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Weather doesn't hamper Easter Egg Hunt



The egg hunters are ready.



Zoe Westbrook gets her face painted.



Jahred and Anioah take a "ride" in the fire truck.



Leshligny Gonzalez sits with Easter Bunny.



Boomer with Autumn and Noelle Goodale Fields.



The hunt is on.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Isabella Ayala takes a pony ride.



Aerie Silva paints some eggs.

Councilors looking to modernize city's finances

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – Charter reform is on the minds of many municipalities as they look to modernize rules, laws, forms of government and best practices.

Holyoke is no different and an order to modernize the municipal finances has been brought forward.

According to the city's website, if the city council approves the various reforms to modernize city finances, known as the Finance Modernization Act, it would achieve the following:

Modernized Functions

- Departments realigned to meet 21st century needs
- Key positions renamed and duties reassigned
- Address concerns raised in decades of independent audits
- Employ technology that will improve workflow
- Provide better service to constituents

Increased Efficiencies and Cost Savings

- Net loss of two unfilled positions
- Budget neutral in FY26
- Over \$100,000 of cost savings in FY27
- Reduces reliance on contractors to perform basic functions
- Ensures timely year-end closing and filing of all state and federal documents

Improved Accountability

- Provide additional oversight of the Mayor and financial departments
- Additional auditing of all City departments and functions
- Strengthen penalties for not following policies and procedures
- Build in more fraud protections
- Enhanced reporting to the Mayor, City Council, and general public

These changes com-

See FINANCES, page 6

Acceleration Academies scheduled during break

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Public Schools has scheduled Acceleration Academies for Monday, April 21 through Friday, April 25, designed to provide enriching learning experiences as well as math support for elementary, middle, and high school students during April break. Acceleration Academies will follow this schedule:

Grades 3-5

- 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- At Morgan School for students who regularly attend Morgan and Lawrence
- At Kelly School for students who regularly attend Kelly, E.N. White, Donahue, and McMahon

Grades 6-8

- 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- At STEM Academy for students who regularly attend Metcalf, Sullivan, and STEM Academy

Grades 9-12

- 8 a.m. to 12 noon
 - At HHS Dean Campus for students who regularly attend Dean Tech
- Breakfasts and lunches will be provided to participants at all locations. Transportation is provided for students in grades 3-8 within the district transportation guidelines. Students in grades 9-12 can access public buses operated by PVTA.

See ACADEMIES, page 6

Proposed school budget would jump more than \$6M

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – Despite many proposals to cut funding for education at the state and federal level, the Holyoke Public Schools are proposing a larger budget for FY2026.

Receiver/Superintendent Anthony Soto presented the School Committee with a spending package of \$135,763,625. That would be a 5.3% increase from FY2025, which had an operating budget of \$128,871,103.

Among the increases are net school spending, which is proposed to rise by more than \$6 million. There is also a more than \$1.1 million rise in transportation costs that is pending.

The city's minimum local contribution is only proposed to rise by about 773,886 while the city is projecting an additional \$5,572,990 in Chapter 70 state education funding. That number is based on Gov. Maura Healey's first budget proposal. That budget has been submitted to the state legislature.

According to Soto's proposal, the schools still need to make more than \$1.5 million in cuts based on their current project expenses.

Among the rising expenses are out of district tuition for students attending schools outside of the city, retirement benefits, charter tuition transportation, utility costs, and contractual obligations for sala-

ries and benefits.

Soto did say the health insurance trust decreased by \$440,000 helping things.

There are still more steps coming up with the budget process.

Soto and Mayor Joshua Garcia will have discussions with the Finance and Operations Subcommittee and there will be a presentation to the Joint Committee of the Schools and City Council.

A public hearing on the budget will be held in early June and the city council has to vote whether or not to pass the budget in late June with the budget needing to be in place by the start of the next fiscal year on July 1.

At that point, the school district should be fully returned to local control

according to the plan laid out by the city, with cooperation from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. DESE has pledged to let Holyoke out receivership, which it was placed in back in 2015. The city had three receiver/superintendents during the receivership.

Once the receivership has concluded, the school committee will return to full control of areas of the school district's administration, including the approval of the school budget before it goes to the City Council.

It is not clear how cuts in federal funding could affect the school district going forward. The City Council has not weighed in on the steep increase to the budget yet.

Mother turns loss into opioid awareness, receives MiraVista award

HOLYOKE – Cheryl A. Juaire, who lost two sons to opioid overdoses, will be honored as the first recipient in 2025 of MiraVista Behavioral Health Center’s You-Have-Our AdMIRation Award for her work to connect parents with similar losses and highlight the impact of substance use disorder on both families and communities.

The efforts of the Eastern Massachusetts mother include a new specialty license plate with the words “Overdose Awareness” and the logo of her nonprofit, Team Sharing Inc.

“Through nothing less than a Herculean effort, Cheryl has turned her grief into action,” said Kimberley Lee, MiraVista Chief of Creative Strategy and Development. “Her advocacy work aligns with MiraVista’s commitment to provide both treatment for individuals with a substance use disorder as well as understanding of the

disorder as a medical condition so communities will support and not judge individuals in need of treatment.”

The plate’s debut expected by summer comes after Team Sharing secured a grant last year to help cover the \$40 pre-order fee and that brought in more than the 750 pre-orders the state Registry of Motor Vehicles requires to begin production of a specialty plate. A portion of the fee benefits the nonprofit.

“We hope it will save lives,” said Juaire who sees the specialty plate as a confirmation that the lives “mattered” of all those lost to a drug overdose.

Drug overdoses are a leading cause of injury death among adults in this country with most recent data showing 107,941 overdose deaths in 2022 or more than 32 deaths per 100,000 compared to 8.9 deaths per 100,000 people in 2003. More than three-quarters of these overall deaths

involve an opioid.

Juaire’s vision for the specialty plate was shared by her son, Sean Merrill, who overdosed three months after his 43rd birthday on March 15, 2021. The two had discussed the specialty plate earlier in the year as a birthday present and Juaire remained committed to securing through her nonprofit established in 2017 enough pre-orders for it to be produced.

She sees the plate promoting overdose awareness as “educational.”

“We are hoping it will strike up a conversation because anyone who has a plate has been affected or knows someone who has been affected,” Juaire said. “We hope to be able to share information, resources, support. We hope that it will end the stigma, and I hope everyone in Massachusetts will have one on their vehicles.”

It was her younger son Corey Merrill’s death in 2011

that led Juaire to understand that more than “tough love” is needed for recovery and that relapse with substance use disorder is not uncommon. It also led her to found Team Sharing, described on its website for those “who have experienced the loss of their child through substance passing,” so no parent, as she initially did, will find themselves alone in this situation.

“Back in the early 2000’s when Corey was using, I was completely unaware of the disease of addiction and thought Corey was just being a rebellious teenager trying drugs, as many of us did in school,” Juaire said. “He died alone in a halfway house because he couldn’t just stop. And so, I was forced to learn about the disease, and I had to learn to forgive myself for knowing now what I didn’t know then.”

