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# HOLYOKE the Sun

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## Police Chief David Pratt to retire

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – Police Chief David Pratt is set to retire on July 1 of this year.

Pratt has been working in the police department for over 30 years, and he is proud of the work he has been able to do to push the department forward.

“We’ve made huge improvements in technology and infrastructure in the department,” he said.

He felt that now was the time for him to step down.

“It’s mostly about family,” Pratt said. “I’ve been doing this for 31 plus years in Holyoke alone, not to mention my earlier years, and policing is a tough career and it’s hard on your families and friends as much as it’s hard on you for doing it.”

Pratt looks forward to spending more time with his friends and family throughout his retirement to make up for the time he missed while working for the police force.

Mayor Joshua Garcia and Pratt have worked closely together to plan out how to ensure a smooth transition between Pratt and the next police chief.

Captain Isaias Cruz will be stepping up to take the role of interim police chief as Pratt enters retirement and the search for a new chief begins.



Mayor Joshua Garcia hosted a press conference to announce the retirement of Police Chief David Pratt.

Turley photos by Quinn Suomala

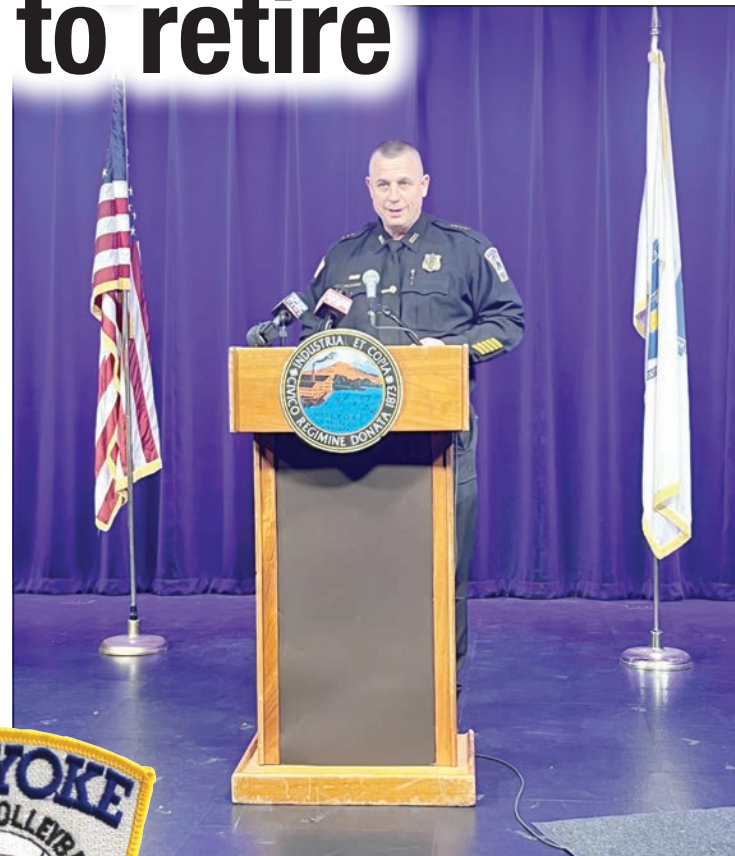
“In this transition we want the public to know that continuity will continue,” Garcia said. “Day to day management of the police department will be fine, we’re going to continue the work and the commander in operations is clear.”

Cruz assures the public that he is more than capable of taking over this position.

“I’ve been preparing for the last three years as a captain, working alongside with the chief,” he said. “I’ve already

had the experience working in patrol, working as a detective, so the operation part of it is the easy part... I’m pretty confident that I can lead this department and that I have the abilities to do so.”

While there will be new aspects to the chief position, specifically focused around budget and management,



Police Chief David Pratt gave his gratitude and well-wishes to the people of Holyoke and all the people he has worked with during his years working in the police.

Cruz is confident in his ability to learn from Pratt and adapt on the job.

Additionally, he wants the people of Holyoke to know that he understands and speaks Spanish, so he can be accessible to them in that way.

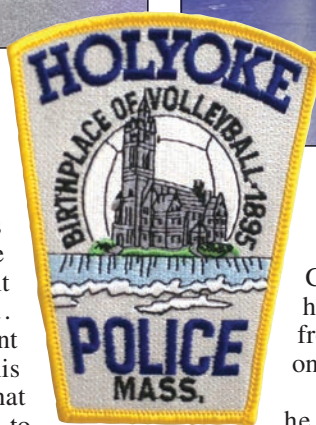
“I speak Spanish, so if

you want to come talk to me in Spanish...you can come talk to me or you can call me,” Cruz said.

Both Garcia and Pratt are also confident in Cruz’s abilities to take over as interim chief.

“I’ve worked with Captain Cruz on a number of projects and initiatives and he has my

See CHIEF, page 9



## Fallen officers honored in memorial ceremony

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – Officers James Reynolds and David Zolendziewski were honored by having their names added to the

police memorial at DiNapoli Plaza.

“It’s a privilege to pay tribute to these two outstanding men,” Representative of District Attorney Anthony Gulluni Jennifer Fitzgerald said. “These two proud Holyoke police officers were loved, respected, committed to their jobs and ultimately gave their lives protecting their community. They represented the very best values and ideas of law enforcement: integrity, courage and commitment to judgment.”

Mayor Joshua Garcia, Police Chief David Pratt, and representatives from District Attorney Anthony Gulluni and Hampden County Sheriff Nicholas Cocchi’s offices all came to honor these fallen policemen.

Garcia emphasized the importance of holding ceremonies such as these to honor the work police do for the city of Holyoke.

See CEREMONY, page 6



Above, Captain Denise Duguay was the Master of Ceremonies for the Memorial Service of Officers James Reynolds and David Zolendziewski. Right, the names of Officers James Reynolds and David Zolendziewski have been added to the police memorial at DiNapoli Plaza and will be engraved at a later date.

Turley photos by Quinn Suomala

## FinCom wants CPA ballot question to happen

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

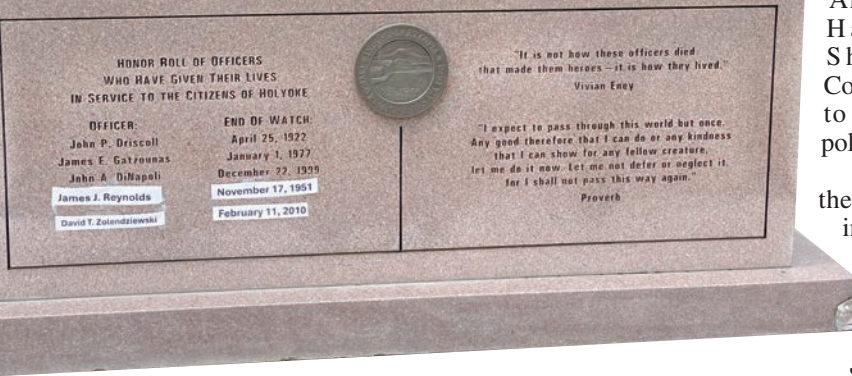
HOLYOKE – At the finance committee meeting on Apr. 30 the motion was made 4-1 to send the CPA ballot question to the full city council.

The ballot question itself mirrors the language of the initial ballot question made to vote for the creation of the CPA in Holyoke back in 2016, with the only change being to ask to vote on whether or not to reduce the CPA surcharge from 1.5% to 1%.

This language was approved by the legal department, as they had stated that the language must be identical for this ballot question as it was for the initial question in order for it to be legal.

Some councilors were interested in altering either the

See BALLOT, page 9



**In The News**

# Velis receives Hope for Holyoke's Lifetime Achievement Award

HOLYOKE – This past Friday, May 3, Senator John C. Velis (D-Westfield) joined community members at Hope for Holyoke's 8th annual "Hokey Awards".

