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Holyoke is 'getting stronger'

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – Mayor Joshua Garcia gave the State of the City address to the city council on Thursday, May 9.

Throughout this speech he highlighted the improvements the city has made over the last year.

"Tonight I'm proud to report that over the past year, our financial position is only getting stronger," Garcia said.

Garcia also showed his gratitude to everyone who had helped the city to get to this point. He was grateful to the city councilors, the workers of the city and all of the residents of Holyoke.

"The heart of the soul of any community is the people," Garcia said. "We are truly blessed day in and day out by citizens who are just trying to do the right thing. Folks drawing on a shared reservoir of goodness, people taking responsibility for making our community stronger, more vibrant, for the next generation."

See STRONGER, page 11

Garcia hosts bike ride for community

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer



HOLYOKE – The city of Holyoke held their second annual Mayoral Bike Ride on Monday, May 13.

"We want to highlight how important it is to bike, stay active and put some more attention to the local leaders of the city," Mayor Joshua Garcia said.

This ride was in honor of Bike Month and kicked off Bike to Work Week. The ride itself was organized by the Bike and Pedestrian Committee.

"It's part of a statewide and national effort to encourage people to get out on their bikes," Chair of the Bike and Pedestrian Committee Kristen Sykes said.

See BIKE, page 12

Holyoke hosted its second annual Mayoral Bike Ride, and dozens of community members came out to participate. The gathered community members set off to begin the second annual Mayoral Bike Ride. Everyone in attendance of the Mayoral Bike Ride came together to get a photo to honor the occasion.

Turley photos by Quinn Suomala



Buzzworthy

A busy bee is hard at work pollinating this vibrant pink azalea.

Turley photo by Kara Walsh-Vey

DPW - Council votes to bond \$2.5M for repairs to parking garages, avoid fines from state

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The city council voted 12-1 to approve a bond of \$2.5 million to go to the Department of Public Works to help them with various needed repairs.

At a recent finance committee, members of the DPW had come forward and asked the council to approve a \$5 million bond. After further explanation, the finance committee had compromised on a \$2.5 million bond.

"I don't give departments \$5 million, spend it as you want and just let us know what the bill is at the end," Councilor Kevin Jourdain said. "Thankfully we compromised at \$2.5 million, and they were comfortable with that, so I feel like this is government doing its job."

The DPW had put forward that they needed a guaranteed \$1 million to make needed repairs to various parking garages around the city, spe-

cifically the garage on Suffolk Street and Dwight Street.

"We found out a couple of things about the garages, one is that the elevator has been closed for nine years," Councilor Patti Divine. "There's possible problems with oil leaking into the ground."

"Whatever happens on parking, we need those repairs just to fix these garages," Jourdain said.

This money is needed to keep these garages in a usable form.

It is possible that the DPW will need to hire a structural architect, as the DPW is not sure what is beneath the garages.

Additionally, these repairs are especially needed as councilors fear that if they do not start the repairs soon the city could face fines from the state.

"We're hoping by doing this, showing good faith, we are also going to minimize the amount of the fine," Jourdain said.

DPW Director Carl Rossi had promised the finance committee that he was going to ask for a waiver to prevent the city from receiving fines while they work on repairs.

The only councilor who voted against this was Bartley. Bartley felt that the DPW was asking for too much and that they were not going to use the funds responsibly.

"They're derelict in their duties," Bartley said. "It's a case where we don't have anything specific, you want us to throw \$2.5 million to them, great. Channel 22 has been running story after story about the deplorable feces left in hallways, never mind broken down elevators. It's an absolute disgrace, but we're going to give the DPW superintendent \$2.5 million to continue it?"

Other councilors disagreed. They felt that the DPW needed a guaranteed \$1 million for their repairs and, given

See BOND, page 11

HCC Foundation awards scholarships

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Community College Foundation has awarded more than \$335,000 in scholarships to students for the 2024-2025 academic year.

This year, the HCC Foundation awarded 388 scholarships to 323 incoming, current, and transferring HCC students. Some students received multiple scholarship awards. The average scholarship award is about \$900.

HCC celebrated this year's recipients at a scholarship reception on May 9.

The HCC Foundation is a 501(c)(3) that works to advance the college's mission, vision, and values. Founded in 1968 as the Friends of Holyoke Community College, in response to a devastating fire that forced the college to rebuild on a new

campus, the Foundation now manages assets of more than \$20 million, the largest community college foundation endowment in Massachusetts.

An alphabetical list of all scholarship recipients and their awards can also be viewed on the HCC website at hcc.edu/scholarships-2024: The following students are Holyoke residents.

Dayshel Allen, Cari Avalone (two awards), Falecia Bagg, Maya Baksh (two awards), Jonathan Benitez, Fatima Bergman, Enely Bonilla (three awards), Dawne Brown, Alvin Carabuena, Luis Centeno, Pablo Cespedes-Ashe, Jalen Cortes, Janiel Cruz, Alajah Devone, William Diaz, Jamie Dunn, Isabella Garbiel-Achorn, Karyna Gaston-Feliciano (two awards), Omarily Gomez, Jolie

Hernandez, Anamaria Ivan, Jay Jackson, Nuriye Kartal (three awards),

Chasidy Kery, Gabe Linares (two awards), Zoey Rane-Shanon Lobello, Kaizer Maximus Lopez, Daneisha Luciano (two awards), Deelayni Melendez (two awards), Jamie Michalski, Melody Nieves, Kearney O'Malley, Naisha Ortiz-Sanchez (two awards), Hilario Peralta Jr., Jose Perez, Rosa Porter, Charlotte Price, Kayla Ramos, Francisco Ramos Colon, Jessika Richards, Camryn Rist (two awards), Erykka Rocha, Leonel Rodriguez, Katelyn Rodriguez, Jomar Rodriguez, Leonel Rodriguez, Carineh Santana (two awards), Gissel Santos, Victoria Smith, Yarelee Sosa, Patrick Sweeney, Kara Torres, Tameka Torres, Brian Torres, Sheyda Westbrook (two awards).

Library offers free painting workshop

HOLYOKE – On Wednesday, May 29, from 6 to 8 p.m., join Gregory Maichack for pastel painting workshop at The Holyoke Public Library. Participants will learn how to paint with pastels with this hands-on workshop. Everything will be provided, including professional grade pastels, paper and pencils. This workshop is for beginners to advanced artists. The workshop will be held in the community room. Register to save a space in the workshop. To register please call 413-420-8101.