She said her older son Sean “spiraled downhill” after his brother Corey’s death but then “found recovery and did

great for about five years.”

“Unfortunately, he never dealt with the pain of using with/losing his brother,” Juaire said. “His guilt was that he was the older brother and should have taken care of his younger one.”

She said completing the “mission” of a specialty plate gives her comfort.

“I made it my mission that I was going to do this for Sean,” Juaire said. “It took me 3 ½ years to complete this goal but he never did say for which birthday. This March 15, his heavenly birthday, I am going to celebrate and say: ‘We did it, Sean!’ And now my heart can rest.”

For more information on the specialty plate, contact Juaire at cheryl@teamsharing-inc.org. To order when issued visit: <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/order-a-special-license-plate-to-support-a-favorite-cause>.

MiraVista Behavioral Health Center, which treats

mental and behavioral health conditions in adults and children 13 through 17, created its admiration award to honor organizations and individuals that help foster connectedness within communities.

Previous recipients of the award include William N. DeBerry Elementary School in Springfield; Sober Chef owner Chris Bland and Hubbard Memorial Library in Ludlow.

Interested in suggesting an organization or individual for the award? Write up a short description of why they should be recognized, include your phone contact, and contact information for the nominee and email the nomination to Kim Lee at lee@miravistabhc.org.

For more information on MiraVista, visit: <https://www.miravistabhc.org/>. For more statistical information on drug overdoses visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/drug-overdoses.htm>.

TAC accepting 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.

Games, mini-golf at HPL

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Public 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.

Library dominoes club meets weekly

HOLYOKE – Love the strategic game of dominoes? Come play it at the Holyoke Public Library from 5 to 7 p.m. every Monday. The weekly games will be held in the first-floor board room.

For more information, call Abbey at 413-420-8101 or email abuendinger@holyokelibrary.org. The event is geared toward adults.

UCC to host Easter Egg Hunt Eggstravaganza on April 19

HOLYOKE – Spring is here again, and Easter is right around the corner. That means that the United Congregational Church of Holyoke’s second annual Easter Egg Hunt Eggstravaganza is coming up soon as well.

This year’s Eggstravaganza will be held on Saturday, April 19 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. This free event will feature activities for the whole family, including games, crafts, a scavenger hunt, a cafe, and photos with the Easter bunny. All

activities will take place at 300 Appleton St., Holyoke.

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



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‘Prison Reimagined’ comes to Wistariahurst

HOLYOKE – Wistariahurst welcomes an exhibit of artwork and writing by incarcerated artists critiquing the US Justice System. Prison Reimagined features a series of portraits of U.S. presidents and writing pieces that touch on people’s experiences within the prison system.

The project was organized by Curator and Artistic Director, Cadell “Monty” Kivett from inside a correctional facility in

North Carolina. About the project’s inception, Cadell states, “...I had an improbable idea: Let’s have incarcerated artists draw portraits of our presidents, then invite those subjects to see what we had drawn. This, I knew, if staged in proper context would make for powerful commentary on mass incarceration and criminal punishment in America.” Since the project’s inception in 2021, Prison Reimagined has grown to an exhibition

featuring 23 written and 23 visual works. As the project expanded, Project Manager Janie Ritter and Outreach Coordinator Haley Bryant joined the team, helping push it forward.

The exhibition has traveled to several locations, and Wistariahurst is proud to be the next venue to showcase Prison Reimagined. The exhibit will be on view in Wistariahurst’s Great Hall, expanding the area of the museum where art

installations are shown, and serving as the first installation visitors will see when they enter.

An opening reception will be held Tuesday, April 15 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. The opening reception is free and open to the public, and online registration is encouraged. Additional events relative to the exhibit are to be announced. Come and engage with this powerful, unique exhibit of artwork.

Medicare program set for Monday morning

HOLYOKE – This Monday, April 14 at the Holyoke Public Library, come for a free Medicare 101 workshop to learn the essentials of Medicare, including:

- When and how to enroll – Understanding Medicare enrollment periods.
- Coverage options – Exploring Medicare Parts A, B, C, and D and what each covers.
- Choosing the right plan – Finding a plan that

fits your healthcare needs.

- Eligibility under 65 – Options for those who qualify due to specific health conditions.
- Medicare Savings Program – A little-known program that may help reduce costs.

Don’t miss this opportunity to gain clarity on Medicare and make informed decisions about your healthcare.

For registration, please call 413-420-8101 or email library@holyokey.org.

Win a trip to Rome and help Harmony House

CHICOPEE – Harmony House of Western Massachusetts, the home hospice patients, is sponsoring a raffle to win an all-inclusive trip for two to Rome and the Amalfi Coast from Oct. 23 to Nov. 2. Traveling with a small group and a private guide, the trip includes five nights in Maiori on the Amalfi Coast and four nights in Rome, all transportation, hotel stays, daily meals, and beverages. This Italian sojourn is valued at over \$9,000. The trip is sponsored by Figaro Ristorante, Italian

Exclusive Vacations, and the Guiseppe Polimeni Group.

Tickets are \$100 each and can be obtained by emailing Lisa Potito at admin@harmonyhousewma.org, or via Venmo. The drawing will be held on June 6 and the lucky winner will be contacted.

If interested in learning more or becoming a volunteer, please complete the online volunteer application form at www.harmonyhousewma.org/volunteer-1 or email us at admin@harmonyhousewma.org.

UCCH serving up spaghetti and meatballs on April 11

HOLYOKE – It’s a new month, which means it’s almost time for United Congregational Church of Holyoke’s Community Meal. April’s meal will feature spaghetti, meatballs, sausage, salad and rolls and will be served on April 11 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. We welcome all individuals, regardless of where they are on their journey. If you’d like to learn more about UCCH, please visit our website at www.uccholyoke.org, find us on Facebook or Instagram, or call our office at 413-532-1483 Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Lifeguard training available

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 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.

Easter Bunny is hopping to Holyoke 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 has arrived at the Holyoke Mall.

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 open:

- Monday to Friday: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Saturday: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- Sunday: 11 a.m. to 6 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.



Tax overrides analyzed in library presentation

HOLYOKE – Join the Holyoke Public Library on April 14 at 5 p.m. as UMass professor Kathryn McDermott and Willow Kwak explore the 1991 tax override votes, part of a tumultuous period in

Holyoke politics. McDermott and Kwak conclude that the repeated, unsuccessful efforts to pass a Proposition 2 ½ override for the schools were a turning point in the relationship between Holyoke and the state, which eventu-

ally led to more state funds for Holyoke and other cities, but also to school receivership. This is the first time McDermott has presented her research to a Holyoke audience. Free and open to the public.



Watercolor Artist Gretchen Holesovsky to host meet at the ARTery April 26

HOLYOKE – Art lovers and aspiring creatives are invited to a special Artist Meet & Greet with celebrated watercolorist Gretchen Holesovsky on Saturday, April 26 at the ARTery, located at 289 High Street in Holyoke.

