Ambulance, which provided public safety services for the event this year.

The race was kicked with a beautiful rendition of the Star Spangled Banner sung by Kate Caligaris and JFK Award winner and celebrity Bridget Moynahan shot the opening gun.

This year, there were four waves of runners followed by the fifth wave, which included walkers on the course.

Among the participants, there were nearly 400 participants in the race who were under 18-years-old. **COACH** from page 7

on March 9.

"I think the sportsmanship award is very special because it shows how many lives that my mom touched," said Kathleen Brooks, who is Eileen's youngest daughter. "She just loved girls sports, especially basketball. She probably would've been very proud of this award."

Brooks, who presented the sportsmanship award to Gateway, graduated from Chicopee Comp in 2019 where she played soccer, basketball, and lacrosse.

Her older sister, Ashley Rouleau, played two sports at Comp.

The Gateway Suburban League basketball team didn't win any games this season, but the players celebrated small victories and kept a positive attitude on the court.

"Being selected as the first sportsmanship award winner in the Suburban League is very special," said Gateway head coach Peter Sadler. "We didn't have a lot of experienced players this year, but we kept improving throughout the season. We came close to winning a couple of games. We just focused on doing one thing to get better in each game. The girls never gave up and kept a positive attitude."

The members of the Gateway girls' basketball team are Victoria Barnes, Riley Chornyar, Liv Dulude, Lila Castro, Senavieve Rosseau, Fiona Hallowell, Faith Chretlen, Eveyln Sadler, Abigail Sadler, Emma Johnson, and Alyvia Kaynowski.

The Suburban League referees voted for the Sportsmanship Award.

Unlike her daughters, Monaghan graduated from Chicopee High School. She played soccer and basketball for the Lady Pacers. She was inducted into the Chicopee Athletic Hall of Fame in 2013. Monaghan also played soccer and basketball at Western New England College. She was inducted into the WNEC Hall of Fame in 2006.

"My mom was always very humble, but she always told us that she loved playing sports," Brooks said. "She didn't score 1,000 career point in high school, but she did at WNEC. She always worked very hard and that's what she wanted

everyone else to do."

Monaghan graduated from college with a bachelor's degree in management. She was the Chiefof-Staff for Chicopee State Representative Joseph Wagner for twenty-one years. She was also the Executive Assistant to Sheriff Nick Cocchi at the Hampden County Sheriff's Department.

Monaghan was also a summer league soccer coach. Her older brother, John, coached the girls' summer league soccer team at that same time. The two siblings battled against each other several times.

"It was a lot of fun coaching against my sister's summer league soccer team," John Monaghan said. "Having the Suburban League name their sportsmanship award in her honor really means a lot to the family. She put a lot of time and effort into sports. She just wanted to help the kids get better."

A high school girls varsity basketball team will also be receiving the Eileen Monaghan Sportsmanship Award on March 20.

"We had high school Sportsmanship Award for about six or seven years, but then it stopped due to the COVID-19 Pandemic," Ciejka said. "We're going to be bringing the high school sportsmanship award back in Eileen's name at our referee's banquet on March 20."

The Gateway players didn't get to play in the Suburban League finals this year, but it was still a very special day for them.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division Docket No. HD25P0584EA Estate of: Dennis C Carboneau Also Known As: Dennis Carboneau Date of Death: 02/26/2025 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE To all persons interested in th

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Joan E Simard of Westfield, MA

a Will has been admitted to informal probate. Joan E Simard of Westfield,

MĂ

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. 03/28/2025

check; or a treasurer's check; or by cashier's check issued by a responsible bank or trust company, made payable to the City of Holyoke.

Beginning at 10 AM on March 19, 2025, all project documents will be distributed and supplied by the City of Holyoke's in electronic format only. Submit requests for documents to Jaime Morrow, Chief Procurement Officer, at morrowj@holyoke.org between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM. Requests shall include firm name and address, contact name and title, email address, and telephone number and fax number.