City announces upcoming Memorial Day schedule of 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 prom-

ise 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.

COLLEGE NOTES

Resident completes research project

WORCESTER – Marcel Guzik, a member of the class of 2025 majoring in Electrical and Computer Engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, was a member of a student team that recently completed an intense research project titled Zeaeye Modernizing GoBoats.

At WPI, all undergraduates are required to complete a research-driven, professional-level project that applies science and technology that addresses an important societal need or issue. About two-thirds of students complete a project at one of the university's 50-plus off-campus project centers, which are located around the world. A signature element of the innovative undergraduate experience at WPI, the project-based curriculum offers students the opportunity to apply their scientific and technical knowledge to real problems that affect the quality of peo-

ple's lives-and make a difference before they graduate.

“The WPI project-based curriculum's focus on global studies brings students out of the classroom and their comfort zones and into the global community to apply their knowledge and to solve problems,” said Professor Kent Rissmiller, professor of Integrative& Global Studies and associate dean of The Global School. “Students are immersed in all aspects of a different culture, from the way people live and work to the values they hold to the foods they eat - all valuable perspectives for surviving and thriving in today's global marketplace. They also learn the meaning and magic of teamwork; make a real and meaningful difference in their host community; and gain a competitive edge for any resume, or graduate or professional school application.”

City of Holyoke fireworks scheduled

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.

NAMI Walkathon celebration on May 19

HOLYOKE – NAMI Western Massachusetts will be holding its 24th Annual Walkathon celebration, ‘A Journey of Hope and Recovery’ on Sunday, May 19, starting at 11 a.m. Registration begins at 10 a.m.

The event is suitable for all ages and abilities and will directly benefit NAMI Western Massachusetts' continuing efforts to help improve the lives of those individuals living with mental health conditions and their families.

Join and have a fun time while supporting a great cause. Among the festivities will be guest speakers, activities, face painting, raffles and much

more. Please help NAMI-WM continue their mission by participating in this Walkathon or by donating to the event.

NAMI is the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization. NAMI provides advocacy, education, support and public awareness so that all individuals and families affected by mental health conditions can Build Better Lives.

For further information please contact our office at 413-786-9139 or visit at www.namiwm.org/events for the entry/pledge form. Volunteers are needed.

State Auditor seeks signatures for upcoming ballot question

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

WEST BROOKFIELD – State Auditor Diana DiZoglio has one wish for her birthday on June 5, and that's to gain the 13,000 signatures needed to get a question on the November ballot.

This ballot question would allow voters to compel the Legislature to be audited. The audit would be performative, and also look at how tax dollars are being spent.

“This is the same type of audit we do for every other entity,” DiZoglio said. “Legislature is the only one refusing.”

Last fall, over 75,000 residents across the commonwealth signed a petition after DiZoglio's request to audit the Senate and the House of Representatives was denied by the House Speaker and Senate President.

DiZoglio and her office staff have been traveling to towns and cities, asking for help to collect the necessary signatures before the deadline, making a stop in West Brookfield on May 5.

DiZoglio said she has a “deep love and affection” for policy making and transparency in the Legislature, after spending six years as a state representative and four years as a state senator before taking her current office in 2023.

“We do so many great things here in Massachusetts,” DiZoglio said.

Despite this, the commonwealth is ranked one of the least transparent state governments, she said.

“As your state auditor I've been given the really unique opportunity to have a platform; a singular voice,” she said. “We need transparency. There are a lot of tough conversations that need to be had.”

DiZoglio said she has been reflecting on the saying, “knowledge is power,” and she feels that this applies to a legislative audit, and how its results will spread knowledge and power back to the voters.

“I've seen knowledge hoarded, essentially, by people in power,” she said. “If we have knowledge about state budget and government, we have an opportunity to join in – to rise against or support.”

DiZoglio said her office works to “bring light” to over 200 state entities. She is it is common practice in many other states to audit the Legislature regu-



State Auditor Diana DiZoglio

larly as well.

“The decisions that impact us all should be made in the light of say,” she said.

DiZoglio said no system is perfect, but that the government should strive to be better.

“Our goal and our mission is to help,” she said of the State Auditor's office. “To make sure everyday people get the best services.”

DiZoglio said the government cannot improve its service to constituents if potential problems can't be identified and addressed. She said it's “deeply concerning” that her office's efforts to get access to the Legislature have been demonized and talked down about.

“It doesn't say a lot of good things about how our system is running. What is there to hide?” she said.

DiZoglio said there have been 113 audits of the Legislature completed by her office dating back to 1849. Now, they are unable to get access to information about public tax dollars, she said.

DiZoglio said the audit is a nonpartisan issue, and it's more about those who have power and those who do not.

“Leadership has a lot of power,” she said.

Retaliation is also a common occurrence in the Legislature, DiZoglio said, adding that this behavior is “unacceptable.”

She said retaliation directed at herself personally is missing the mark, and coming back on the voters who elected her.

“This is something that need to be talked about over and over again... This is not the Massachusetts we know and love,” she said.

DiZoglio urged residents to “have a seat at the table” before decisions are made in the Legislature, asking them to help gather the remaining signatures for the ballot question before the June 5 deadline.

“You have the power to make change, I cannot do this without you,” she said.

For more information about the audit or to sign the State Auditor's petition, visit dianaforma.com. For more information about the State Auditor's office and its role in state government, visit www.mass.gov/org/office-of-the-state-auditor.

Joseph Black awarded national Newman Civic Fellowship

HOLYOKE – Presented with the opportunity to nominate a student for a Newman Civic Fellowship, a national award that recognizes leadership potential and a commitment to positive change in the community, Holyoke Community College Anthropology Professor Vanessa Martinez immediately thought of Joseph Black.

Last fall, Black, an environmental science major and HCC STEM scholar, approached her about enrolling in her honors colloquium for the spring 2024 semester, Be the Change. At first, she wasn't sure the six-credit class would fit into his otherwise rigorous academic schedule.

"With STEM majors, there often isn't a lot of wiggle room to take courses that aren't prescribed in their discipline," Martinez said.

Black said "I'll take it as an extra class if I have to."