A self-taught artist, Holesovsky has been painting and drawing since childhood. In her twenties, she discovered her passion for watercolor, a medium that has since defined much of her career. Over the years, she has exhibited her work national-

ly, earned numerous awards, and gained membership in several prestigious watercolor societies. Her work has been published in Splash 10, a collection showcasing the best in contemporary watercolor art.

Now retired, Holesovsky has expanded her artistic pursuits to include multimedia, acrylic, and rock painting. This event offers a unique opportunity to hear about her journey, creative inspirations, and evolving artistic practice. Attendees will have the chance to connect with the artist, discuss her work, and

explore the vibrant arts community in Holyoke.

“We’re thrilled to welcome Gretchen to the ARTery for this special event,” said gallery manager Rachel Rushing. “Her talent and dedication to the arts are truly inspiring, and this meet & greet will be a fantastic opportunity for the community to engage with her and her work.”

Don’t miss this chance to meet a renowned local artist and celebrate creativity. For more information, visit www.holyokeart.com.



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SOCIAL SECURITY
Matters
By Russell Gloor



When is the best time for me to claim Social Security?

Dear Rusty:
I will be 66 ½ in June and would like to discuss when would be the best time for me to start taking my social security benefits. I am still employed full time and don't want to be penalized because of that. Please let me know what I need to do to set up an appointment with you. I got your information from the AMAC website and I look forward to hearing from you.

Signed:
Ready to Claim

Dear Ready:
You can certainly call us on 1-888-750-2622 during normal EST business hours for a personal conversation.

But to facilitate that conversation, be aware that deciding when to claim your Social Security benefit normally depends on just a few factors, including your financial need, your health and expected longevity, and your marital status. A few things to be aware of: Born in 1958, your "Full Retirement Age" is age 66 years and 8 months. If you were born in October 1958, you will reach your FRA in June 2025, and that is the point you can get 100% of the SS benefit you've earned from a lifetime of working.

Once you reach your FRA in June, Social Security's "annual earnings test" no longer applies. Thus, you can continue working after you start your SS benefits and your earnings will not negatively affect your monthly benefit amount. If you claim any earlier than your FRA, you will get a smaller benefit and also be subject to Social Security's annual earnings test (which for you this year - your FRA year - is \$62,160, or \$5,180/month after you start your SS benefits). If you decide to claim before your FRA, your benefit will be reduced by .556% for each month early (a permanent reduction).

You can also wait beyond your FRA to claim and earn Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) at the rate of .667% per month (8% per year of delay), in order to get an even higher benefit later. If financially feasible, you can delay up to the age of 70 when your monthly benefit will reach maximum - about 27% more than it will be in June of this year.

imum - about 27% more than it will be in June of this year.


0-If you are single and will not be eligible for a spousal benefit, then you should make your claiming decision based only on your own needs. If, however, you are married and your spouse's FRA benefit is more than twice your FRA amount, you may be entitled to a "spousal boost" (a supplemental amount added to your own SS benefit).

Your life expectancy should be considered when deciding when to claim your SS retirement benefits. If you expect to enjoy at least "average" longevity (about 87 for a woman your current age), then you might also consider delaying your claim (if financially feasible) and that is often a prudent choice. If you don't expect to achieve a long life, or if you need the money sooner, or if you are entitled to spousal benefits, then claiming at your FRA of 66 years and 8 months is likely your best option.

In the end, only you can decide when you should claim your Social Security, but we're always here to answer any additional questions you may have. You can feel free to call us at any time (1-888-750-2622) during normal EST business hours to discuss your options directly with one of our certified Social Security advisors. Or you can also ask any additional questions via email, which we will be most happy to respond to promptly.


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.





in my
BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer



A Brimfield resident makes regular trips to ponds to look for waterfowl often in Warren.

On March 19 he saw five Canada geese, six mallards (three pairs), three American black ducks, six green-winged teal (three pairs) and one male, hooded merganser at a pond on New Reed Street.

The green-winged teal is the smallest dabbling duck in North America. The male has a cinnamon colored head and grayish body with a green crescent from the eye to the back of the head. The male has a vertical white strip that extends from the water line to its shoulder. The female is brown. Both sexes have

green wing patches, which are visible in flight. They also have a yellowish stripe along the tail.

They have a blocky body, large head and short bill. They are between 12 and 15 inches in length. There tail is high out of the water.

Spring time is a great time to look for green winged teal. They often land in shallow wetlands and are sometimes seen foraging in puddles of water on agricultural fields. They feed on shallow bodies of water on vegetation. They breed in dense vegetation along river deltas.

The oldest know green-winged teal was at least 20 years and three months.

Green-winged teal

A female, she was banded in Oklahoma in 1941 and recovered by a hunter in Missouri in 1960.

Great blue heron

The Brimfield resident said in an email dated March 19, "I visited two ponds in Warren yesterday and saw great blue herons for the second time this spring. However this time, they were at the pond where great blue herons have had nest for a couple of years and an osprey was back. Both sightings were at the pond on South Street." Other birds seen at the pond included one ring-billed gull, three rock

See BACKYARD, page 5

Eggplant parmesan anyone?

Just when you think you are done planning your garden you come across something else to grow. What did it for me was a trip to the Dollar Store where I found the seed packs priced at four for \$1.25. What a deal!

While I wouldn't spend \$3.99 for a package of eggplant seeds, I could shell out approximately 32 cents, and if I end up with a half dozen fruit it would be worth the investment.

We grow eggplant at Old Sturbridge Village, but it is the ornamental type, the kind that looks seriously like pure white eggs hanging from a fuzzy gray-green plant! I plan to grow "Black Beauty," the variety that holds promise of parmesan grinders and saucy pasta dishes.

It's been a few years since I have grown eggplant. I stopped growing it because I never seemed to pick it at the right time - either it was too early or too late.

So, why don't we learn together how to grow egg-



in the
Garden

by
Roberta McQuaid



plant successfully and harvest it correctly?

Eggplant is a member of the Solanaceae family, making it cousins with tomatoes and peppers. Like its relatives, eggplant seeds need to be started indoors, eight to 10 weeks prior to the last frost.

By sowing the seed yesterday, I just sneak in to the eight week mark. If the thought of growing eggplant excites you, don't let the calendar dissuade you. Any head start is still a head start!

The seeds like a warmer germination temperature, with some experts calling for 80 degrees! When the seedlings show their first set of true leaves, transplant them out of the seed pack and into six packs. A grow on temperature of 72 degrees cou-

pled with supplemental light will produce nice, stocky seedlings.

Another trick to stocky seedlings is the brush method. A couple of times a day run the top of your hand gently over the seedlings. Depending on how quickly they grow, another transplanting maybe necessary, this time into a four-inch pot.

Be careful not to disturb the roots too much; while tomatoes and peppers don't seem to mind transplanting, eggplant can be stunted a bit, so tackle this task tenderly.

About mid-May preheat your garden space in preparation for planting out the seedling. I lay down black plastic for peppers and will also use it for my eggplant transplants.