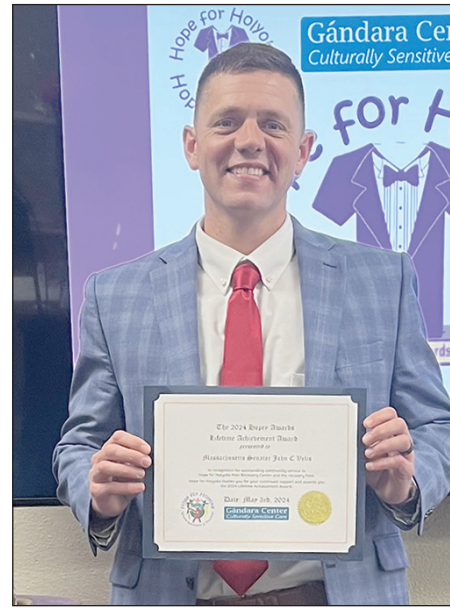
During this event, which recognized individuals, businesses, staff, peer leaders and volunteers, Senator Velis received Hope for Holyoke's Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his work to support those in recovery.

"I am beyond honored to have received the lifetime achievement award from Hope for Holyoke, an incredible organization that does so much work every single day to help those in recovery in our community," shared Senator John Velis, Chair of the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use, and Recovery. "I firmly believe the three hardest, and most courageous, words any person can say is "I need help". In return, we must create an environment, and really push back on the stigma that too often exists in society, so that when people raise their hand and ask for help that they are met with the support that they need to begin their recovery."

Hope for Holyoke provides free peer to peer recovery support programming in the City of Holyoke. Throughout Senator Velis's career he has championed legislation and support for programs focused on supporting those with substance use disorders. As the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use, and Recovery, Senator Velis noted that he will be continuing to focus on these issues in the Senate's upcoming FY25 State Budget and throughout the rest of the legislation session.



Senator Velis Receives Hope for Holyoke's Lifetime Achievement Award for Work Supporting Individuals in Recovery



Submitted photo

**COLLEGE NOTES**

## Phi Theta Kappa announces inductees

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College is proud to announce that 68 HCC students have been accepted for membership into the Alpha Xi Omega chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa national honor society for 2024. Students are invited to join Phi Theta Kappa when they have completed 15 college cred-

its while maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or higher. HCC's 2024 inductees were recognized during a campus celebration on May 1.

The following students are from Holyoke: Maximilian Bruel, Tomas Colon, Daley Levesque, Erykka Rocha, Alondra Serrano, and Patrick Sweeney.

## Resident recognized for academic excellence

EASTON – Gus Morales of Holyoke, a graduate student in Stonehill College's Master of Education in Inclusive Education (Specialization in

Special Education 5-12) program, was recently honored with a certificate of achievement at the 2024 Scholars Celebration, held Tuesday, April 30.

## City announces Memorial Day events

HOLYOKE – The Patriotic Events Committee is honored to host a Memorial Day ceremony on Monday, May 27 at the War Memorial Building located at 310 Appleton St. The ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. This ceremony, once known as "Decoration Day", originated subsequent to the Civil War for the purpose of placing flowers and "decorating" the graves of those brave servicemen who lost their lives defending our country.

Since 1868, we have kept this

promise to honor those fallen comrades from all wars. Please join us and the community in honoring all fallen service men and women at the Memorial Day ceremony. Sgt. Brendan Quinn, ret., will be the keynote speaker for this service. In addition to the ceremony, the American Legions would like to extend an invitation on their Memorial Day events. Post 351 will be hosting a breakfast from 8 until 10 a.m. Post 325 will host a luncheon beginning at noon until 2 p.m. All are welcome.

Read The Holyoke Sun online at [www.sun.turley.com](http://www.sun.turley.com)

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# Athletic director earns George E. Killian Award of Excellence

HOLYOKE – Tom Stewart, director of athletics and student engagement at Holyoke Community College, is the recipient of the 2024 George E. Killian Award of Excellence, the highest award bestowed each year by the National Junior College Athletic Association.

The award is given to those who demonstrate the ideals of voluntarism, achievement, service, leadership, and excellence. It is named after George E. Killian, the first executive director of the NJCAA, which led for nearly 40 years.

“Thank you for all you do to ensure a great student-athlete experience and for your dedication to the NJCAA,” Christopher J. Parker, NJCAA president and chief executive officer, said in the award letter.

Stewart, a resident of Westfield and a graduate of Westfield State University, has worked in college athletics for more than 35 years, the past 26 at HCC, where

he has been director since 1999.

At HCC, he oversees nine intercollegiate sports programs and manages the David Bartley Center for Athletics and Recreation. He serves on the NJCAA Board of Regents as the representative for Region 21. He chairs the NJCAA Division III Men’s Golf Committee and the NJCAA Division III Women’s Golf Committee while also serving on the NJCAA Track and Field Committee.

During his career, HCC has hosted nine NJCAA cross country championships and a track and field championship. In 2016, he was elected second vice president for the association’s men’s division. In that role, Stewart oversaw the complete budgetary activity of the association. He has previously served as the co-chair of



Tom Stewart

the finance and budget committee.

Stewart and other award winners were recognized April 17 in Charlotte, North Carolina, during the 2024 NJCAA annual convention.

Representing 550 schools, the NJCAA is the largest athletic association for two-year colleges in the United States. Stewart is the first recipient of

the George E. Killian Award from any college in New England since it was first presented in 2006.

“That means a lot,” Stewart said. “It’s kind of a culmination of all my work for all these years. And as I’m winding down towards the end of my career, it’s kind of nice to be recognized, even though I’m not big on getting these kinds of awards.”

Stewart started his career in higher education at Westfield State where he

worked for seven years as student activities administrator and director of intramurals and coached cross country. He was hired at HCC in 1996 as student activities director and became assistant athletic director in 1999 and athletic director in 2007. He now also supervises the Student Engagement department at HCC, which includes Student Activities and the Student Senate.

In October, he was inducted into the Westfield State University Athletics Hall of Fame. As an undergraduate there, Stewart was a four-year member of the WSU Owls cross country and track and field teams. An all-conference runner in 1985 and 1987 in cross country, he won the Westfield State Invitational and was an all-New England runner in steeplechase his sophomore year. The WSU cross country and track teams won conference titles all four years he was on the team.

## Tag sale to be held on May 18

HOLYOKE – Our Lady of the Cross Church in Holyoke will be holding a Tag Sale on Saturday, May 18, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday, May 19 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Rain or Shine. It will be held in our Parish Hall at 1140 Dwight St. Tons of treasure for all ages. For more information please call 413-532-5661.

## City of Holyoke fireworks set

HOLYOKE – The City of Holyoke will be hosting the annual 4th of July fireworks on Friday, June 28 (with a rain-date of June 30). The event will take place on the grounds of Holyoke Community College, at 303 Homestead Ave.

Vendors interested in taking part in the event should contact the Parks and Recreation Department before June 16, for a permit application at 413-322-5620.

Everyone is encouraged to come early to enjoy the music and food from a variety of vendors as well as many children’s activities. The event begins at 6 p.m. with the fireworks display scheduled to start at dusk. For any questions, please call the Mayor’s Office at 413-561-1600.

## Mayoral bike ride set for May 13

HOLYOKE – Mayor Joshua A. Garcia will lead the annual Mayoral Bike Ride on Monday, May 13, at 5 p.m. The 45-minute ride will start at City Hall and finish at the Fame Lounge, 386 Dwight St.

The bike ride, sponsored by the Holyoke Biking and Pedestrian Committee, is held each year in observance of Bike Month. Participation in the ride is open to all.