The course, which explores the concept of change in all its forms: societal, cultural, political, personal, mathematical, and religious, among others, fit right into Black's worldview. It also incorporated an environmentally focused, community-based learning project that meshed with his major.

"I really want to do good in the world," Black told her.

This spring, as his professor, Martinez witnessed first-hand his passion for the class, especially the group project, an Earth Day community cleanup

students organized in partnership with One Holyoke Community Development Corporation and the Mass. Dept. of Environmental Protection.

"The fact that he had come to me and advocated to take my class - he was the first person who popped into my head," Martinez said, recalling her decision to nominate him for the fellowship. "He's sweet. He's Latino. He's kind. You know, human. With the fellowship, he'll get support to build his leadership skills."

Earlier this month, Black, who lives in Palmer, found out he was chosen as a Newman Civic Fellow for 2024-2025 by Campus Compact, a national coalition of colleges and universities working to advance the public purposes of higher education. As such, he will join a cohort of 142 college students selected from 38 states for the year-long program. He is one of three community college students in Massachusetts named Newman Civic Fellows this year and the only one from western Massachusetts.

"I'm surprised and excited," said Black. "In high school, I wasn't the worst student, but I certainly wasn't the best student or anything like that. So, being able to take up a fellowship like this feels really good."

The program is named for the late



Joseph Black

Frank Newman, one of Campus Compact's founders, a tireless advocate for civic engagement in higher education. In the spirit of Newman's leadership, U.S. colleges and universities are invited to nominate one exemplary community-committed student each year.

Black, 21, a first-generation college student, was born in southern California, one of seven siblings (and himself a triplet), son of a Colombian mother and Italian-American father who moved to Massachusetts when he was young.

In his personal statement for the fellowship, Black writes about how, growing up in a large family without a lot of money, he found adventure in the woods around his new hometown of Palmer.

"My love of nature has always been paramount in my life," Black wrote. "Spending afternoons surrounded by forests led to a deep adoration of the natural world and how it affects society. From raising money for endangered local species to river cleanups, I participated in as much advocacy for the environment as a kid could. But now, I am old enough to contribute a loud and active voice in the community. I want to use the skills and resources that schooling gives me to advocate for better environmental protections, raise awareness about issues that are impacting us, and ensure that higher-risk populations have

their rights preserved."

The cornerstone of the fellowship is the annual convening of Newman Civic Fellows, which offers intensive, in-person, skill-building, and networking over three days. The fellowship also provides fellows with pathways to apply for exclusive opportunities, including mini grants to help fund community projects, scholarships, and post-graduate opportunities.

As a Newman fellow, Black will be responsible for developing his own community-based project in consultation with his mentor, Martinez.

"This is a really good networking opportunity, and having access to scholarships and grants is great," Black said, "but the thing that I'm really excited about is this community-based project that I'm hoping will be very high impact."

Black is not the first HCC student to be awarded a Newman Civic Fellowship, but he is the first who will serve his fellowship year before graduating.

"That's the most exciting part," said Martinez. "I get to keep him for another year. This is really the first time the HCC campus will benefit from the fellowship, rather than the students' transfer institution."

Black is looking forward to it as well.

"I'm trying to do something really big with this opportunity," Black said. "I have a lot of ideas. I'm shooting for the stars, trying to hit the moon."

Annual Shad Derby returns

HOLYOKE – The 57th annual Holyoke Gas & Electric Shad derby will be held over the next two weekends, May 11, 12, 18, and 19 with a grand prize of \$1,000 in cash for the first-place winner in the senior division.

The HG&E Shad Derby invites the region's anglers to fish the waters of the Connecticut River, by the Holyoke Dam, in a free contest to catch the largest shad. Prizes are awarded to the top 10 catches in each of two divisions: junior (ages 14 & under) and senior (ages 15 & older). Contestants must bring their fish to the official weighing station located by the Fishway, near the Route 116 Bridge, during the official weighing times from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Derby prizes will be awarded to the top 10 contestants in each division at the tournament's conclusion, on Sunday, May 19, at 5 p.m. Prior to fishing, contestants should register at the weighing booth by the Holyoke

Fishway. Contestants in the senior division must have a valid MA fishing license.

Additionally, HG&E and Holyoke Heritage State Park are teaming up this spring to offer an educational program, "Connecting with the Connecticut River," while the Robert Barret Fishway is closed this year to the public for hydroelectric maintenance and infrastructure improvements. This innovative and interactive program will explore how the Connecticut River made our planned industrial city possible. Participants will visit the canal to see how the river and canals help to power Holyoke while learning about local wildlife and how migratory fish get a "lift" over the Holyoke Dam. Join a Fishway Guide and State Park Interpreter to consider your river connections.

For more information, please visit www.hged.com/shadderby.

Vendors wanted for craft/vendor fair

BELCHERTOWN – Crafters and vendors are sought for the American Cancer Society, Quaboag Relay for Life's 3rd Annual Spring Craft/Vendor Fair to be held on Saturday, June 8 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on the Common, Routes 9 and 202. All proceeds from the fair will benefit the American Cancer Society, Relay for Life. For crafter/vendor selling information, please contact Vicki McAndrew by email at sv_jewelry@charter.net.

Church tag sale set for 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.

Christina's House needs donors

Dear Future Sponsors,

At Christina's House we strive to make a multi-generational impact on homeless women and children. CH was established to help meet the needs for shelter and life-skills development for mothers and their children who are homeless. We have been able to house 126 mothers and children and help many others since 2014. The program is currently housed in three homes in the Springfield and Hampden Massachusetts areas. Our program is designed to provide emotional, spiritual, and physical support. As Christina's House is looking for opportunities to become more community involved, we are planning our second annual field day. This event will take place on June 29th, 2024, from 11am to 3pm at Commerce High School Field, 415 State Street, Springfield, MA. Christina's House will supply snacks, activities, and more. Our hope is that this event will reach not only the families involved in the program but also allow families of the surrounding communities to participate as well. The purpose is to not have any family left out, so pulling on all the community resources that we can is important. To make this event possible we will be requesting the assistance of local churches, businesses, and organizations such as yours in the surrounding area. Also, to reach beyond the walls, we will be including the presence police officers and fire fighters that will be supporting the event. Christina's House is promoting a theme of "Joy & Unity", and we are set to continue in that by putting our words into action. Christina's House has been a pivotal component of the community since its beginnings. We are excited to provide another stream to shed light and

bring more awareness into the program through a fun environment for all ages. This event will be held to recognize and honor the community we serve in; so, they may know that we see them, they are important, and their determination to remain positive and move forward past all socioeconomic barriers are not in vain. It is our aim to bring joy and hope into their lives. With your support we will be able to impact the lives of many children and their family during this fun community event. We would love to partner with you in this event, if your organization would like to participate for any resources such as volunteers, snack donations, event sponsorship, or to be a part of the Christina's House Unity group please contact us. Below you will find a list of sponsorship opportunities. We ask that you consider supporting our outreach event as we strive to positively impact our community. Thanks in advance for your support.