After the plants have been hardened off for a week or so by gradual exposure to the elements, it's time to get them in the ground. I cut "Xs" in the plastic about 18" apart, and mix some com-

See GARDEN, page 5



the HOLYOKE Sun
TEAM



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 @ The Holyoke Sun

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Letters to the Editor Policy

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

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

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

Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

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



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The Holyoke Sun welcomes election letters to the editor

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

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

For more information, call 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspa-

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

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

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HCC enrolling for free clean energy jobs training program

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College is now enrolling students for a free, four-week program to train workers for jobs in the clean energy sector.

The Green Construction, Electricity and Clean Energy Systems program runs from July 7 through August 1, Mondays through Fridays, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Classes meet both at Dean Technical High School and at Holyoke Community College.

During 80 hours of hands-on training, students will earn their OSHA 10 safety credentials while learning the basics of green construction, hand and power tool use, and electrical concepts and circuitry, and learning how these skills are applied in solar photovoltaic installation and electrical vehicle charging stations.

Students who complete the program will be eligible for work in construction, can apply for a paid electrician apprenticeship program, or enroll in further training as a

clean energy technician.

The program also covers energy efficient materials and design, measurements and diagrams, basic framing, wall installation and maintenance, foundation construction and pouring, workplace safety, and job readiness.

It is funded through a two-year, \$832,000 state grant HCC received in 2024 for climate-related workforce training initiatives. HCC’s partners in the grant include the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, Springfield Works, Dean Technical High School, and the Coalition for an Equitable Economy,

To be eligible, students must be at least 18, authorized to work in the United States, have a high school diploma or equivalency, be able to start work after the training, and pass a background check.

For more information or to enroll, please go to: hcc.edu/cleanenergy or contact career counselor Mike Blasco at mblasco@hcc.edu / 413-552-2801.

Exhibitors wanted for pancake breakfast

SPRINGFIELD – The World’s Largest Pancake Breakfast is more than just Springfield’s traditional birthday celebration. It is an opportunity for area businesses, community service and social service organizations, to promote their products and services to the more than 10,000 people expected to attend the event on Saturday, May 17. It is an easy, successful, and affordable way to engage and connect with people.

Fees start at just \$35 for community service organizations, and \$500 for businesses. It includes an 8-foot table placed in a high-traffic area, and a table cover. Registration is online at spiritofspringfield.org/participate. The deadline is Friday, April 18.

The World’s Largest Pancake Breakfast, sponsored by MGM Springfield,

will be held from 8 to 11 a.m. on Main Street from State Street to Bridge Street. For many years, the event is extended to 12 noon, so exhibitors should plan to stay the additional hour.

The Spirit of Springfield is also looking for performers for the two entertainment areas on Main Street. This can include musical performances, dance, and martial art or athletic demonstrations. Registration is also online at spiritofspringfield.org/participate.

This year, many have already registered to bring their brand to the World’s Largest Pancake Breakfast, they include All Energy Solar, GoNetSpeed, Martin Luther King Jr. Charter School, The Farmers Market at Forest Park, Eastern State Exposition,



Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity, Springfield Public School Family & Community Engagement, Massachusetts Department of Children & Families, and many more.

Others participating with gifts and giveaways will be MGM Springfield, Massachusetts Air and Army National Guard, Monson Savings Bank, Western Mass News, and WWLP-22News. Performers include Libertas Academy Charter School, Sci-Tech Band, Springfield Preparatory Charter School, The Mary Ann Studio of Dance, and a special appearance by Boomer from the Springfield Thunderbirds.

For more information about the World’s Largest Pancake Breakfast, visit spiritofspringfield.org, or contact the Spirit of Springfield at 413-733-3800, or staff@spiritofspringfield.org.

BACKYARD, from page 4

pigeon, one blue jay and six red-winged blackbirds.

Last year, there were four heron nests, however one nest fell down during the winter. There were two birds standing in one of the nests for a time before one of the birds flew to a nearby tree.

Osprey

The Brimfield resident said an osprey nest has been at this location in Warren since 2020 and nine young have successfully fledged. here. An adult just arrived in the last day or so. The bird flew to the nest carrying a branch and then moved to the bottom of the nest, tilted forward and then began scratch-

ing at the bottom of the nest. He took a picture of this osprey scratching. He said, “In a picture I took, debris can be seen flying over the edge of the nest. A behavior I have never seen before – interesting.”

Worm stealing blue jay

An Oakham resident through his kitchen window an American Robin extract a worm from the ground. He said, “At that moment, a blue jay landed scaring off the robin and stealing the worm.” He watched the blue jay flit closer and closer in the shrubbery and swoop in when the next worm was extracted by a robin. He said, “I did a quick check of the literature - nothing like

this observed before. Jays, crows, ravens and magpies (Corvidae family) are renowned for their instinctual ‘intelligence’ and thievery.”

Sandhill cranes

I have not seen the sandhill cranes in my field lately. I did here then early in the morning last week when I put my trash bin out. My neighbor said she heard them in the morning as well.

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

post into the soil under each X. The seedlings are then installed just slightly lower into the soil than where they were growing in the pot.

If you can cover them with a floating row cover to help modulate the heat and keep flea beetles and Colorado potato beetles at bay, all the better.