The City of Holyoke reserves the right to reject any and all bids if in the best interest of the city. No electronic submissions will be accepted. 03/28/2025

City of Holyoke Planning Board PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Holyoke Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 8, 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, Special Permit to Exceed Fence Height (Sec 4.6.3.2); Holyoke Landing BESS (2025-13), at 0 Lower Westfield Rd & Holvoke Street(117-00-005A), submitted by Amanda Henry/ Convergent Energy & Power, LLC.

A complete copy of the application may be seen in the Office of Planning and Economic Development at 20 Korean Veterans Plaza, 8:30 am-4:30 pm, M-F. APPLICANT: Amanda Henry/ Convergent Energy & Power, LLC. PLANNING BOARD: Mimi Panitch, 03/21, 03/28/2025 follows MGL Ch.149 and all applicable bidding laws. The city reserves the right to reject any and all quotes if in the best interest of the city. 03/28/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD25P0591EA Estate of:

Evelyn Margaret Gorman Date of Death: 12/14/2023 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 Renee C Dewhurst behalf of Society of the Daughters of the Heart of Mary 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: **Renee C Dewhurst behalf of Society of the Daughters of the Heart of Mary 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 Also Known As: Norberta G. Hart Date of Death: January 29, 2022 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE To all persons interested in the

above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Meghan Harrison of West Springfield, MA. Meghan Harrison of West Springfield, 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. 03/28/2025

City of Holyke Planning Board PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Holyoke Planning Board

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION HIGHWAY DIVISION NOTICE OF A PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING Project Description: Chicopee Bridge Replacement, Br# C-13-038 I-391 over Route 116 (Chicopee Street)

Project File No. 612187 A Public Informational Meeting will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed project in Chicopee, MA.

<u>WHERE:</u> Legacy Church 780 Chicopee Street Chicopee, MA 01013

<u>WHEN:</u> Thursday, April 3rd, 2025, 6:00 PM

<u>PURPOSE</u>: The purpose of this meeting is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed project. All views and comments made at the meeting will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed project consists of the full replacement of the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Bridge which carries I-391 over Route 116, locally known as Chicopee Street, in the Willimansett neighborhood of Chicopee. The existing bridge is a concrete structure, originally opened to traffic in 1979. It provides three northbound lanes (towards Holyoke) and three southbound lanes (towards Chicopee), though the left lanes of both directions are currently closed to traffic. Though safe for all users, this bridge has reached the end of its useful lifespan and must be replaced. MassDOT proposes to replace the existing structure with a new bridge which will provide three lanes in each direction, a 75-year design life span, and incorporate modern bridge design elements to reduce maintenance impacts to the Willimansett neighborhood and the traveling public. During demolition of the existing structure and construction of the new bridge, some limited detours and closures may be required to ensure public safety, but in general, MassDOT will seek to maintain traffic on both Chicopee Street and I-391. We invite all members of the community to attend the meeting and learn more about this project.

Public Notices

assistance free of charge upon request (including but not limited to interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, open or closed captioning for videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats, such as audio tapes, Braille and large print), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), fax (857-368-0602), TTD/TTY (857-368-0603) or by email (MassDOT. CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us). Requests should be made as soon as possible prior to the meeting, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten (10) business days before the meeting.

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

JONATHAN GULLIVER HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

CARRIE E. LAVALLEE CHIEF ENGINEER 03/21, 03/28/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD25C0078CA In the matter of: Migdalia Reyes Morales aka: Migdalia Alicea CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

CITY OF HOLYOKE PURCHASING DEPARTMENT **INVITATION TO BID CBDG SIDEWALK** IMPROVEMENTS **BIDS ARE DUE BY 2:00 PM ON APRIL 15, 2025** POTENTIAL BIDDERS MUST BE MASSDOT PREQUALIFIED IN THE **CATEGORY HIGHWAY** SIDEWALK & CURBING ESTIMATED CONTRACT VALUE IS \$347,815/YR FOR 3YRS.

The City of Holyoke invites sealed bids for its 2025-2027 CDBG Sidewalk Improvements Project. Work will occur at a number of locations across the City.

Bidding procedures shall be in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 30B, Section 39 M, as amended and Chapter 149, Sections 26-27B inclusive and Section 44A-44I inclusive. Federal funds are being used to fund this project. Respondents must be eligible to receive Federal funds and must comply with all Federal requirements.