Sponsorship Opportunities: Fun Filled Sponsor-\$5,000 Name/Logo and link recognized across all social media and website platforms Special mention during event Name mentioned on promotional marketing (if any) Lawn sign displayed on field Informational table during event Any materials would also be displayed at the CH table; Field Game Sponsor-\$2,000 Lawn sign displayed on field Recognized on platforms as a partner Informational table during event ;Goodie Bag Sponsor-\$1,000 Recognized on platforms as a partner Informational table during event; Community Sponsor-\$500 Informational table during event.

Carolyn Martinez
Executive Director

Carolyn@Christinashouse.org



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Guest Column



Future retiree worried about Social Security's future

Dear Rusty

I keep reading that the SSA will only be able to pay out 75% of benefits come 2033.

If congress were to do nothing and this reduction in benefits occurred, would seniors already collecting benefits in 2033 have their benefits reduced or would it only be those who have not begun to collect have their future benefits reduced? I will be collecting my benefits no later than 2027, but my wife will not reach full retirement age until 2033 and we are looking for information on whether we need to adjust savings now to account for mine or my wife's possible reduction in benefits.

Signed: Worried Senior

Dear Worried Senior

If Congress does nothing to prevent Social Security's reserves from depletion, Social Security, by law, will only be able to pay out benefits equal to income, which is estimated to be about 23% to 25% short of what will be needed to pay full benefits starting in 2033.

That would mean everyone who is already receiving monthly Social Security benefits would get a payment 23% to 25% less than they were previously receiving. And without reform, new beneficiaries would get benefits similarly reduced.

The action needed to prevent those cuts from happening resides with Congress and any program reform they enact would likely only affect those who are not yet collecting. Whether or how that would affect you and your wife as future SS beneficiaries depends on the scope of reform Congress will enact which, of course, is not yet known. That uncertainty, itself, is reason enough to bolster your savings for your future retirement.

The probability of Congress allowing the Trust Funds to be depleted, thus necessitating an across the board cut in everyone's benefit is, in my opinion, slim it would be political suicide. Congress already knows how to fix Social Security's financial woes they just currently lack the bipartisanship and political fortitude to do so. And it's doubtful any Social Security reform will happen this election year rather, the opposing sides will likely just sling accusations at each other in 2024. But rest assured that both sides of Congress are acutely aware that reform of the Social Security program is needed soon, and we are already seeing signs that progress on reform may be forthcoming, but not until after the 2024 elections.

Congress is notorious for waiting until the last possible moment to act, and I don't suggest you alter your Social Security claiming strategy based on the unknown. But building a bigger nest egg for retirement is always a prudent goal. Also, calling your Congressional Representative to endorse needed Social Security reform which ensures your future benefits will not be cut would be a good move.

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 ssadviser@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



Guest Column

Memories on Mother's Day



I came across the column below and it brought back a wonderful memory of my oldest daughter being a year old and her having a fascination with pansy faces.

Fast forward to Mother's Day 2024, 16 years later, and I find a vase of fragrant double narcissus "Bridal Crown" and lilacs in my bedroom from said child. How sweet.

But before I even found and read the column, I was seriously thinking about devoting one of my perennial borders to a garden of memories. Most of the plants in my landscape hold special meaning anyway, but a garden devoted to my childhood would be neat.

It was certainly those early experiences that shaped my career and honestly my life in general. Maybe you can relate.

Read on for a "blast from the past."

Gardening was a big part of my childhood. Our backyard, while under an acre in size, was immense to me, full of nooks and crannies to explore.

We had a rock garden, and garden on a banking, a garden devoted to annuals, and of course, a vegetable garden. We also had a few choice flowering plants and shrubs just outside of the screened porch and fruit trees and bushes tucked in here and there.

One of my favorite spring pastimes as a kid was to pick little bouquets of lily of the valley, lilacs or peonies and place them around the house. I also enjoyed moving plants from one place to another in the yard.

My mom is reminded of one of my adventures in transplanting each time the lawn mower maneuvers around a clump of lilacs planted smack dab in the middle of the upper landing.

Most of the flowering perennials we had were handed down from my mother's grandmother ("Babci") or her Aunt Julia. They aren't rare by any means, but to know they came from a line of strong women before me

makes me want to pass these same plants on to my daughter.

My daughter is just over a year old and she has already taken an interest in flowers. This, of course, has made me very happy.

She points them out on her shirt or in books, and each time we stroll around the yard she clamors relentlessly until I give her a stem or two to hold. Recently, a single pansy face held her attention long enough for me to actually do some work in the garden... nothing short of a miracle for a busy little girl like her!

When she is a bit older I think it would be fun to plant a memory garden. In it we could commemorate five generations of flowers and the ladies who grew them.

First, I would include all of the heirloom flowers that my mom has tended over the years originating from her grandmother and aunt's garden: the deep purple bearded iris, the sweetly scented lemon lily and frilly pink peony. Then I'd add her favorites, the flowers I remember her growing when I was a kid: ground phlox, lily of the valley and candytuft.

Next would be my contribution, pretty primroses that originated in England and double columbines that I started from seed several seasons ago. My daughter could add her favorites too - this year pansies would have certainly made the cut!

Fast forward to the present day, Mother's Day 2024. Why not consider installing a memory garden of your own?

If you aren't lucky enough to have family heirlooms already growing in place, ask your mom or grandma what their favorite plants are and go from there. I'm sure that many are still available for purchase.

Involve the kids by making stepping stones, plant labels and other simple ornaments to decorate the space. Tailor the design to suit your taste - it certainly doesn't have to be grandiose, just special, like the gardeners who came before us.