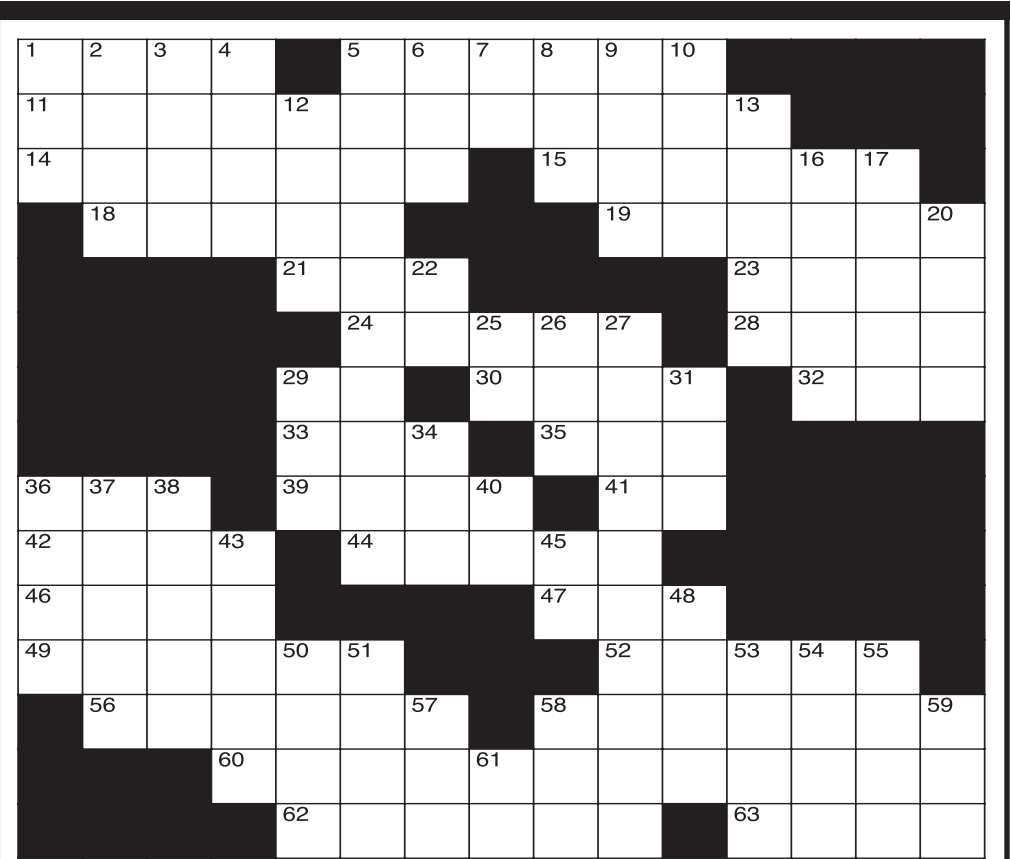
I read that northern

gardeners can expect to get four to six fruit per plant. Folks with a longer growing season can sometimes gain 12 to 15!

Once the fruit appear glossy, they can be picked, even before they reach their full size. If you wait until the skin is dull, the fruits are seedy and not at their prime any longer.

I am excited to see if my 32 cent investment will be fruitful. Fingers crossed!

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.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Garden tool
- 5. A way to preserve
- 11. Gratitude
- 14. Domestic sheep
- 15. Simpler
- 18. Cavities containing liquid
- 19. Large fish-eating bird
- 21. Ocular protection index
- 23. Phil ___, former CIA
- 24. Icelandic poems
- 28. Pop
- 29. Device
- 30. Actor Rudd
- 32. A pituitary hormone
- 33. Focus on an object
- 35. Corpuscle count (abbr.)
- 36. Young women's association

- 39. Not shallow
- 41. Doctor
- 42. Furniture
- 44. Hindu male religious teacher
- 46. Highly spiced stew
- 47. A way to communicate
- 49. Almost last
- 52. Astronomer Carl
- 56. Small horses
- 58. A slender tower with balconies
- 60. A disrespectful quality
- 62. Fully shaded inner regions
- 63. Short convulsive intake of breath

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Popular Sunday dinner option
- 2. Oil cartel
- 3. Agile

- 4. Greek goddess of discord
- 5. Genetically distinct variety
- 6. Indicates badly
- 7. Popular Mr. T character
- 8. Consumed
- 9. Chinese dynasty
- 10. NFL great Randy
- 12. Within
- 13. Palm trees
- 16. Fungal disease
- 17. Tall, slender-leaved plants
- 20. Affirmative! (slang)
- 22. A passport is one
- 25. Two outs in baseball (abbr.)
- 26. Swiss river
- 27. Differential
- 29. Where a bachelor lives
- 31. Portable computer screen material

- 34. A crying noise of a bird
- 36. Sticky, amorphous substance
- 37. Starchy dish of dried tubers
- 38. Type of acid
- 40. Partner to “Ma”
- 43. 16 ounces
- 45. The Bay State
- 48. A well-defined track or path
- 50. Substitution
- 51. Defined period
- 53. Group of toughs
- 54. Region
- 55. Famed Scottish Loch
- 57. Blood relation
- 58. Not around
- 59. Recipe measurement
- 61. Father to Junior

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 8

CHURCH DIRECTORY



Your Community Church

Blessed Sacrament Parish

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

First Baptist Church

Pastor Theresa Temple
1976 Northampton St., Holyoke
(413) 533-7728
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.
WEEKEND MASSES:
Saturday 4 p.m.
Sunday 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m. (Polish), and 10:30 a.m.
DAILY MASS:
Monday - Saturday 8:30 a.m.
Legal Holidays Mass 9 a.m.
Reconciliation (Confession)
Monday - Saturday 8 a.m.
Saturday 3:15pm
Anytime by Appointment
DEVOTIONS
Monday - Saturday
Divine Mercy Chaplet - 7:50 a.m.
ROSARY 8:05 a.m.
www.ourladyofthecross.com

St. Peter's Lutheran Church

Rev. Debora Stein
34 Jarvis Ave., Holyoke
Office: (413) 536-3369
Office: 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)

Dealers sought for Spring Flea Market at historic site

AGAWAM – Following the success of last year’s Community Tag Sale on the grounds of the historic Thomas Smith House, 251 North West Street, Feeding Hills, Massachusetts, the Agawam Historical Association is organizing a Spring Flea Market there on Saturday, May 3 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and is seeking dealers of antique, vintage, and artisan items to participate. Local historical societies and civic organizations have also been invited to attend to promote their organizations, presenting an excellent

opportunity to join others at a community event in support of local historical preservation. 12’ x 12’ spaces are available for \$25. Dealers must provide their own tables and shade. Space availability is first come, first served. Space rental proceeds will benefit the Agawam Historical Association’s efforts to preserve the town’s history at the Agawam Historical & Fire House Museum and the Thomas Smith House. To reserve a space, please send check before 15 April, pay-

able to Agawam Historical Association, P.O. Box 552, Agawam, Mass. 01001. Please contact Joe Potter at (413) 821-5102 for more information. In the event of rain, the event will be held the following day, Sunday, 4 May 2025, from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm. The National Registered Smith House and its preserved 1920s garage will also be open for tours. The house remains in near-original condition, with no central plumbing or central heat and can be visited virtually at <https://mls.kuu.la/share/collection/7Jq2q?fs=1&vr=1&initload=0&thumbs=1>.

The Thomas Smith House is one of the few remaining resources from the 18th century agricultural past of Feeding Hills. The history of its residents represents the long history of farming this section of Agawam and the shift into working outside the community by its later owners is representative of the pattern of suburban development that occurred in the town and throughout the country in the early twentieth century. The house is an

unusually intact example of 18th century building practices and an unusually unaltered example of mid-to-late 18th century Connecticut River Valley design and materials, and of vernacular Georgian style. The Agawam Historical Association is a private, non-profit organization working to preserve historic materials, documents, and landmarks pertaining to the Town of Agawam and to provide educational opportunities concerning Agawam’s history. The association operates the c. 1757 Thomas

Smith House at 251 North West Street in Feeding Hills, and the Agawam Historical & Fire House Museum at 35 Elm Street in Agawam. The Smith House is preserved in largely original, unrestored condition and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The museum occupies the former Elm Street Fire Station, and houses artifacts pertaining to the town and the Agawam Fire Department. New members are always welcome! For more information, visit agawamhistory.org. Follow us on Instagram and Facebook.