Sealed bids for the General Contract will be received until **2:00 PM, on April 15, 2025**.

All bids may be mailed or hand-delivered to the above specified receiving address prior to the time specified hereunder, in accordance with the procedures set forth in the INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS.

Every Bid and shall be accompanied by a bid deposit, in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the bid amount, in the form of a bid bond; or a certified

City of Holyoke Office of Purchasing 536 Dwight Street, Room 3 Holyoke, MA 01040 **Request for Quotes** 2025-31COA **Exterior Painting of the Council on Aging** The City of Holyoke is seeking quotes for painting services at the Council on Aging located at 291 Pine Street, Holyoke, MA 01040. All quote submission need to be inclusive of all labor and materials need to complete the job. The city intends to award the contract the lowest, responsive and responsible quoter. The following scope of work is needed:

- Paint the Entire exterior of the Council on Aging Building. Color to be matched with Sherwin Williams SuperPaint Low lustre Exterior Paint. There will be 3 Colors needed to complete this job. Documents are available electronically on 3/26/25 by requesting from morrowj@holyoke.org

Non-Mandatory but highly recommended site visit will be held on April 8, 2025 10:30 AM at the Council on Aging located at 291 Pine Street, Holyoke MA. **Quotes are due no later than April 22, 2025 at 2PM**. Documents can be sent electronically

to morrowj@holyoke.org with the language "Quote Submission for 2025-31COA" in the

subject line. Prevailing Wages must be paid. A current Prevailing Wage Rate sheet is attached to this solicitation, and proof of Prevailing Wage payroll must be submitted to the city. The city

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 04/18/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

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

Date: March 21, 2025

Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate 03/28/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division Docket No. HD23P1814EA Estate of: Norberta E. Hart

ill hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.com; ID: 83639398493; CALL IN 1 646 558 8656 to hear, pursuant to the Holyoke Zoning Ordinance, a Special Permit for a Parking Reduction (Sec 6.1.7), Dimensional Regulation (Sec 8.8.4), and Increase Fence Height (Sec 4.6.3.2) to allow a temporary fence for construction purposes, submitted by Holyoke Housing Authority (2025-9) (2025-10) (2025-11) located at 354 Chestnut Street (009-06-004).

For a complete copy of the application and site plan, contact the Planning Department at (413) 322-5575.

APPLICANT: Holyoke Housing Authority PLANNING BOARD: Mimi Panitch, Chairperson 03/21, 03/28/2025

City of Holyoke Planning Board PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Holyoke Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.com** ID: 836 3939 8493; Call in *67 646 558 8656 to hear a Special Permit to exceed fence height (Sec 4.6.3.2) for a temporary fence for construction purposes as indicated in the plans as received for 679 & 689 Main Street, & Beauileu Street (055-00-009.2, 009, 009.1), submitted by JLL Real Estate. LLC c/o Richard Kowalski (2024-29).

For a complete copy of the application and site plan, contact the Planning Department at (413) 322-5575. APPLICANT:

JLL Real Estate. LLC c/o Richard Kowalski PLANNING BOARD: Mimi Panitch, Chairperson 03/21, 03/28/2025 This location is accessible to people with disabilities. Mass-DOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Migdalia Reyes Morales aka Migdalia Alicea of Hoyoke, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Migdalia Alicea 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 04/17/2025.**

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: March 20, 2025

Rosemary A Saccomani Register of Probate 03/28/2025

See NOTICES, page 10

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

Email all notices to notices@turley.com

- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- - 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

iguage See NOTI

In The News

PILOT, from page 1

the Collins Center for Public Management was initiated in early 2024 which later led to a \$13,000 contract, supported by the City Council.

The draft PILOT policy and analysis presented on March 11 to the City Council was developed by the Collins Center.

Stephen E. Cirillo, a Collins Center associate who specializes in PILOT strategies, financial forecasting, capital improvement planning, and financial policies, presented the policy designed for Holyoke. He described the data-gathering involved in the first phase of the project: Assessor's records, classification forms, existing PILOT agreements, interviews with Garcia and other City officials, and an inventory of Holyoke's tax-exempt parcels - 940 of them, in all, which is about 16% of the total assessed value. In FY2025, the primary property class in Holyoke is residential, accounting for nearly 66% of the total assessed value. The commercial, industrial, and personal property classes (CIP) make up 18%, while the exempt class constitutes 16%.