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 with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

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

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the Sun
TEAM



EDITOR/SPORTS
Greg Scibelli
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Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

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

Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

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

Registration open for summer youth programs

HOLYOKE – Registration is open for 2024 Summer Youth Programs at Holyoke Community College.

Starting July 8 and running through August 16, HCC will offer 16 week-long summer programs in person on campus and many more online, for youth aged 8 to 17 interested in baking, cooking, computers, and sports.

For more than 40 years, HCC has offered challenging, summer education activities for youth, providing early opportunities for students to experience a college environment guided and encouraged by experienced professionals.

HCC's 2024 on-campus summer youth programs run Monday through Friday for one week, some for a full day, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and others for a half day, either 9 a.m. to noon, or 1 to 4 p.m.

All in-person programs will be held on the main HCC campus, 303 Homestead Ave., except for cooking and baking classes, which are held at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute, 164 Race St.

July 8-12:

Bake With Me (ages 11-14). Students will learn the art of creating tasty baked goods, pastries, and confections, from traditional bread baking to

beautiful showpieces, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (\$399)

Summer Fun in the Kitchen with Chef Birchall (ages 11-14): Iconic summer dishes and an eclectic variety of seasonal meals will be featured as students prepare lunch for themselves and their fellow students, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (\$399)

July 15-19:

Bake With Me (ages 11-14), 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (\$399)

Summer Fun in the Kitchen with Chef Birchall (ages 11-14), 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (\$399)

July 22-26:

All Spiced Up, Cooking with Anjula (ages 9-14). Join Anjula Kanouja from India House restaurant in Northampton and learn how to play with Indian spices while creating some of her favorite summer dishes, all with a Desi twist, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (\$399)

Culinary Summer Fun with Chef Tracy (ages 9-14). Learn new kitchen skills from Chef Tracy Carter as she creates some amazing culinary delights this summer, with a different focus each day: Pizza Party, Baking Basics, Breakfast for Champions, Tastes of Summer, Chopped

Junior, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (\$399)

ROBLOX Coders: Learn how to build 3D models and create an adventure in your ROBLOX world. Bring characters to life with unique animations you design, 9 a.m. to noon for ages 8-10; 1 to 4 p.m. for ages 11-14, (\$199)

July 29-Aug. 2:

Youth Soccer Clinic (ages 8-17): A comprehensive soccer clinic for young athletes taught by Rob Galazka, head coach of the HCC women's soccer team with assistance from top college soccer players, stressing basic and advanced skills with plenty of one-on-one instruction, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (\$299)

Make Your First Video Game: Go beyond the limitations of the traditional 2D game design and create an immersive 3D world. Students will learn the physics behind 3D games, explore beginner event scripting, level design, controlling the flow of gameplay, and storytelling, 9 a.m. to noon for ages 8-10; 1 to 4 p.m. for ages 11-14, (\$199)

Aug. 5-9:

Youth Baseball Clinic (ages 8-17): This fun-filled, challenging program emphasizes fundamental skills and base-

ball knowledge while building self-confidence and developing every player's ability to play more competitively, taught by head HCC baseball coach Ryan Magni, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., (\$299)

Minecraft Modders: Customize your own Minecraft world: Learn scripting and logic statements to create a wide variety of new elements, gameplay mechanics, and world-generating mods to change the way you play Minecraft, 9 a.m. to noon for ages 8-10; 1 to 4 p.m. for ages 11-14, (\$299)

Aug. 12-16:

Code Breakers: Learn the basics of coding languages like HTML, JavaScript, and CSS through a series of web projects and design challenges each day and be on your way to becoming the next tech star, 9 a.m. to noon for ages 8-10, 1 to 4 p.m. for ages 11-14 (\$199)

HCC also offers additional online-only versions of ROBLOX Coders, Video Game design, Minecraft Modders, and Code Breakers, and many other technology-based classes through its partner, Black Rocket.

To register for in person or online Summer Youth Program classes, please go to: hcc.edu/summer-youth.

Springfield Tennis Club announces weekly Saturday social mixer

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Tennis Club, located at the Public Red Clay Tennis Courts at Forest Park, announces weekly Saturday social tennis mixer.

The first Social tennis mixer will be held Saturday May 18 from 9 to 11

a.m. and is open to the public, and there will be no charge for participation. Refreshments will be served. The weekly Saturday mixers will run from May to October. The social mixers are a fun morn-



ing of tennis. Join for a chance to meet new players, improve tennis skills, and enjoy the sport in a friendly environment. Players should be advanced beginner level and above, 2.5 rat-

ing and up.

For more information about the Social Tennis Mixer or the Springfield Tennis Club, please email our Membership Director Mary Martin at Springfieldtennisclub@gmail.com or phone at 413-896-1475.

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Your wedding or engagement announcement will be included in our Bridal Guide, out September 30, 2024 for FREE!

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Be sure to include a high resolution, clear photograph for printing.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Geological time
 4. Ooze
 9. A set of eight
 14. Obstruction
 15. Swiss mathematician
 16. Philosophy
 17. The night before
 18. A timid person
 20. Unifies
 22. Gangs
 23. Alternative name
 24. Acumen
 28. Cathode-ray tube
 29. Tantalum
 30. Soluble ribonucleic acid
 31. Humiliate
 33. Earthy pigment
 37. Air Force
 38. Adult males
 39. Stiff untanned leather
 41. Before
 42. Atomic #18
 43. Beer mug

44. Nostrils
 46. Type of chef
 49. Midway between north and east
 50. They ___
 51. Splits
 55. Walk in a timid manner
 58. Preserved animal skin with hair
 59. Popular donut shop item
 60. You smear it on bagels
 64. Don't know when yet
 65. Equal to 10 amperes
 66. Synthetic acrylic fiber
 67. One point south of due east
 68. Of mixed ancestry
 69. Home of the Pyramids
 70. A way to change color