## Waterfront venue reopened

HOLYOKE – The Greater Holyoke Chamber is pleased to announce the grand reopening of the iconic Waterfront Event Venue under the stewardship of The Colón Family.

After an extensive period of renovation and rejuvenation, The Colón Family is thrilled to unveil the transformation of this Holyoke landmark. The Waterfront Event Venue will now proudly serve as a premier banquet destination, catering to a diverse array of community celebrations and gatherings.

The community was invited to join for the Grand Opening festivities was on May 4. Festivities included a ceremonial Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, followed by guided tours of the newly renovated facility. Guests also had the opportunity to explore an expo-style showcase featuring specialty vendors, partake in complimentary raffles, and indulge in the delights of a 360-degree photo booth.

“We are immensely proud to reintroduce the Waterfront Event Venue to the

greater Holyoke community,” expressed the Colón family. “This momentous occasion marks the culmination of our dedication to revitalizing this historic space into a vibrant hub for communal revelry and cherished memories. We extend our heartfelt invitation to all to join us in commemorating this milestone.” Jordan Hart, Executive Director of the Greater Holyoke Chamber, echoed the sentiment, saying, “As a former employee of the Waterfront, I am particularly thrilled to see it return to its former glory under the leadership of The Colón Family. This reopening marks a significant moment not only for Holyoke but also for those of us who have fond memories of celebrating within these walls. I am excited to witness the next chapter of this beloved venue unfold, and bring more business to our city.”

For further updates follow Waterfront Event Venue on Facebook and Instagram at @waterfronteventvenue.

## Library offers genealogy afternoons

HOLYOKE – HPL genealogy afternoons have something to offer everyone: individualized advice from professional genealogists, assisted access to History Room resources, and a growing community of family historians. These afternoons are now the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays every month from 2 to 4 p.m.

**May 8**  
Hillary Schau

**May 22\***

Irisneri Alicea Flores  
and Hillary Schau

\*Fourth Wednesdays include both general help and assistance with Puerto Rican, Caribbean, and South & Central American genealogy resources.

## Carlos Vega Fund for Social Justice awards 13 grants

HOLYOKE – The Carlos Vega Fund for Social Justice is awarding 13 grants in their 13th year of funding organizations in the Holyoke area who are fighting injustice, oppression and poverty.

Since 2012, the Carlos Vega Fund for Social Justice has awarded \$66,570 to 52 organizations in the Greater Holyoke area who are fighting for justice and building community. We have given to projects in organizations such as: The Gray House, Girls Inc of the Valley, Enchanted Circle Theater, Homework House, Holyoke Safe Schools Initiative, Western Mass Elder Care and Holyoke Public Schools. You can find a complete list of our grantees and more information about our Fund on our website: [www.carlosvegafund.org](http://www.carlosvegafund.org).

The 2024 awardees are: Holyoke Health Center - \$500 funding support for the Banned Graphic Novel project; The Gray House - \$2000 funding support for after school technology support; Indian Orchard Citizens Council - \$500 funding support for community gath-

ering events; Nueva Esperanza - \$1000 funding support for cultural art project for Noche De San Juan event; Common Wealth Murals - \$1900 funding support for community paint events for community mural; Scarlet Sock - \$400 funding to support upgrade technology; The Performance Project - \$500 funding support for Family and Community celebration event; Community Legal Aid - \$2000 funding support for the Family Preservation Project; Generational Seeds - \$600 funding support for garden and kitchen supplies for programing; Resilient Community Arts - \$1000 funding for support an art project for Holyoke Pride Festival; Pa'lante, transformative Justice - \$1558 funding support for youth led mural project; Alianza DV Services - \$1040 funding support for a support group for undocumented domestic violence survivors; African American Female Professor Award Association - \$500 funding support toward yearly recognition event.

The awards will be presented on Friday May 10 from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Wistariahurst Museum, 23 Cabot St. The Grant Award program will start promptly at 3:30 p.m. Light snacks and refreshments will be provided. The public is warmly invited to attend and celebrate this diverse group of grant recipients with us.

These grants, which aim to address injustice, oppression, and poverty in the greater Holyoke area, particularly for those who are marginalized by our society, fund initiatives that foster change and promote empowerment, self-help, economic, political, and social justice.

In addition to our grant cycle, the Carlos Vega Fund is looking forward to our Fall Event on October 19 at Fame Eatery & Lounge in Holyoke event where our 2024 Social Justice Award Recipient and new board members will be announced. The CVFSJ is a donor designated fund managed by the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts.

## Holyoke Community College recruiting students for human services program

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College is now recruiting students interested in working in the human services field for a free, two-semester certificate program that starts in September 2024.

This is the second year of the grant-funded human services certificate program, which started in the fall of 2023 after the college received a \$1.28

million award from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services. The grant covers the full cost of tuition, fees, books, and supplies for students who want to earn a certificate in human services and is coupled with a paid internship at participating local social service agencies.

HCC’s community partners

in the grant include the Gandara Center, Craig’s Doors, Mental Health Association, and Jewish Family Services. The grant and the HCC program are intended to help address a shortage of workers in the human services industry.

“This program is really meant to accelerate a student’s entry into the workforce,” said Donna Rowe, chair of

HCC’s Human Services program. “It’s wonderful that these four agencies have made this agreement with us. They’re looking for workers, and we have students looking to get into the field.”

The two-semester Human Services Internship Program is now looking to fill slots for up to 30 full-time students to

See *RECRUITING*, page 9

Guest Column

# in the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid

## Pointers for happy plants

I read somewhere that the new frost free date for our area is May 8. In discussing this finding with a fellow gardener, she said, "I still wait until Memorial Day. It just seems way too early to put peppers or tomatoes into the garden." I wait too.

It is more than just the frost free date, it's also about how sufficiently the soil has warmed up. With temps hovering in the mid 40's today, I can't imagine our tropical loving plants would be very happy dealing with that.

Besides choosing an appropriate planting date, there are a few other pointers at this stage of the game will help to get your garden off to a good start.

Whether you purchase plants at a local garden center or grow your own on windowsills or under lights, it is important that they be hardened off before being set into the ground.

Some nurseries take care of this for you by removing them from the greenhouse and placing them on benches outdoors where they get accustomed to wind, rain, fluctuating temperatures, and hot sun. If the plants you purchased came from inside the greenhouse hardening them off at home is relatively easy.

Introduce seedlings to the outdoors gradually, by placing them in a protected location, safe from whipping winds and scalding sun, for a small amount of time each day. Water frequently but withhold any fertilizer.

Over the course of a week to 10 days the amount of time spent outdoors should increase until plants have spent a full day outside. Once they have, they can be considered "tough enough" to be planted in the ground.

Transplanting is best done on a cloudy,

See GARDEN, page 5

## Election letters to the editor welcome

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](mailto: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.



Guest Column

## Widower's retirement stymied by Social Security's WEP and GPO rules



**Dear Rusty**  
*My wife passed away four years ago. I want to retire so called SSA and was told I can collect my own SS at 62, reduced by Windfall Elimination Provision.*

*My wife's SS was greater than mine, but they said I do not qualify for hers at age 60 because of the Government Pension Offset. This seems odd that I get zero for her, however I can collect mine at the two thirds reduction at 62. Is this true? This zero dollar amount places my retirement on hold for now. I was counting on her SS.*

**Signed: Discouraged Widower**

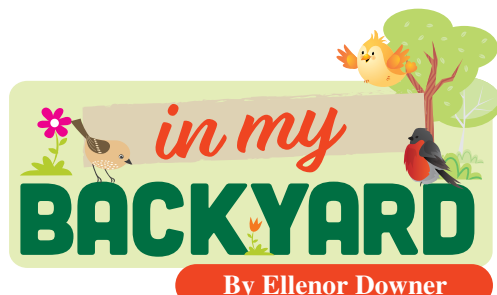
**Dear Discouraged**  
 The Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset are two of the most confusing and unpopular of Social Security's myriad rules. From the way you describe your conversation with the Social Security Administration, it doesn't appear to have concluded with you fully understanding how these provisions work, so allow me to elaborate.