Donation needed for dress programs

AGAWAM – For a limited time, Cooper’s Gifts, Apparel, Home of Agawam, Mass., is accepting professional attire donations for Dress for Success of Western Massachusetts and Suit Up Springfield. Both causes request interview-appropriate women’s and men’s clothing, shoes and accessories. Items will be collected at Cooper’s now through April 30. “We invite everyone to spring clean their closets and change a life,” said Kate Gourde, owner of Cooper’s Gifts, Apparel, Home. Donations must be like new, clean and on hangers. All professional attire is welcome, but casual clothing will not be accepted. “Just ask yourself ‘Would I wear this to an interview?’ If the answer is ‘yes,’ Dress for Success and Suit Up Springfield can put it to good use,” Gourde said. The mission of Dress for Success (DFS) is to empower women to achieve economic independence by providing a network of support, professional attire and development tools to help them thrive in work and in

life. They provide each client with professional attire to secure employment, but they are about much more than simply a new outfit. Besides physically equipping the client with apparel and accessories, their programs furnish her with a confidence that she carries forever and the knowledge that she can actively define her life, the direction she takes and what success means to her. Suit Up Springfield (SUS) is a community organization focused on providing the men of Springfield with professional attire. Their goal is to help everyone find a suit that will give them the confidence, knowledge and tools to help them become a successful member of our community. Both organizations have boutiques in downtown Springfield. “We have held clothing drives for years; our customers consider it a convenience. Especially for people west of the river, it’s easier to bring donations here, and we are open 7 days a week,” Gourde said. Items may be brought to the shop anytime during the month of April. Cooper’s is located at 161 Main St.,



Donations are being accepted at Cooper's Gifts for Suit Up Springfield.

Submitted photo

Agawam, Mass., and is open daily 10am-5pm, Saturdays 10am-4pm and Sundays 12-4pm. Cooper’s will be closed on Easter Sunday, April 20. “This drive coincides with Dress for Success as our April Round-Up charity; so, it’s the perfect time to spread the word about their mission and really help them out,” Gourde said. Each month Gourde chooses a local charity to receive the profits of the

store’s Round-Up Program through which customers are invited to round up their purchase total to the nearest dollar amount. Gourde will then match 50% of the total collected. The program has donated more than \$60,000 to local organizations since its inception in 2014. More information on the Round Up program and how to nominate a charity may be found on Cooper’s website www.coopersgifts.com/round-up/.

Volunteers needed to flag veteran graves

AGAWAM – The Agawam Veterans’ Council is seeking volunteers to flag veteran graves on Saturday, April 12 with a rain date of April 13, Sunday.

Anyone interested in participating please meet at 8 a.m. at the Springfield Street Cemetery (across from Sacred Heart Church), Feeding Hills.

FINANCES, from page 1

plement recent initiatives implemented focused on strengthening controls including the adopted Financial Management Policies Manual and the recent change from the Special Election that resulted in voters choosing to change the position of City Treasurer from elected to appointed. With this change, we are looking forward to establish a consolidated Financial Department as outlined in the proposed Municipal Finance Modernization Act, and finally soon bring on board a qualified and experienced Chief Administrative and Financial Officer to properly oversee the financial functions of our government, do proper financial forecasting, maintain a

capital improvement program, and make proper recommendations to leadership so that we are making informed decisions. Several members of the city council have called for increased scrutiny of the city’s finances, and more transparency from the mayor’s office to both the city council and public at large. The proposed modernizations would work to achieve those goals. The city’s website has a link to all the proposed changes, which went in front of the City’s Council’s Charter and Rules Committee as well as the Ordinance Committee earlier this week. It could take several months to go through the committee process with two of the council’s subcommittees evaluating it as well as the law department.

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ACADEMIES, from page 1

Families of interested students can enroll online. Space is limited so families are encouraged to enroll as soon as possible to ensure their children can participate. For assistance with enrollment, please call (413) 534-2000, option 1.

Summer Getaways!

May 23 **7-Night Bermuda Cruise** from \$1699

June 10-12..... **Hampton Beach Getaway** \$529

June 28..... **Boston Harbor Lunch Cruise**..... \$175

July 12 **Escape to Rockport**..... \$110

July 26 **Perkins Cove for a Day** \$110

Share the Adventure with us soon!

For further information call Randall at **(413) 436-5357** or email adventuretours@att.net or go to www.adventuretoursofwarren.com

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USDA INSP. FROZEN **PREMIUM CLEANED PORK FROM CHITTERING** 5 LB BAG **\$19.99** lb

USDA INSP. BONELESS **KAYEM BUDABALL WHOLE PIT HAM** **\$3.69** lb

USDA INSP. FROZEN BONELESS **BUTCHER WAGON DINNER HAM** **\$1.79** lb

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USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS **BEEF TENDERLOIN** CUT FREE **\$10.88** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH **AMERICAN LEG OF LAMB** **\$6.89** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS **HOLIDAY PORK ROAST STUFFED W/ HAM CHEESE, PEPPERS, BACON, OLIVES** **\$4.49** lb

USDA INSP. FROZEN **BUTTERBALL TURKEYS** **\$1.33** lb

USDA INSP. FROZEN BONE-IN **TURKEY BREAST** **\$1.59** lb

USDA INSP. FROZEN **KING FISH STEAKS W/ HEAD OR TAIL** **\$4.99** lb

USDA INSP. FROZEN SKINLESS **HADDOCK FILLETS** 2 LB BAG **\$9.99** ea

USDA INSP. FROZEN **CONCH MEAT CLEANED** 5 LB BOX **\$59.99** ea

USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN **COOKED SHRIMP 16/20 COUNT** 2 LB BAG **\$19.99** ea

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newspaper correspondent

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

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- **Salary based on a flat rate by story and photo**

Send writing samples with resume to

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or email directly to gscibelli@turley.com

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Baseball team out to 0-2 start

HOLYOKE – After losing their season opener against East Longmeadow, the Holyoke High School baseball team was defeated by Taconic 9-3.

Holyoke was led by Jovaughn Rivera with two hits and a walk and an RBI.



Cian Callahan fires a throw across the diamond.



Ryan Greaney pivots after making a play at second.
Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Jovaughn Rivera makes the throw to second for a force out.



Jeremy Francisco gloves the grounder at first.



Aiden Robinson makes a play on the grass.



Xavier Matos sends a serve over the net.



Aiden Theriault gets some air for the spike.



Gedeon Ortiz-Torres gets a quick bump.



Michael Melendez sends the ball back over the net.

Knights grab first win

HOLYOKE – Last Thursday afternoon, the Holyoke High School boys volleyball team was victorious for the first time this spring.

The Knights scored a 3-0 sweep of Commerce at home. With the win, the Knights are now 1-3 on the season. They have lost to Southwick, SICS, and East Longmeadow.

The Knights will next face Duggan on the road at 5:15 p.m.



Michael Melendez goes straight up with a set.
Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Yandiel Rivera Troche grabs the block.

Knights softball edged by Ware

HOLYOKE – The day after a rainout, Ware visited Holyoke last Friday afternoon. The Indians were able to escape with a 6-5 win over host Holyoke. Kylie Blaha went the first three innings and also had two hits in the defeat for the Knights.

Coming up, the Knights are scheduled to travel to Palmer High School for a 5 p.m. game. They also will host Granby on Tuesday, April 15 at 5 p.m.