CLUES DOWN

1. Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues
 2. Untangle
 3. One from the U.S.
 4. Academic terms
 5. San ___ Obispo, in California
 6. Not healthy
 7. Self-assessment questionnaire (abbr.)
 8. Arugula genus
 9. VIII
 10. Makes a monarch
 11. Tormentor
 12. Commercials
 13. Sprinkle
 19. Make a mistake
 21. Freshwater fishes
 24. Vermont town
 25. Man-made device
 26. Entrap
 27. Places to store important things
 31. Accumulate
 32. Greek mythological nymph
 34. Gregory ___, American dancer
 35. Denotes past
 36. Becoming popular again
 40. Indicates position
 41. Came before
 45. An extra seed-covering
 47. Cheerful
 48. Deli sandwich staple
 52. Skateboarders love them
 53. Mandela's party
 54. Sierra lake
 56. Nickname for Elizabeth
 57. Remove from record
 59. Employee stock ownership plan
 60. Former NFLer Newton
 61. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
 62. Work unit
 63. Town in Cambridgeshire

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 9

Dakin Humane Society awarded \$124,000 grant

SPRINGFIELD – Dakin Humane Society has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$124,000 from the John T. and Jane A. Wiederhold Foundation, a supporting organization of the Northwest CT Community Foundation. The Programmatic Sustainability and Capacity Building grant will fund three key initiatives during the next year at Dakin: spay-neuter surgery for the most vulnerable cats and kittens in the community, consulting support for the development of Dakin's next three-year strategic plan, and equipment for The Pet Health Center that will build program capacity including a new veterinary

technician internship program.

Dakin's Executive Director Meg Talbert said "The John T. and Jane A. Wiederhold Foundation has been a long-time, generous supporter of Dakin. The foundation's grants have allowed us to introduce and expand programs and services that our community needs most to care for their beloved pets. We appreciate the foundation's thoughtful approach to grantmaking and their commitment to animal welfare. This grant will support Dakin's sustainability and help us to continue to have a meaningful and positive impact on pets and their families for years to come."

Leslie Harris, chair of the trustees of the John T. and Jane A. Wiederhold Foundation said "The foundation trustees are delighted to invest in organizations like Dakin Humane Society whose impact on the people and animals in their community is profound. We have long admired Dakin's innovative programming, commitment to sustaining the human-animal bond, and solid organizational governance."

Dakin Humane Society, located in Springfield, is an organization that delivers effective, innovative services that improve the lives of animals in need and the people who care about them.

In a typical year, the organization shelters, treats and fosters more than 20,000 animals and has performed over 122,000 spay/neuter surgeries since 2009, making it one of New England's largest spay/neuter providers. Dakin's Pet Health Center, a non-emergency veterinary resource for pet dogs and cats, opened in 2022 and has treated more than 5,000 pets. Dakin is a local non-profit organization that relies solely on contributions from individuals and businesses that care about animals to bring its services to the community. For more information, visit www.dakinhumane.org.

Historical fire house museum reopening

AGAWAM – The ground floor of the Agawam Historical and Fire House Museum, 35 Elm St., will re-open to visitors on Monday, May 27, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The ground floor of the museum features firefighting equipment and memorabilia, including an unrestored International fire truck that has been owned by the town since it was purchased new in 1930. Although a deaccession sale was held there last September, the last time the museum was actually open to the public was 2019.

An exhibit dedicated to former Agawam Fire Chief Russel Jenks will be unveiled; Jenks was instrumental in locating the museum in the former

Elm Street Fire Station after the new Agawam Fire Department headquarters was opened on Main Street. Also on display will be the tool chest, tools, and family history of Amos Gosselin, a North Agawam carpenter who built the building in 1918. The station was the first fire house in town designed specifically for motorized apparatus.

Located in the heart of the Agawam Center National Register Historic District, the museum is operated by the Agawam Historical Association. Members of the association's Archive Committee have been meeting weekly for the past several years to catalog and organize the association's collection, which has grown

considerably since the museum was dedicated in 2002. New storage has been added, the second-floor exhibit area reorganized, new exhibits and other improvements are planned before the entire museum will fully reopen.

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 St. and the Agawam Historical and Fire House Museum at 35 Elm St.



Come in see a historical fire truck at the Agawam Historical and Fire House Museum. Submitted Photo

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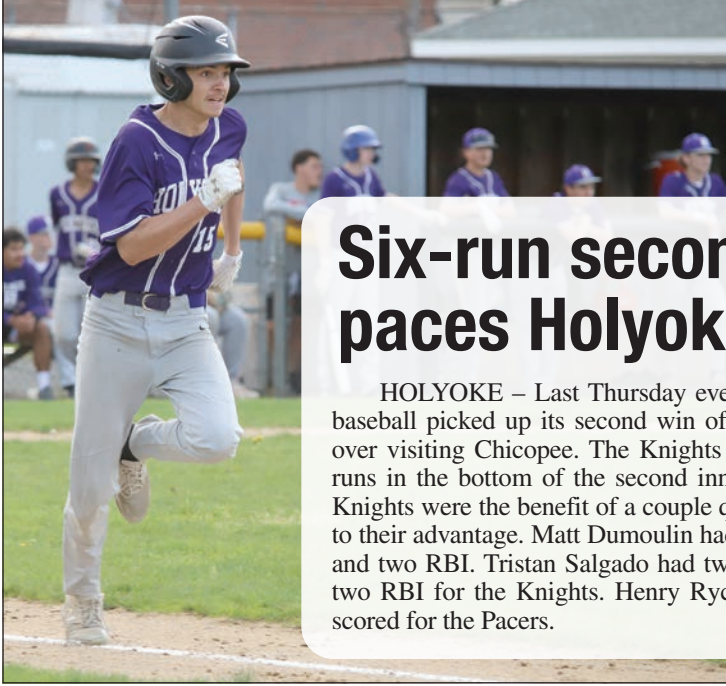
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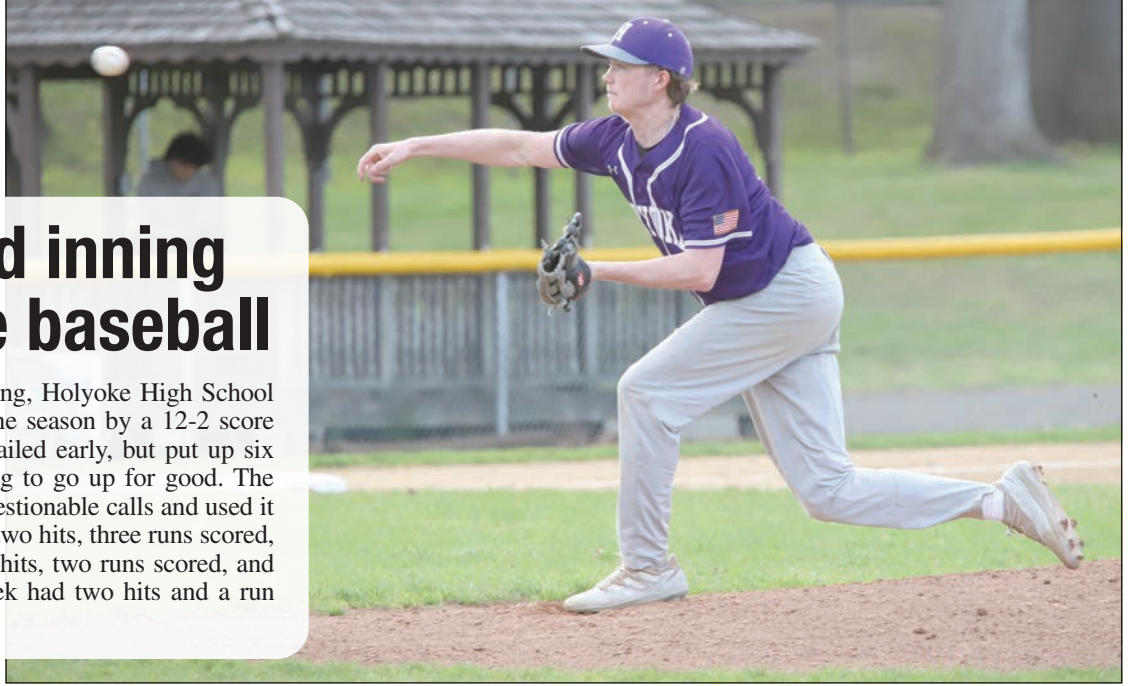
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SPORTS