WEP and GPO affect anyone who has a retirement pension from a federal, state or local government agency which did not participate in Social Security, meaning neither the employee nor the employer paid into Social Security based on the employee's earnings. Obviously, you have such a pension, which means that WEP will reduce any Social Security retirement benefit you have earned from other employment where SS payroll taxes were withheld and the GPO will affect any survivor benefit you are entitled to.

WEP affects only the SS retirement benefit you earned elsewhere; WEP does not affect any surviving spouse benefit you might be entitled to from your wife. Rather, it is the GPO, which affects your survivor benefit, again because of your state retirement, called a "non-covered pension" - one earned without contributing to Social Security. The GPO will reduce any surviving spouse benefit you might be entitled to by 2/3rds of the amount of your "non-covered" state pension. Depending on the size of your state pension, that reduction may entirely eliminate your surviving spouse benefit from your wife.

Under normal SS rules, a surviving spouse does not become eligible for survivor benefits until they reach age 60

See SECURITY, page 5



By Ellenor Downer

Two Rutland residents and my daughter spotted a pair of mute swans on Long Pond in Rutland.

Mute swans are about 55 inches in length and are white. The bill is pink to orange with a black knob at the base. They swim with their neck held in an S curve and with the wings slightly raised over their back. Immature swans keep their brownish feathers for a full-year.

Mute swans are beginning to aggressively compete for food with other waterfowl. They eat the leafy parts of fresh and salt water plants as well as algae and waste grain.

The female lays four to eight pale, grayish eggs in a nest, which is a large pile of vegetation lined with feathers placed near the water. Mute swans are native to Great Britain and Europe and were brought to the United States in the 1800s. These swans are usually seen at parks, but they are also in the wild.

They got their name because they are usually silent. Mute swans do not have the

same vocal structure as native swans and can only make hissing and snorting sounds.

### Nesting bluebirds

I received this email from an Oakham resident. He said "Two months ago I repaired an old bird nest box and placed it in an apple tree. A pair of Eastern Bluebirds took to it, going in and out with nesting material." He said, "Today, from my kitchen window, I admired the male, perched at the corner of the deck rail. It was scanning the lawn for prey items. It flew to the ground and returned to the perch with what appeared to be a beetle. The male then flew off with it."

"Moments later, the female landed at the exact same perch and, like the male, was scanning the lawn. It spotted a prey item and returned with it to the perch: it looked like another beetle. The female then exhibited the crouched fluttering posture, like a hungry hatchling. Within seconds, the male appeared and was given the insect by the female. As many of you know, the male of most (but not all) bird species feeds the female during courtship."

### More birds

A Brimfield resident sent some of the birds he has seen in an email dated April 29. He said, "Today in the yard, male ruby-throated hummingbird and male rose-breasted grosbeak. I rushed to put a cou-

See BACKYARD, page 5

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

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

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

Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

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

**SECURITY**, from page 4

(age 50 if disabled). Normally, a surviving spouse benefit claimed at age 60 is reduced by 28.5% and it is the GPO that will affect your survivor benefit whenever you claim it. However, even without GPO, your age 60 survivor benefit amount would be only 71.5% of the amount your wife was receiving or entitled to receive at her death. If you are already collecting your non-covered state pension when you claim your SS survivor benefit from your wife, then that reduced age 60 survivor benefit would be offset by 2/3rds of the amount of your state pension. And that, according to what Social Security told you, is what eliminated your age 60 eligibility for a surviving spouse benefit from your wife. If you don't claim it at 60 your survivor benefit will continue to grow until

you reach your Full Retirement Age of 67, but if 2/3rds of your state pension is more than 100% of your SS survivor benefit, you still won't get any surviving spouse benefit from your wife's record.

A further consequence of your non-covered state pension is that the SS retirement benefit you earned elsewhere will be reduced by WEP. WEP will reduce, but cannot eliminate, your Social Security retirement benefit. The WEP formula is complex but, generally, your WEP-based Social Security retirement benefit will likely be roughly half of what you would get if you did not have a state "non-covered pension." You could claim your WEP-reduced SS retirement benefit as early as age 62 or, if financially feasible, delay longer to get a somewhat higher, but still reduced amount.

Just For Your Information, your

state employer had an obligation to fully inform you of the consequences of not contributing to Social Security while earning your state pension. It appears as though they may not have fulfilled that obligation.

*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](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org). Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.*

**BACKYARD**, from page 4

ple of feeders out. I had planned to do that next week but the hummingbirds got here earlier than expected."

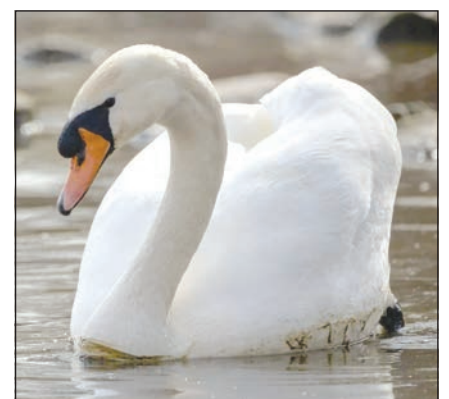
He also had a turkey wander through the yard: a couple have been irregular visitors lately. Other backyard sightings were red-winged blackbirds and a cowbird pair as well as a Carolina wren.

He said, "Ospreys in Wilbrham and Warren are sitting on nest as are the great blue herons in Warren. I have to get to the Monson rookery soon to see what is going on there."

He also said, "Some members of the Allen Bird Club are monitoring peregrine falcon nest

and at one of the sites I'm watching, my wife and I saw three for sure and maybe four chicks in a nesting box setup by Mass Fish and Wildlife."

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](mailto:mybackyard88@aol.com) or [edowner@turley.com](mailto:edowner@turley.com) or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.



Mute Swan

**GARDEN**, from page 4

drizzly day. Early evening is another option should nice days persist.

Under these circumstances roots will be allowed some recovery time before having sustain the plant in the sun and wind. Seedlings should be watered well prior to transplanting.

On occasion I have even kept a bucket of water with me in the garden in which I submerge six packs of plants for a few seconds to moisten them thoroughly before planting in dry soil.

The planting hole should be dug slightly larger than the container in which the plant was growing. Depending on the type of plant, compost and fertilizers can be added to the hole and mixed with the surrounding soil to insure adequate fertility.

Plant the seedlings at the same depth they were growing in their containers, no deeper. One exception to this rule is tomatoes, whose stems sprout roots!

For less leggy tomatoes, plant them deeply, even in trenches with only a few sets of leaves above ground.

Examine the root ball of seedlings carefully. If the roots are tightly woven together, they may need to be "butterflied," or gently pulled apart to encourage future rooting in new soil.

After planting, firm soil around roots, and water well. If water drains away from the seedling make a basin of soil a few inches from the plant's stem to keep water where it is needed.

If sunny days and warm temperatures are expected soon after transplanting it is a good idea to shade plants for a few days with overturned pots, tree

branches, or other devices. Again, less transplant shock means less time spent on recovery, and more time spent on making fruits and flowers!

Continue to water well and deeply for the first week or two. Deep watering will encourage deep rooting, and deep roots will best withstand summer droughts.

Taking good care of your plants in the early stages will certainly insure a summer of productivity.