Overtime goal lifts Thunderbirds over Lehigh Valley

A L L E N T O W N , Pa. – The Springfield Thunderbirds (34-28-2-4) received a perfect night from their netminder and outlasted the Lehigh Valley Phantoms (33-27-6-2) in a 1-0 overtime win on Saturday night at the PPL Center. Coupled with Hartford’s overtime loss in Hershey, the T-Birds’ magic number to clinch a playoff berth has fallen to just 1.

After being pressured for 16 first-period shots on Friday in Utica, Springfield was far stingier defensively in the opening frame against their division foes, keeping

Lehigh Valley to just seven shots in the first period and making things easy for Vadim Zherenko to keep the opponents off the board.

Parker Gahagen had a similarly strong start for the Phantoms, turning away the eight Springfield offerings that came his way in the first 20 minutes. Furthermore, neither team could connect on one power-play chance each in the opening stanza.

Springfield had its best chance to break the scoreless deadlock in a mad scramble near the net in the second, but Gahagen

managed to turn away both Dalibor Dvorsky and Nikita Alexandrov despite being on his belly while trying to keep the puck out.

Lehigh Valley’s closest call came off the stick of veteran Anthony Richard, who scooted to the right side of the slot to punch a quick attack on the net after the puck caromed in front off the end boards. Zherenko, though, had the answer, pushing his left leg across for the pad save, one of his 21 stops through 40 minutes. Gahagen took a 20-save shutout into the third for

Lehigh Valley.

A tentative third period saw the teams protect the defensive zone. Lehigh Valley’s door of opportunity opened when the Phantoms earned their second power play, but Zherenko and the Springfield penalty kill stiffened. With the game just two seconds away from overtime, the Phantoms nearly won it in the final seconds, but Zherenko flashed out the left leg for a phenomenal in-tight save on Zayde Wisdom to force the game into overtime.

Overtime only further showcased Zherenko’s story-

book night, as Lehigh Valley relentlessly fired chances at the Springfield net, but none of their eight tries found their way past the Springfield goaltender.

With just a half-minute to play in the extra period, Dvorsky moved back into the Phantoms zone and awaited a trailer. Calen Addison flew in off the Springfield bench, took a drop pass, and snapped a wrist shot through Gahagen to finally break the ice and give the T-Birds the overtime win on the veteran blueliner’s first goal and point as a T-Bird.

Springfield gets a break from game action before taking the ice on Friday inside the Thunderdome at 7:05 p.m. against Belleville. The Hartford Wolf Pack and Hershey Bears square off again on Sunday, and any Hershey victory would punch the Thunderbirds’ ticket to the Calder Cup Playoffs.

Fans can get their Thunderbirds tickets for the Calder Cup play-off push today by calling (413) 739-GOAL (4625) or by visiting www.SpringfieldThunderbirds.com.

Worcester Railers take 3-2 win over Adirondack Thunder

WORCESTER – It can be really hard to project the outcome of a game between a team that has nothing to lose and one that has everything to lose.

Such was the case Saturday night in the match here between the Railers and the Adirondack Thunder. Worcester won by a goal, of course, 3-2. Each of the Railers’ last seven victories have been by one goal including a shootout triumph.

Adirondack is out of the playoff race and using many new faces. The Railers’ battle for the final playoff spot in the North Division leaves

them no margin for error.

The math is simple even if the task is not. The Railers have three games left, one with Adirondack Sunday and two at Reading next weekend. If they win them all, they make the playoffs with 80 points.

Saturday, the Worcester scorers were Justin Gill, Tanner Schachle and Tyler Kobryn. Ian Pierce and Kaleb Ergang had the Adirondack goals. It was Pierce’s first professional goal.

Gill scored in the first period, Schachle in the second and Kobryn in the third. At one point the Railers had

a 2-0 lead, then backslid in the second half of the second period. Ergang scored with 10 seconds to go in the period and it was 2-2 heading into the third.

Kobryn broke the tie with a shot from between the circles at 14:37.

It was his ninth goal in 23 games with Worcester. Kobryn had two in 18 games with Florida this year before being traded to the Railers and 16 in 145 career ECHL games prior to his arrival here.

“Any time you get that kind of production out of a player who was kind of a

‘nothing’ trade,” coach Nick Tuzzolino said, “that definitely helps, but everybody has to fit a role and he fits his role with that line.

“And when he gets chances he doesn’t miss.”

Gill, in contrast, has been a difference maker on offense. He is 7-13-20 in 20 games with Worcester this season and plus-11. The Railers are 12-6-2 when Gill is in the lineup.

Schachle’s goal was his first in a Worcester uniform to go along with three assists.

The Railers were in control of things until they went on a power play half-

way through the second period. The power play was, in a word, inept. Momentum turned in Adirondack’s direction and the Thunder dominated the rest of the period.

“It’s not anything they did, it’s something we did,” Tuzzolino said of the power play. “It’s self-inflicted. The biggest problem with our power play right now is that it’s killing momentum. It’s not just that we’re not scoring, it’s killing momentum.”

Michael Bullion continued to be a momentum creator in net, though. He stopped 22 of 24 shots and is 7-1 in his last eight starts.

Worcester’s playoff push is largely a result of a recent great record at the DCU Center. The Railers did not play well at home during the early part of the season but are 14-3-2 in its last 19 games here. That is good for a .789 winning percentage.

Overall, Worcester is 24-13-3 in its last 40 games.

The victory was the Railers’ 34th of the season and brought them to 74 points. They will finish above .500 for the first time 2018-19, their second season in the ECHL. Worcester was 32-29-11 for 75 points that year.

Public Notices

City of Holyoke Conservation Commission Notice of Public Meeting
Pursuant to MGL Chap. 131 §40 and the Holyoke Wetlands Ordinance, the Holyoke Conservation Commission will hold a Public Meeting on **Thursday, April 24th, 2025 at 6:15 p.m. remotely via zoom** at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85359782022> to review a Request for Determination of Applicability filed by AECOM on behalf of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation for the removal of a concrete foundation and the remnants of an abandoned structure and shed on the Mount Tom State Reservation (MBP 217-00-006) within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands.
Jeffery Horan, Chairperson
04/11/2025

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. HD25P0665EA Estate of: Michael Y Chung Date of Death: 12/24/2024 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Henry Y Chung of East Longmeadow, 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: **Henry Y Chung of East Longmeadow, MA** be appointed as

Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **With Personal 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 04/28/2025. 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 31, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate
04/11/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Housing Court Department of the Trial Court Western Division Citation on Appointment of Receiver Docket No. 23H79CV000270, Western Housing Court Springfield 37 Elm Street, P.O. Box 559 Springfield, MA 01102 (413)-748-7838
City of Holyoke, Petitioner, v. the Estate of Virginia A. Redfern a/k/a Virginia J. Redfern, as owner of the property located at 160 Pine Street, Holyoke, Massachusetts, City of Holyoke (Lienholder), and Richard P. Redfern, Karen Ann Williams, Wayne A. Redfern, Kevin G. Redfern and Peter J. Redfern (Owners), Respondents, and the Massachusetts Department of Revenue and the Internal Revenue Service (Potential Parties-In-Interest).
To all interested persons:
The Receiver appointed by Order of the Western Division Housing Court to rehabilitate the property located at 160 Pine Street, Holyoke, MA 01040 has motioned the court to sell the property to a nonprofit entity for \$30,000.00 in its current condition.
The owner, mortgagee and any other interested parties may join a motion for leave to correct all outstanding state sanitary code violations at the property. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before 9:00 a.m., May 12, 2025, AND attend a Motion Hearing of the Receivership on May 12, 2025 at 9:00 a.m., at this Housing Court, Department of the Trial Court, Western Division. If you fail to appear or file a timely written appearance and objection, on or

before May 12, 2025 at 9:00, action may be taken without further notice to you.
04/11/2025