Six-run second inning paces Holyoke baseball

HOLYOKE – Last Thursday evening, Holyoke High School baseball picked up its second win of the season by a 12-2 score over visiting Chicopee. The Knights trailed early, but put up six runs in the bottom of the second inning to go up for good. The Knights were the benefit of a couple questionable calls and used it to their advantage. Matt Dumoulin had two hits, three runs scored, and two RBI. Tristan Salgado had two hits, two runs scored, and two RBI for the Knights. Henry Ryczek had two hits and a run scored for the Pacers.



Tristan Salgado hustles down the line after hitting a soft ground ball.

Theo Marion delivers a pitch for the Knights.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Martin Phillips lays down a bunt.



Matthew Dumoulin swings and connects.



Jovaughn Rivera leads off first base after collecting a hit.

Knights outslug Panthers

HOLYOKE – The Knights softball team picked up its fourth win of the season, 15-9 over Palmer.

In the win, Jayshalee Santos had four hits, three runs

scored, and an RBI. Kylie Blaha had three hits, two runs scored, and three RBI. She had two doubles in the contest.

Holyoke is now 4-13 on the regular season.



Kylie Blaha pitches for the Knights.



Marialis Camacho collects a grounder.



Samantha Rodriguez hits a grounder.



Jessayra Maldonado swings and connects on a hit.



Alexis Letellier swings and connects on a hit. Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Pioneers set to get regular season underway

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW— Since they joined USL League Two in 2019, the Western Mass. Pioneers have finished first in the Northeast Division standings twice. They've also finished in second place twice.

The members of this year's squad will be looking to make their fifth appearance in the USL League Two playoffs. The 2020 season was canceled due to the COVID 19 Pandemic.

"We're going to try our best to put together another winning season," said Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari following his team's 9-0 friendly win against 3rd Eye FC at Lusitano Stadium last Friday night. "We do have nine returning players and a bunch of new players. The older players will need to show the new guys how we do things here. Every game that we play is very important because it's very difficult to make up points in this league."

The Pioneers finished the 2023 regular season with a 10-1-3 record (33 points). They finished in second place, one point behind the Seacoast United Phantoms, who finished in first place. The Pioneers lost to North Carolina Fusion U23 in the conference quarterfinals by the final score of 2-1.

The Pioneers were scheduled to kick off the 2024 campaign on Tuesday night with a road match against the Boston Bolts. They'll be facing Pathfinder FC in the home opener at 7pm on Saturday night.

It'll be the second game of a doubleheader at Lusitano Stadium. The New England Mutiny will be hosting Maine Footy at 4pm in their season opener.

Saturday will be a very busy day for Molinari. He was named as the Mutiny head coach by Joe Ferrera, who's the General Managers for both soccer teams, during the offseason.

"I told Joe if he wasn't able to find a head coach for the women's soccer team, I would help him out this year," said Molinari, who has been coaching the Pioneers since 2012. "Tomas Duben will be helping me out as an assistant coach."

Molinari is also the Director of Coaching for the Western United Pioneers.

Dennis Gomes and Jay Willis are returning as the Pioneers assistant coaches.



Patrick Gryczewski attempts to get around an opponent.

Duben, who played in about 30 matches for the Pioneers during the past several seasons, is also the Pioneers new Scouting & Tactical Analyst.

"Tomas knows a lot about soccer," Molinari said. "He can also relate to the players very well. It's a very good connection between the players and the coaching staff."

Ciro Viviano has replaced John Voight as the Pioneers Goalkeeper coach.

The Pioneers' other six regular season home matches will be against Black Rock FC (May 31), Seacoast United Phantoms (June 7), AC Connecticut (June 11), Boston City FC (June 21), Albany Rush (June 28), and Vermont Green FC (July 13).

"Every year is a new season, and you have to start from the beginning," Molinari said. "It's a lot of fun watching your players improve in every game."

One of the Pioneers veteran players is Connor Hicks, who helped the Monson boys' soccer team win back-to-back Division 4 state titles. As a senior in 2016, Hicks scored an incredible overtime goal to beat Cohasset High School in the state finals.

Hicks played college soccer at AIC and has been a member of the Pioneers



Zach Sauer looks to pass.
Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

since 2019.

"I'm getting a little bit older, but it's nice to be back playing for the Pioneers again," said Hicks, who's one of the defenders. "We've made the playoffs every year that I've played for this soccer team. I really enjoy the atmosphere here. It's a lot of fun signing autographs and taking pictures with the kids."