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 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](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.*

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**CLUES ACROSS**

1. It wakes you up

6. A place to sleep

9. Czech village

13. Appetizer

14. African country

15. Dark brown or black

16. Parent-teacher groups

17. Saturates

18. ESPN personality Kimes

19. Songs to a lover

21. Cavalry-sword

22. Begat

23. Patriotic women

24. Famed Princess

25. One who does not conform

28. Neither

29. Nigerian monetary unit

31. Body parts

33. Hit Dave Matthews Band song

36. Depicts with pencil

38. Make into leather without tannin

39. Plants grow from them

41. Alias

44. Fingers do it

45. More dried-up

46. Clod

48. Senior officer

49. A way to listen to music

51. The bill in a restaurant

52. Historic center of Artois region

54. Cyprinid fishes

56. Poisonous perennial plant

60. Scottish Loch

61. Heads

62. Extra seed-covering

63. Wings

64. Britpop band

65. Forearm bones

66. Small immature herring

67. Female sibling

68. Hymn

**CLUES DOWN**

1. Vipers

2. Not on time

3. Resembling a wing or wings

4. Tears down

5. Professional designation

6. Noise a sheep made

7. Type of lodge

8. Speak poorly of

9. Ties the knot again

10. Apron

11. Studied intensively

12. City in Finland

14. One who monitors

17. 18-year astronomical period

20. Trent Reznor's band

21. Takes to the sea

23. Split pulses

25. Valentine's Day color

26. Wyatt

27. Type of rail

29. One from the Big Apple

30. Asteroids

32. Made more sugary

34. Change in skin pigment

35. Mild yellow Dutch cheese

37. Koran chapters

40. A place to relax

42. Young woman ready for society life

43. Female horses

47. Half of Milli Vanilli

49. Icelandic poems

50. Indiana town

52. Golden peas

53. Closes tightly

55. It's mined in mountains

56. Cliff (Hawaii)

57. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid

58. Monetary unit

59. Primordial matter

61. TV station

65. Rise

**CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 11**

# In The News

## CEREMONY, from page 1

“When you come to an event like this and remember those who have died in the line of duty, it offers that critical reflection we all need so that we are always maintaining unity and supporting each other and navigating the complexities that this job brings,” Garcia said.

Additionally at this ceremony, there was a performance of “Amazing Grace” on the bagpipes to give tribute to these officers, and Colleen Chesmore led the crowd in the Police Officer Prayer to St. Michael.

All those in attendance wanted to ensure that these officers would not be forgotten.

“We are not forgetting these people, and we’re getting them on our wall,” Pratt said.

“We’re here to acknowledge and ensure we never forget the heroes that these officers were,” Fitzgerald said.

Both officers died as a result of injuries they received on duty, and Holyoke took this moment to honor their service.

Reynolds served the Holyoke police throughout the 1940s and early 1950s. In January of 1950, he injured his spine when he had to jump backwards onto a stone wall to avoid being hit by a tractor trailer.

In November of 1951, he died from complications in a surgery to repair the ruptured discs in his back as a result of that injury. He was 40 years old.

Zolendziewski was a 24 year mem-

ber of the Holyoke Police Department when he died in 2010 from injuries obtained in a motor vehicle crash while on duty.

Zolendziewski was a DARE officer and a School Resource Officer.

“My father was a cop here for 24 years, he loved it,” Officer Craig Zolendziewski said. “He started DARE camps, brought the kids together with the cops.”

Both police officers had family members present to speak and accept the honor on their behalf.

Their families were honored that their relatives were being memorialized in such a way.

“It means a lot for my family and I that he is enshrined on the memorial in this way,” Craig Zolendziewski said.

“Finally today, 73 years after his passing, Patrolman James Reynolds has

at least come home to Holyoke,” James Reynolds’ niece, Marie Reynolds, said.

The families of these fallen officers and other police officers were grateful for this memorial. Pratt particularly gave his thanks to Captain Alan Fletcher who spearheaded the memorial work a decade ago.

Both police officers’ names will soon be on the memorial for all to see when they visit Holyoke Heritage State Park.



Chief David Pratt recognized the work and sacrifice of Officers James Reynolds and David Zolendziewski.



The sculpture, located at Holyoke Heritage State Park, is a tribute to Officer John DiNapoli as well as to officers who also gave their lives in the line of duty.



Officer Craig Zolendziewski, son of Officer David Zolendziewski, gave thanks on behalf of him and his family for the addition of his father’s name to the memorial.



Colleen Chesmore led the Police Officer Prayer to St. Michael.



Marie Reynolds, niece of Officer James Reynolds, told the story of her uncle.



Mayor Joshua Garcia honored the sacrifices of Officers James Reynolds and David Zolendziewski.

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## Girls tennis scores first win of the year

HOLYOKE – Last Thursday afternoon, Holyoke girls tennis finally picked up a win, defeating Central 3-2.

Kelsy Brainard led the way with a win in second singles.

Lily Lawrence won in third singles, and the team of Ava Tellier and Gracie Chesmore got the win in first doubles.

Holyoke is 1-8 this season.



Gracie Chesmore goes high for the long hit.



Allison Jourdain reaches out to get a hit.  
*Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com*



Ava Tellier sends a solid return hit.



Kelsy Brainard socks a volley over the net.



Aponte Avantaey makes the throw in the javelin.

## Track team back in action

HOLYOKE – Earlier this week, Holyoke High School track was in action hosting Ludlow High School. Both teams are getting ready for the Western Mass. meet, which will be coming up in just a couple of weeks.



Luca Martios gets ready to land in his attempt.



Aramis Serrano takes his turn. *Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com*



Veronica Colon gets some air in the long jump.

## Blue Sox in need of host families

HOLYOKE – The Valley Blue Sox is still searching for a few host families for the 2024 season.

To be a host family, all you need is a private room for the player to stay in, food options, and access to a kitchen.

In return, 2024 volunteer host families will receive:

- Free general admission to all Valley Blue Sox home and away games
- Food vouchers for every home game
- Free trip to Fenway Park to a Boston Red Sox game
- Free clinics for any household member ages 6-13
- Special Host Family recognition event
- 40% discount on all merchandise
- Season-long access to our live-game radio
- Access to our fan bus to an away game to be determined

If you are interested in being a host family, please contact [mattd@valleybluesox.com](mailto:mattd@valleybluesox.com) for more information.

## Volleyball sweeps Chicopee

HOLYOKE – Last week, Holyoke boys volleyball swept Chicopee 3-0. The Knights got 15 kills from Adrian Centeno-Feliciano and 10 kills from Jeduar Colon. Michael Melendez contributed 20 assists. The Knights are now 9-5 on the season and have qualified for the Division 2 state tournament.

# Benjamin's Star Speedway mastery continues with 100 checkers

EPPING, N.H. – Travis Benjamin won two of last year's Granite State Pro Stock Series stops at Star Speedway. With only one visit to the popular bullring on the schedule in 2024, the reigning GSPSS champion made it count.

The Belfast, Maine, veteran withstood challenges from Ryan Green and Casey Call to win Saturday night's Spring 100, opening his title defense the same way he started off last year's title chase.

"I've got a wicked good car here," Benjamin told series announcer Marco Thomas in Star's winner's circle. "I can't

thank my crew enough."

Benjamin and Green flexed their muscle early, winning their respective heats to lead the field to the first green flag of the new season. Green, sporting new colors and with former GSPSS champion Joey Doiron in his pit stall, worked the outside line to take the early lead, with Benjamin haunting in second.

In a mad scramble for the lead after a lap-34 restart, Benjamin got the better of Call and Green, retaking the top spot as the field slowed for a competitor's tire trouble. Call settled into second on a long green-flag run, with Green threaten-

ing for second.