In the proposal, Cirillo is recommending establishing 25% of the assessed valuation as the PILOT target. He said the City might consider setting a lower percentage target for low-value, tax-exempt properties.

Garcia said the City has, over the years, arrived at PILOT payments from a handful of tax-exempt property owners. But that those agreements lacked formality and are, in several cases, "handshake" arrangements.

The big difference under the PILOT program is all agreements to make payments to the city will be in writing, making them both formal and enforceable if there are any issues

"We are committed to creating a sustainable financial future for Holyoke while ensuring that all community stakeholders contribute to the essential services that we all rely on," Garcia said.

'Beginning July 1, the policy will be adopted and the City will seek voluntary PILOT agreements with all tax-exempt institutions within the community that own real property."

Garcia explained that these written PILOT agreements will be based on fair market value and a tax levy. PILOT agreements will be established based on a percentage of the amount that the tax-exempt property would pay if not exempt. The percentage is determined based on the tax levy amount that supports the critical services of the City's police, fire and public works operations. The City has determined that this share is equal to at least 25% of the full levy.

Garcia said, "For smaller, community-based tax-exempt organizations with controlling interests in properties assessed at less than \$2 million in FY 2025, that the share will be equal to at least 15% of the full levy.'

The program proposal comes at a time where Holyoke, like many towns and cities, seek alternate ways to bring in more revenue to account for anticipated losses at the state and federal levels.

RATING, from page 1

and stability, rather than short-term fixes, is right for Holyoke. By maintaining a strong rating, we are able to borrow at a lower interest rate, allowing us to stabilize one of our largest budget expenses and provide taxpayer relief. More importantly, it gives the Mayor and Council the flexibility to fund critical infrastructure projects that have been put off for far too long." The S&P announce-

ment noted that Holyoke's "revenue outpaced expenses for fiscal 2023, and early projections for fiscal 2024 have officials expecting a surplus in line with the 2023 results. Revenue has performed in line with expectations, while expenses haven't significantly outpaced budgeted levels.

"The short-term rating reflects our opinion of Holyoke's general creditworthiness and market risk profile, which we consider

Read or subscribe to The Holyoke Sun online at www.sun.turley.com

Public Notices

NOTICES, from page 9

FUNDING AVAILABLE: FFY 2026 & 2027 **Older Americans Act Grant** Applications Title III-B **Older Adult Support Services Title III-E**

Family Caregivers Support Access Care Partners (ACP) announces the availability of Older Americans Act funds in Federal Fiscal Years (FFY) 2026 and 2027, through the Request for

Proposal (RFP) process. Grants will be awarded through a competitive proposal review process, to support and extend comprehensive and coordinated services enabling persons age 60 and over to remain living in their homes and communities. The ACP Area Agency on Aging service region includes the communities of Holyoke, Chicopee, South Hadley, Belchertown, Granby, Ware and Ludlow.

All interested applicants must submit a Letter of Intent ("LOI"). We encourage LOIs from organizations interested in using these funds to offer innovative programming to assist populations in the greatest social and economic need including racial/ethnic minorities; individuals with limited English proficiency (LEP); members of the LGBTQ+ community; older adults residing in rural areas; and other populations living in isolated conditions. FFY 2026 grant year is October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026. FFY 2027 grant year is October 1, 2026 through September 30, 2027. Satisfactory program performance is required during the first year of funding in order to receive the grant for a second year. Title III-B grant programs require a 15% local match. A single grant award will be approved for one provider of legal services for older adults in the amount of \$20,000.00. Title III-B proposals must support or extend (1) access to services, (2) in-home services, (3) legal services, and/or (4) community-based services, for minority and lower income older adults (60 years +). Examples of targeted services that will receive priority consideration include programs addressing social isolation, technology supports and training for older adults, caregiver and dementia-related programming, companion services, and other essential gap-filling programs designed to promote the independence of older adults and support caregivers.