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION WATERWAYS REGULATION PROGRAM Notice of License Application pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 91 Chapter 91 License Application Number 25-WW01-0042-APP Applicant: Holyoke Rows Project Location: Holyoke Rows, 8 Oscar Street, Waters of the Connecticut River, Holyoke, Hampden County Notification date: April 11, 2025
Public Comments Deadline: May 12, 2025
Public notice is hereby given of the Chapter 91 License application by Holyoke Rows to install and maintain two new floating dock and gangway systems, a log deflector boom, to authorize and improve a boat ramp, including dredging and filling activities, and to conduct invasive species removal and revegetation with native plantings along the shoreline in waters of the Connecticut River, Holyoke, Hampden County. The proposed project has been determined to be a Water-Dependent Use.
The Department will consider all written comments on this Chapter 91 Application received by May 12, 2025 (Public Comments Deadline). Failure of any aggrieved person or group of ten (10) citizens or more to submit written comments to the Waterways Regulation Program by the Public Comments Deadline will result in the waiver of any right to an adjudicatory hearing in accordance with 310 CMR 9.13(4)

(c). The group of citizens must include at least five (5) citizens who are residents of the municipality in which the proposed project is located. A public hearing may be held at the request of the Municipal Official.
Project plans and documents for the application are on file for public viewing electronically at: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/EEA/PublicApp/> (enter **25-WW01-0042-APP** in the Search Page in the Record ID field). If you need assistance, please contact donald.e.giard@mass.gov or if you do not have access to email, please leave a voicemail at (617) 292-5929 and you will be contacted with information on alternative options.
It is recommended that documents and correspondence be filed electronically with the email address specified above when possible. Alternatively, comments may be mailed to MassDEP Waterways Regulation Program c/o Don Giard, 100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900, Boston, MA 02114.
04/11/2025

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. HD25A0031AD In the matter of: Nahiaara Aimar Acosta Rosario CITATION G.L. c. 210, §6
TO:
Nashali Acosta
any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department

of Children and Families of said Commonwealth.
A petition has been presented to said court by:
Glorimar Rosario Torres of Holyoke, MA
Yancy Ruiz of Holyoke, MA requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to
If you object to this adoption you are entitled to the appointment of an attorney if you are an indigent person.
An indigent person is defined by SJC Rule 3.10. The definition includes but is not limited to persons receiving TAFDC, EACDC, poverty related veteran’s benefits, Medicaid, and SSI. The Court will determine if you are indigent. Contact an Assistant Judicial Case Manager or Adoption Clerk of the Court on or before the date listed below to obtain the necessary forms.
IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT Springfield ON OR BEFORE TEN O’CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON: 05/02/2025.
WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 21, 2025
Rosemary A. Saccomani Register of Probate
04/04, 04/11, 04/18/2025

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION
Swinging Bridges
Auction Company Lic #2755
A Public Auction will be held **04/19/2025**. Unclaimed items to be sold at **9:00 a.m.** Pawn Depot Inc., 448 Appleton St., Holyoke, MA 01040. 20% buyers fee, 6.25% MA Sales Tax.
04/04, 04/11/2025

The Holyoke Sun

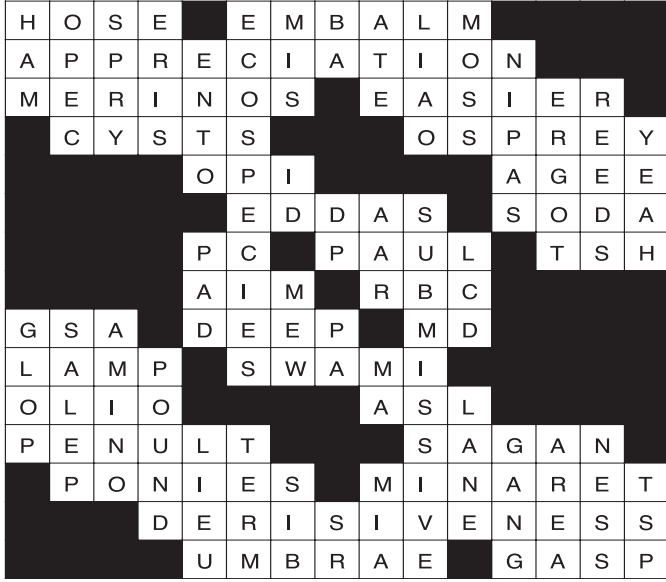
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Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.



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8 • APRIL 11, 2025 • The Holyoke Sun

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TOWN OF WILBRAHAM Library Director

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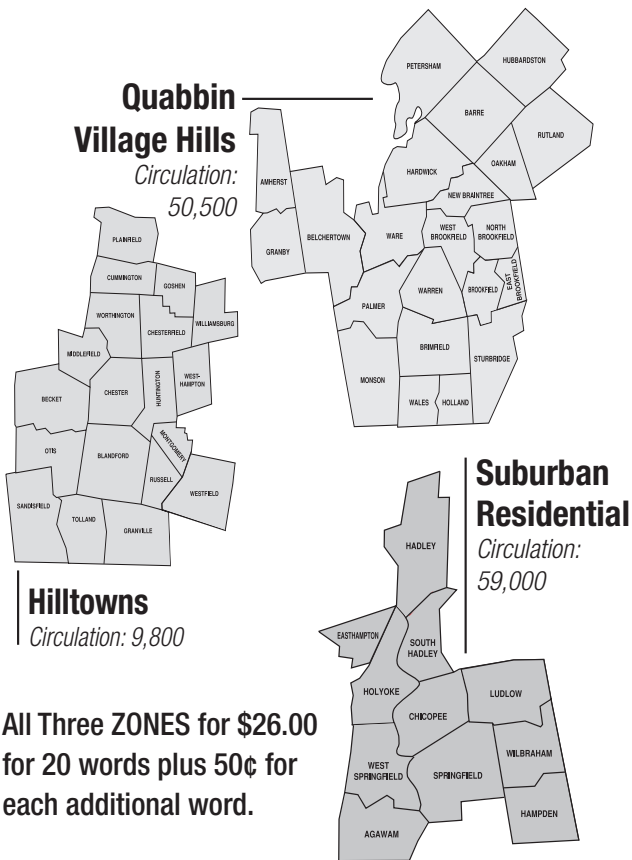
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