Jamie Wright's spin on lap 82 erased Benjamin's advantage, with Green and Call poised to make it exciting in the final laps. But Benjamin cleared himself of Green, driving away from the pack to post his fourth career GSPSS win and his third Star win in the last four series races held at "The Place to Race."

Call, last July's GSPSS winner at Star, settled for second, with Green matching his best career GSPSS finish in third. Dan Winter was fourth in his first series start since 2017, while Speedway 95 winner and Wiscasset Speedway vet-

eran Josh St. Clair managed a fifth-place run despite spinning twice early.

Title hopeful Evan Beaulieu was 11th at the finish, leaving the Durham, Maine, driver at a deficit, as Benjamin sits atop the points standings with eight races to go.

The next race on the GSPSS calendar is at Claremont Motorsports Park, as the series returns to its long-time home venue after a year's absence. On Sunday, May 26, Key Auto Group presents the GSPSS 100 with a \$5,000 share going to the race winner of the Memorial Day showdown.

## Registration open for Bay State Games

WOBURN – Registration for the 42nd annual Bay State Summer Games is now open. The 2024 Summer Games will include thirty sports with competitions from May 11 – July 27 at venues throughout eastern and central Massachusetts including Game On in Fitchburg, Boston Sports Institute in Wellesley, Union Point Sports Complex in Weymouth, and North Star Ice Sports in Westborough. Bay State Games participants range in age from 5 to over age 75 and represent more than 300 Massachusetts communities as well as surrounding New England States in some sports. From grassroots participants to accomplished amateur athletes, the Bay State Games provide opportunities for the athlete in all of us.

Seven high school showcase sports will take place for a variety of sports, including baseball, basketball, field hockey, ice hockey, soccer, softball, and volleyball. Athletes currently in grade 8-11 who live or go to school in Massachusetts are eligible to attend regional tryouts during the month of June. These tryouts will determine teams representing the various regions of the Commonwealth that will compete against each other in July. Check

each sport page for specific eligibility requirements.

The Summer Games include a wide variety of individual sports including swimming, track & field, figure skating, pickleball, wrestling, weightlifting, badminton, and more. These sports are open to a wide range of ages and skill levels from youth participants to masters-aged athletes. Adaptive sport divisions in archery, swimming, and track & field are offered, as well. Bay State Games also organizes tournaments for pre-existing teams in rugby, and 6v6 field hockey.

Returning in 2024, Table Tennis will take place on June 1 at PingPod in Boston after a 5-year hiatus from the Summer Games sport lineup. New venues include Babson College, which will host the Girls Basketball Showcase, and NorthStar Ice Sports, which will host Figure Skating and the Girls Ice Hockey Showcase. Game On in Fitchburg will serve as a hub venue for eight sports. Bay State Games expects 1,500 athletes and their families to attend competitions at Game On during the second week of July. For questions, email [info@baystategames.org](mailto:info@baystategames.org) or call 781-932-6555.

## T-Birds front office members win award

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds earned their second-ever Howdy Award recognition on Monday night during the 27th annual event inside the MassMutual Center. T-Birds Manager of Brand Development and Merchandise, Drew Supenor, earned the Howdy in the "Attractions" category, one of 10 local hospitality workers spotlighted on Monday.

The Greater Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau presents the Howdy Awards annually to recognize the outstanding service hospitality industry employees provide. Supenor's award victory marks the second time the Thunderbirds organization has taken home a Howdy. Team mascot "Boomer" captured the same honor in 2018.

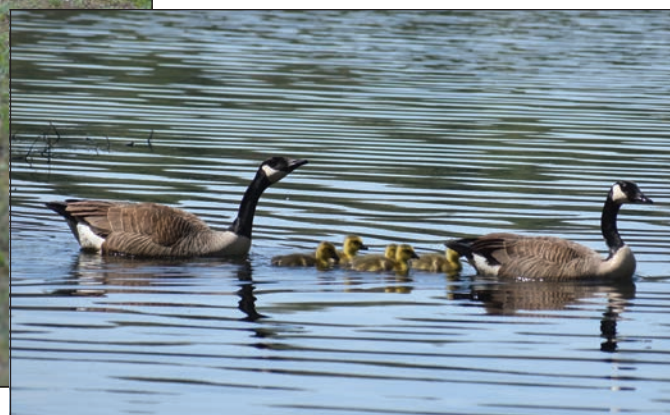
"We want to thank the GSCVB for recognizing Drew and Lauren Blanchard from our staff as finalists for their category," said Thunderbirds President Nathan Costa. "As someone who has been with our franchise since our first day in 2016, Drew has embodied what it means to be a service champion to his customers. On top of that award-winning trait, he has been instrumental in creating some of the best merchandise lines of any team in the American Hockey League, and we could not be prouder to have him represent

our organization for this much-deserved honor."

During the T-Birds' immensely successful 2023-24 season, the box office records also translated into the brand and merchandise space. Supenor's team was instrumental in generating a 10% increase in online and in-arena sales compared to the prior season. The store's full rebrand on specialty nights led to big crowds looking to stock up on T-Birds gear, including the single-game record for merchandise sales on the club's annual Ice-O-Topes Night this past February.

Since their inception in 2016, the Thunderbirds' merchandise sales have grown in each of the team's first seven seasons of play. Total merchandise sales for the Springfield AHL franchise have grown 6x from the final year of the Falcons organization in 2015-16 to today.

"Merchandise plays a vital role in representing your brand in the area and is not just a means of generating revenue," explained Costa. "When you visit downtown Springfield on game nights, you can see T-Birds gear everywhere. People of all ages wear it proudly, which speaks volumes about Drew and his team's ability to bring in products that people genuinely want to wear and show off."



**Reenergy**

This family of geese and young goslings took a dip and a walking trip around the Ashley Reservoir recently. Submitted photos



# Registration open for Annual Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk

BOSTON – Registration is now open for the 2024 Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk presented by Hyundai. Scheduled for Sunday, October 6, funds raised from the Jimmy Fund Walk support all forms of adult and pediatric patient care and cancer research at the nation’s premier cancer center, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Due to ongoing construction in Copley Square, the Jimmy Fund Walk Finish Line location has been moved to the Boston Common for 2024.

The Jimmy Fund Walk is the only organized walk permitted on the famed Boston Marathon course, and participants have the flexibility to choose from four distance options: 5K Walk (from Dana-Farber Cancer Institute’s

Longwood Medical Campus); 10K Walk (from Newton); Half Marathon Walk (from Wellesley); and Marathon Walk (from Hopkinton).

Whatever route walkers choose, participants will be treated to refueling stations with refreshments throughout the course. Poster-sized photographs of patients, Jimmy Fund Walk Heroes, are displayed along the course as inspiration. Walkers can participate virtually, as well.

All routes will conclude at the Jimmy Fund Walk Finish Line Powered by Schneider Electric at Boston Common, by the corner of Charles and Beacon Street. The finish line will include a celebration with food, entertainment, and more. Public transportation is encouraged.

The Jimmy Fund Walk has raised more than \$176 million for Dana-Farber in its 35-year history, raising a record-breaking \$9.4 million in 2023. Funds raised from the Jimmy Fund Walk support all forms of adult and pediatric patient care and cancer research at the nation’s premier cancer center, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The Boston Athletic Association has supported the Jimmy Fund Walk since 1989, and Hyundai has been the presenting sponsor for more than 20 years.

Register as an individual walker, team member, or start a team. Take advantage of this unique opportunity and lead a group of family, friends, or colleagues to the finish line. The Jimmy Fund can help you start a team, grow your fundraising, and defy can-

cer, together.