Title III-E grant programs require a 25% local match. Title III-E proposals must support (1) Adult family members or other non-paid caregivers aged 18 & older providing care to individuals 60 years of age or older, or to an individual of any age living with Alzheimer's Disease or related dementia; (2) Grandparents or other relatives (not parents) 55 years of age and older providing care to children under the age 18; (3) Grandparents and other relatives (including parents) 55 years of age and older providing care to an adult with a disability who is age 18-59 years old.

Letters of Intent must include: A brief program description, projected starting/ending dates, community(ies) to be served, estimated number of unduplicated persons to be served, estimated number of service units to be delivered in each grant year and projected program budget. Letters of Intent must be received by mail no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, May 2, 2025 and addressed to: Access Care Partners, 4 Valley Mill Rd., Holyoke, MA, 01040, Attn: Sarah Aasheim. Submissions received after that time will not be accepted. A virtual Technical Assistance meeting for applicants will be hosted on Zoom on Wednesday, 4/9/25, 1:00-2:00. Zoom Access Info Meeting ID# 858 9377 6407, Passcode: 435663. Additional inquiries may be directed to: Sarah Aasheim, Director of Community Programs: saasheim@accesscarepartners.org or 413-538-9020, ext. 536.

does not commit Access Care Partners to award a contract. Any and all grant awards or provider agreements are subject to available funds, compliance with applicable federal and state directives, and review and approval by the Board of Directors at Access Care Partners, Inc. Access Care Partners, Inc. reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, request more information or call for new proposals at any time during the process, and waive any formality in the bidding in the best interest of Access Care Partners, Inc. Bids from Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs), Women Business Enterprises (WBEs), Minority and Women Nonprofit Organizations (M/WNPOs), Veteran Business Enterprises (VBEs), Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business Enterprises (SDVOBEs), Disability-Owned Business Enterprises (DOBEs), and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Business Enterprises (LGBTBEs) are encouraged. Information on diversity certification with the Massachusetts Supplier Diversity Office (formerly SOMWBA) is available through Access Care Partners. (AA/EOE). 03/28/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 04/09/2025. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense. WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M. Hyland, First Justice of this Court. Date: March 12, 2025

low. The low market risk profile reflects our view of the City's strong legal authority to issue long-term debt to take out the BANs and its ongoing disclosure

"Given its current growth patterns, coupled with future developments, we expect its [Holyoke's] economic indicators to continue to improve."

- S&P Rating Agency

to market participants. Officials intend to use BAN proceeds to finance its middle school project and other capital projects," the announcement states.

"Holyoke continues to experience ongoing development throughout the City," according

ments and detailed scope of work are available on 3/26/25 electronically from morrowj@holyoke. org or at no charge from the Purchasing Office. A non-mandatory but highly recommended pre-bid site visit will be held on Tuesday, April 1, 2025 at 1PM at the Holyoke Public Library. Bids should be submitted in person to the Purchasing Dept NO LATER THAN April 22, 2025 at 1PM. Prevailing Wages must be paid. A current Prevailing Wage Rate sheet is attached to this solicitation, and proof of Prevailing Wage payroll must be submitted to the city. The city follows MGL Ch.149 and all applicable bidding laws. The city reserves the right to reject any and all quotes if in the best interest of the city. 03/28/2025

Trial Court of Massachusetts Juvenile Court Department **COMMONWEALTH OF** MASSACHUSETTS **Middlesex** County **Juvenile Court** Lowell Justice Center 370 Jackson Street, 4th Flr. Lowell, MA 01852 978-441-2630 **DOCKET NUMBER:** 24CP0120LO SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

to S&P. "Management reports expansion of existing employers and possible future development of green energy and supercomputing opportunities within the city.

"Tax base growth within the city continues, with total assessed value growing over \$700 million to its current valuation that exceeds \$3 billion. Ongoing tax base growth is particularly important for Holyoke since it is fairly close to its Proposition 2¹/₂ levy ceiling. The city has a limited ability to raise the levy, and it will have to rely on new growth to help maintain budgetary alignment.

The S&P analysis concludes that "given its current growth patterns, coupled with future developments, we expect its [Holyoke's] economic indicators to continue to improve."

Garcia is set to run for a second term this fall as mayor.

with you. If you have a right to an attorney and if the court determines that you are indigent, the court will appoint an attorney to represent you.

If you fail to appear, the court may proceed on that date and any date thereafter to a trial on the merits and adjudication of this matter.

For further information call the Office of the Clerk-Magistrate at 978-441-2630.

WITNESS: Hon. Brian P Frane, FIRST JUSTICE. DATE ISSUED: 03/05/2025

Elizabeth Sheehy,

Clerk-Magistrate 03/14, 03/21, 03/28/2025

City of Holyoke

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE e Holyoke License Board will be holding a Public Hearing on Wednesday, April 2, 2025, at 5:15 pm. You can join via Zoom. com; ID 886 6089 9324; CALL IN: *67 646 558 8656 or in person at City Hall, 536 Dwight St. in the Old Tax Collector Office, regarding the application for a New Seasonal On- premises All Alcohol License for SJS Enterprises, LLC DBA Waterfront Event Venue 920 Main St. pursuant to M.G.L. Ch.138.

Applicant: SJS Enterprises LLC

This Request for Proposals

JOB OPPORTUNITY

newspaper correspondent

The Holyoke Sun seeks Experienced Writers/ Journalists to produce news and/or feature stories of local interest for various towns and cities.

- Must be dependable, professional and able to meet strict deadlines
- Salary based on a flat rate by story and photo

Send writing samples with resume to



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

The Trial Court Hampden Probate and **Family Court 50 State Street** Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD25P0524GD In the matter of: Joseph Perez Of: Holyoke, MA RESPONDENT **Alleged Incapacitated Person CITATION GIVING** NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT **OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED** PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304

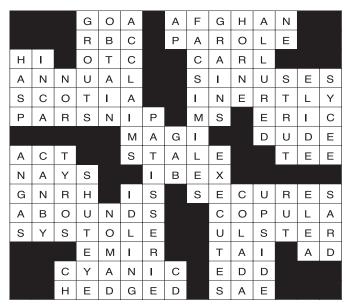
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Valley Springs Behavioral Health H of Holvoke, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Joseph Perez is in need of a Guardian and requesting that (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond.

Rosemary A. Saccomani

Register of Probate 03/28/2025

City of Holyoke Office of Purchasing 536 Dwight Street, Room 3 Holvoke, MA 01040 **IFB 2025-13HPL Replace Bitzer Compressor** The city of Holyoke on behalf of the Holyoke Public Library is

seeking bids to replace the Bitzer Compressor #2 MN#CSW7573-60Y-2PU/SN#1080701965 on Technical System Chiller Model #35E2SD130. The city is looking for qualified vendors/companies to perform all labor & materials to complete this project. Docu-



CARE AND PROTECTION,

TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS **TO: Richard Rodriguez, Fa-**

ther of Jaydez K Rodriguez: A petition has been presented to this court by DCF - Cambridge/ Somerville, seeking, as to the following child, Jaydez K Rodriguez, that said child be found in need of care and protection and committed to the Department of Children and Families. The court may dispense the rights of the person(s) named herein to receive notice of or to consent to any legal proceeding affecting the adoption, custody, or guardianship or any other disposition of the child named herein, if it finds that the child is in need of care and protection and that the best interests of the child would be served by said disposition.

You are hereby ORDERED to appear in this court, at the court address set forth above, on the following date and time: 05/01/2025 at 09:00 AM Pre Trial Conference (CR/CV) You may bring an attorney

License Board: Jose Correa, Chairman 03/21.03/28/2025

City of Holyoke Planning Board PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Holyoke Planning Beard will oold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 8, 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, Special Permit for an Increase in Sign Size (Sec 6.4.6.4); Stop and Shop (2025-12), submitted by Agnoli Sign Co, Inc to be located at 28 Lincoln St, Holyoke MA (073-00-034).

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

APPLICANT: Agnoli Sign Co,Inc. PLANNING BOARD: Mimi Panitch, Chairperson 03/21, 03/28/2025

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.