Volunteers are needed to cheer on participants, serve snacks, distribute T-shirts, and more, at the four start locations, along the course, and at the 2024 Jimmy Fund Walk Finish Line Powered by Schneider Electric, located in the Boston Common. The Jimmy Fund Walk would not be possible without the hundreds of dedicated volunteers who donate their time, talent, and energy. Register to volunteer today.

To register for the Walk (#JimmyFundWalk) or to support a walker, visit [www.JimmyFundWalk.org](http://www.JimmyFundWalk.org) or call (866) 531-9255. Registrants can enter the promo code NEWS for \$5 off the registration fee. All registered walkers will receive a bib, medal, and a Jimmy Fund Walk T-shirt.

## RECRUITING, from page 3

start in the fall.

HCC celebrated the first cohort of students to complete the program on May 1.

“Learning how to make a positive impact in people’s lives has been a rewarding and meaningful journey,” said graduating student Crystal Kenyon of Monson, who is already working as an assistant in the case management department at Baystate Wing Hospital in Palmer.

Aleza Maldonado joined the program last fall with her sister, Oceana Maldonado, who both live in Holyoke.

“This is the perfect opportunity to gain more skills to grow in your career,” said Aleza Maldonado, who works at One Holyoke. “It is a well-developed program, and we had 100 percent support from the HCC faculty and staff. I think anyone would thrive in the program, even if they had been out of school for a long time.”

The human services industry presents a wide variety of career options for people who are interested in providing care to children, seniors, adolescents, the homeless, or individuals dealing with substance abuse or mental health issues.

Thanks to the grant, the total savings for full-time students is estimated to be \$5,384 per semester. During their

second-semester internship, students will receive a stipend of \$2,500, which will pay \$20 an hour for 10 hours a week of on-the-job training and learning.

A 2018 report from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission detailed a gap of some 600 social/human service workers in western Massachusetts, a deficit that widened during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“There is definitely a big shortage of human service workers,” said Amy Brandt, HCC dean of Health Sciences. “It’s a challenge for agencies who have a variety of workers at different levels. They don’t have a lot of additional resources to develop that talent pool. They really are on shoestring budgets

trying to provide services to the community. When you look at this grant, it’s a huge investment that can really help fill their needs.”

The 24-credit human services certificate students earn can also be “stacked” or applied toward an associate degree in human services, which could then lead to a bachelor’s degree in social work at a four-year college or university.

“The program really has the potential to set students up for lifelong learning and career advancement,” said Brandt, “and it’s also helping these social service agencies meet their needs.”

For more information, or to apply, please visit: [hcc.edu/hsv-grant](http://hcc.edu/hsv-grant).

## BALLOT, from page 1

language of the ballot question itself or the summary.

Councilor Kocayne Givner proposed a change to the ballot question to allow it to ask voters to vote on an increase, a decrease or for the surcharge to remain the same.

“The predicament we find ourselves in over and over again is that when it gets to the full council there are some people who feel like this should be split up into two votes because we are voting to only decrease, we’re not voting to either increase or decrease and we have to vote as is on the whole amount,” she said. “If we could vote on the increase or decrease and come to a consensus as a council, then the ballot question would work”

However this would require the question to return to the legal department to confirm the language and further discussion on the council as to how to phrase the question. Some councilors were reluctant to change the language.

“We should word this the exact same way we worded it the first time,” Jourdain said. “The whole point is we’re supposed to follow the same process.”

Additionally, Councilor Meagan Magrath-Smith proposed that there be language added to the ballot question summary to provide voters further information on how their vote could affect the CPA.

“I do think that we need to give examples so people really understand that, yes, it impacts your taxes but to really know how it impacts your taxes,” she said. “It may save people a little bit of money but the average single family home will save \$13.84...but it would cripple the CPA.”

Other councilors disagreed that this added summary language was needed. They felt that voter education should be left up to the voters themselves.

“We’re not here putting our editorial comments in about, ‘oh, it’s this or oh, it’s that’...that’s for individual voters to make up their own decision,” Jourdain said.

Additionally, the committee discussed if it was correct for the council to make two votes regarding the ballot question, one to approve the reduction and one to approve the ballot question.

Attorney Michael Bissonnette clarified why two votes were needed to make the question legal.

“According to state law, the Council must first approve the amendment to the CPA reducing the surcharge,” Bissonnette said. “Once that approval is voted, the reduction goes to the voters (on the November ballot). However, without a vote approving the reduction, the state will not place the question before the voters because there would be nothing to ratify.”

Unless a majority of the council supports the reduction, it will not go on the ballot. Even if the council were to vote to approve the reduction, it would not go into effect unless the voters also voted in favor of the reduction.

However, several councilors are hesitant to make the vote to approve the reduction as they do not agree with it.

“I am not against putting it on the ballot, that is not the issue, I totally agree with that,” Councilor Israel Rivera said. “We have separate votes for a reason and if that vote comes to me, I will vote yes. But when it comes to lowering the rate, I do not agree with that...I can’t say yes to something that I don’t agree with.”

Other councilors pointed out that they can add to the summary language that the council is not taking a position. They want to focus on ensuring that the residents of Holyoke have the opportunity to voice their opinion on this matter.

“Let the people vote, I’ve been saying that from the get go,” Councilor Howard Greaney said. “We don’t have to take a position on it, whether you want it or whether you don’t want it.”

The committee voted 4-1 to send the ballot question as is, no amendments made, to the full city council, with Givner the only one who voted against it.

The topic will be discussed at the next city council meeting.

## CHIEF, from page 1

full confidence as well as my appreciation for stepping up for this very important role,” Garcia said.

To prepare for the hiring process of the new chief, Garcia has asked the Police Department Advisory Committee to work on the search for a new police chief.

They will all work together in order to find and interview potential candidates for this position. As they go through this process, they will also decide what qualities are most important for a Holyoke police chief to have.

“Just so folks know, I have no real desire for external or internal, it could be whoever,” Garcia said. “I’m flexible but I want this committee to come together and help us figure out what are the qualities we want in that chief and what are the criterias we’re looking for.”

Personnel Director Kelly Curran

will help facilitate meetings on Garcia’s behalf in the initial meetings of this group. They also hope to bring in an outside consultant to help as they search for candidates.

Following the initial search and selection, this committee will narrow down the candidates to the top three and send them to Garcia.

Cruz hopes to throw his own hat into the ring as the search for a police chief begins. He feels his experience in and understanding of the Holyoke Police Department would help him to work with the department and ensure their continued progress.

“I grew up here, I went to school here, I understand the personnel, the different personalities within the department, I understand the leadership structure,” Cruz said.

Even if Cruz is not chosen for this position, he hopes whoever is selected is someone who truly understands the department and how it works.



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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION**  
Swinging Bridges Auction Company, Lic #2755 will hold a Public Auction on **May 25, 2024. Unclaimed items to be sold at 9 a.m.** at **Pawn Depot Inc., 448 Appleton St., Holyoke, MA 01040.**  
20% buyers fee, 6.25% MA sales tax.  
05/03, 05/10/2024

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO RELOCATE A BRANCH OFFICE**  
Notification is given that Citizens Bank, National Association, One Citizens Plaza, Providence, RI 02903, has filed an application with the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency on or about May 10, 2024 as specified in 12 CFR 5, for permission to relocate its existing staffed branch from 28 Lincoln Street, Holyoke, MA 01040 to 1575 Northampton Street, Holyoke, MA 01040. Any person wishing to comment on this application may file comments in writing with the Director for Large Bank Licensing, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, 7 Times Square Large Bank Licensing 10th Floor Mailroom, New York, New York 10036, or by email to [licensingpubliccomments@occ.treas.gov](mailto:licensingpubliccomments@occ.treas.gov), within 15 days of the date of this publication. Written requests for a copy of the public portion of the application should be sent to the Director for Large Bank Licensing at [licensingpubliccomments@occ.treas.gov](mailto:licensingpubliccomments@occ.treas.gov). The public may find additional information regarding

this application in the OCC's Weekly Bulletin at [www.occ.gov](http://www.occ.gov).  
05/10/2024

**Office of Purchasing**  
536 Dwight Street, Room 3  
Holyoke, MA 01040  
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP 2024-48PD ERASE II**  
**Community Space for Police Department**

The Purchasing Department on behalf of the Holyoke Police Department seeks Proposals for the acquisition by lease of a minimum of 1700 square feet of mixed-use office and community space for its Holyoke Police ERASE II Community Program for a move-in date on or before August 1, 2024. Documents can be requested electronically from [morrowj@holyoke.org](mailto:morrowj@holyoke.org) or [sweeneye@holyoke.org](mailto:sweeneye@holyoke.org) or in person at the Purchasing Office. **Proposals are due on May 23, 2024, by 2PM.** Technical Proposals and Price Proposal must be submitted in separate envelopes. No electronic submissions will be accepted. The city reserves the right to reject any and all submissions. This project may be paid for using Federal Funds. Respondents will be verified for eligibility to receive Federal Funds.  
05/03, 05/10, 05/17/2024

**Trial Court of the Commonwealth Hampden County Superior Court**  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01102

(413) 735-6016  
**Docket No. 2379CV00619**  
**JULIE MAGRI**  
v.  
**THE HEIRS, SUCCESSORS, ASSIGNS AND DEVISEES OF LOUIS MAGRI, SUCH OTHER PERSONS, IF ANY, UNASCERTAINED NOT IN BEING, UNKNOWN WITHIN OR WITHOUT THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**  
**ORDER OF NOTICE BY PUBLICATION**

IT appearing from the Motion for Order of Service by Publication, in the above-captioned matter, which is sworn to that the Defendants cannot be personally served through process, IT IS ORDERED that this order be published for three (3) successive weeks, the last publication to be at least twenty (20) days before said return day, in The Holyoke Sun, a newspaper published in Holyoke, Hampden County, Massachusetts and that all parties claiming any right, title, or interest to the real property located at 66 King Street, Holyoke, MA, Massachusetts, commonly known as 66 King Street, Holyoke, Hampden County, Massachusetts, identified in the Complaint in Hampden County Superior Court entitled Julie Magri v. The Heirs, Successors, Assigns and Devisees of Louis Magri, et. al., Hampden County Superior Court, Civil Action No. 2379CV00619, file a response to said complaint within thirty (30) days after

the last publication date in this Order, and if the parties fail to do so, a Judgment for Plaintiff will be so Ordered.

IT appearing from the Motion for Order of Service by Publication, in the above-captioned matter, which is sworn to that the Defendants cannot be personally served through process, IT IS ORDERED that this order be published for three (3) successive weeks, the last publication to be at least twenty (20) days before said return day, in The Holyoke Sun, a newspaper published in Holyoke, Hampden County, Massachusetts and that all parties claiming any right, title, or interest to the real property located at 66 King Street, Holyoke, MA, Massachusetts, identified in the Complaint in Hampden County Superior Court entitled Julie Magri v. The Heirs, Successors, Assigns and Devisees of Louis Magri, et. al., Hampden County Superior Court, Civil Action No. 2379CV00619, file a response to said complaint within thirty (30) days after the last publication date in this Order, and if the parties fail to do so, a Judgment for Plaintiff will be so Ordered.

WITNESS, Hon. Jeremy C. Bucci, First Justice of this Court  
Attest: **William Walsh**  
Assistant Clerk  
04/26, 05/03, 05/10/2024

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**June 1, 2024 at 9 a.m.**  
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05/10, 05/17/2024

**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. HD14P1891EA**  
**Estate of:**  
**Francisco Acevedo**  
**Date of Death: 05/20/2011**  
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT**  
A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by **Abimael Acevedo-Romero** of Holyoke, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including a determination of testacy and heirs at law and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/20/2024.

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: May 08, 2024  
**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
05/10/2024

**Cit of Holyoke Public Hearing**  
The Planning Board will hold a public hearing to hear a zoning ordinance change to amend Section 8.1.9: "Notification of watercourse alteration."  
Meeting will take place on **Tuesday, May 28, 2024 at 5:30 pm via www.zoom.us** Meeting ID: 836 3939 8493 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 with same meeting ID. To provide comments to the Planning Board, please contact Brianna Tejada at [tejab@holyoke.org](mailto:tejab@holyoke.org)  
Planning Chair  
Mimi Panitch  
05/10, 05/17/2024

**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. HD24P0882EA**  
**Estate of:**  
**Elaine P Gilligan**  
**Date of Death: 12/27/2023**  
**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 **Matthew L Gilligan of Rindge, NH** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Matthew L Gilligan of Rindge, NH** 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 05/20/2024. 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: April 22, 2024  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
05/10/2024

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**The Russell Public Library in Russell, MA is seeking a PART TIME (8 HOURS) LIBRARY CIRCULATION ASSISTANT.** Required, strong interest in working with the public, good organizational skills and solid computer skills. Bachelor's Degree with 1 year of library/administrative/ public service experience or an Associates Degree, with 2 years of library/administrative/ public service experience. For more info see library page on **Town of Russell website.** Please send a cover letter and resume to **Russell Public Library Trustees P.O. Box 275 Russell, MA 01071** or email to [rpldirector@townofrussell.us](mailto:rpldirector@townofrussell.us) to be received by May 21, 2024.

## HELP WANTED

### DRIVERS

**INTERSTATE BATTERIES IS SEEKING A DRIVER** for deliveries in Western Mass area. Qualifications include: clean driving record; ability to lift heavy weights; stable job history; good communication skills; high work standards & strong self-organizational skills. Apply in person 8 am-5pm M-F 9am-12pm Sat. **230 Chauncey Walker Street (Rte 21) Belcher town**

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## REAL ESTATE

### FOR RENT



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

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



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S	E	R	E	N	A	D	E	S		S	A	B	E	R	
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R	E	B		N	O	R		N	A	I	R	A			
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			S	E	R	E	R		O	A	F		S	M	A
E	P		T	A	B		A	R	R	A	S				
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D	O	O	N		P	A	T	E	S		A	R	I	L	
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S	I	L	D		S	I	S			P	S	A	L	M	

# Pioneer Valley Quilt Guild hosts show

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

The Pioneer Valley Quilt Guild put on their quilting show at the Elks Lodge in Springfield on Saturday May 4 and Sunday May 5.

The show had dozens of quilts on display as well as several vendors where people could get quilt blocks, their quilts assessed and new patterns for quilting.

There was also a boutique with non-quilt quilted items for people to purchase, including vests, bowl holders and place mats.

Also on display was the famous quilted balloon, which was made by Herbert Menzel in 2012.

This show was a success, with the Elks Lodge bustling all day as people came in and out to look at the quilts and try their hand at the raffle.

The PVQG also looked to recruit new members. The guild meets at the Elks at 6:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of every month and anyone is welcome to join.



This quilt, titled Mud Season, was created by Janet Foy.



This quilt, inspired by the story The Little Ghost who was a Quilt was made by Darlene Slater.



This quilt, titled Stonehenge with Celtic Symbols, was made by Barbara Farrell, who put together the top of the quilt, and the Dewey Street store, which did the machine quilting to connect the layers.



The famous Pioneer Valley Quilt Guild quilt balloon, made by Herbert Menzel in 2012, was on display at their Quilt Show.



Author Kathryn Mykel had her autographed books for sale.

Turley photos by Quinn Suomala

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