This will be Hicks final season playing for the Pioneers, as he's planning to move to Florida this summer.

Midfielder Khalid Rose, who's another fan favorite, is also returning.

Alec Hughes, who was one of the Pioneers leading goal scorers a year ago, is back again this year. He was a senior on the UMass men's soccer team last fall.

One of the Pioneers newcomers is striker Scott Testori, who was the leading goal scorer on the 2023 UConn men's soccer team.

The Pioneer's captain is Nicholas Oberrauch, who's a defender.

Gianluca Cersosimo was the Pioneers' starting goalie in the friendly match.

The tickets prices for all the Pioneers regular season home matches are \$10.

Children 6 years old and younger are free.



Jared Smith looks to send the ball deep.



Kwame Adu-Gyamfi gets ready to shoot.

Registration now open to take part in 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@baystate-games.org or call 781-932-6555.

Thompson Speedway holds annual Icebreaker event

THOMPSON, CT – A much nicer day awaited fans on day two of the 50th Icebreaker at Thompson Speedway held last month. Six star-studded features took to the 0.625-mile oval on Sunday, as did the peaks of sunshine to greet the fans in the stands. While the Street Stocks were able to start their 2024 track championship season on Saturday, the rest of the track championship line-up got their year started with plenty of action on Sunday along with the roar of the mighty NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour with their return to Icebreaker weekend.

Following strong qualifying efforts in time trials, Justin Bonsignore and Jake Johnson led the NASCAR Whelen Modifieds to a short start after Bobby Santos III lost a right rear tire in mid-pack, dragging Dave Sapienza, Andrew Krause and Eric Goodale into the turn one wall. Back under the green flag, Johnson slid back to third on the restart and gave second to a hard-charging Craig Lutz with Bonsignore still at the helm. Lutz grabbed his chance to take over the lead on a lap 25 restart following a grenaded motor in the Tim

Connolly machine.

A second motor expired in the first 33 laps for Trevor Catalano but Lutz again retained control ahead of Bonsignore and Ron Silk. Silk methodically made his way to Lutz's back bumper, pulling up alongside the #46 on lap 59 and using the slide job in turn one to come back and lead lap 60. The field would slow once more on lap 89 for the spinning Matt Swanson in turn four, leading to a frenzy of teams jumping down pit road for their respective tire changes. Patrick Emerling stunned the competition by winning the race off pit road followed by Silk, Johnson, Bonsignore and Austin Beers.

Silk moved up way high as they motored through turns one and two, forcing Emerling to pull back on the outside and giving him the lead. The final laps saw Emerling and Bonsignore battle for third as Silk continued to grow his lead more and more. Ron Silk took the dominant Icebreaker 150 win followed by a consistently fast Jake Johnson and a hard-charging Patrick Emerling, whose radiator sat steaming in victory lane.

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 matt@valleyblue-sox.com for more information.

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
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Docket No. HD24P1019EA**

**Estate of:
Elroy Albert Barber
Date of Death: 03/28/2024
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 Cynthia A. Cary of Syracuse, NY requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: Cynthia A. Cary of Syracuse, NY be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/06/2024. 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: May 09, 2024
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
05/17/2024

Notice of Public Hearing
The Ordinance Committee of the Holyoke City Council will hold a public hearing to hear a special permit application of Blue Fox Brands Inc. for an adult-use cannabis manufacturing (non-chemical extraction) establishment

Academy names Biondo new hockey coach

WILBRAHAM – Wilbraham & Monson Academy is pleased to announce Lawrence Biondo has been named Head Coach of the Boys Varsity Hockey program beginning with the 2024-25 season.

Coach Biondo will take the helm with a strong foundation of current and new student-athletes and support from the entire WMA community. The Titans compete as a full varsity member of the New England Prep School Athletic Council.

“Coach Lawrence Biondo is a prep school person, through and through,” Head of School Brian P. Easler said. “He played at prep school, has coached at prep schools, sent all of his kids to prep schools, and now he chose to return to prep school teaching and coaching after retiring from the New York City Police Department. He is fully committed to WMA and the development of our hockey program for the long term, and I can’t wait to see how it grows under his leadership.”

Biondo’s hockey resume includes both playing and coaching experience at the prep school and collegiate level. As a coach, count Avon Old Farms, St.

Benedict’s Prep and The Harvey School in his prep school experience.

Joining Biondo will be Steven McGeary as Assistant Coach. Formerly the Boys Ice Hockey Head Coach at Wyoming Seminary, McGeary played at Bethel University (MN). Assistant Coach and Goalie Coach Brian Musa ’92 will round out a stellar coaching staff. Musa has over two decades of coaching experience, played goalie at Elmira College and is USA Bronze Goalie certified.

As a player, Biondo was a three-year member of a Deerfield Academy team that won the 1983-84 Prep School Championship, and he lettered all four years at Tufts University. He played on the Olympic Development U16 summer program at Lake Placid, N.Y., and the

Springfield Pioneers AA Bantam championship team that included WMA alumnus Rick Bennett ’86.

Already a current English faculty member at WMA, Biondo retired as a lieutenant in 2023 after 20 years of service with the NYPD. Two of his five children are recent alumni of WMA, both Class of 2021, and they are currently matriculated at United States Military Academy West Point and Florida Atlantic University.

“I look forward to building upon the hockey program here at WMA and appreciate the full support I’m receiving from the school,” Biondo said. “We have a solid schedule, we’re expanding our off-and-on-ice program and we’re eager to begin the season this November.”

How to contact the Sports Editor

Have the scoop on a local sports story? Want to submit a team photo, pass along a potential story idea, or just find out how to get a copy of that great photo of your young athlete? Please send all sports-related press releases and information to Sports Editor Greg Scibelli at: sports@turley.com or call, 1-413-283-8393.

Public Notices

at 1 Cabot St (048-01-010). Hearing will take place on **Wednesday, June 5, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.** at Holyoke City Hall, 536 Dwight Street and can be accessed remotely via www.zoom.us Meeting ID 893 5023 0189 Meeting Passcode 643068 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 with same Meeting ID and Passcode. For a copy of the application or to provide comments, please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org or by phone 413-322-5525.

Ordinance Chair
Israel Rivera
05/17/2024

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 or 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

**PUBLIC AUCTION SALE
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(2): 15379(S.Marshall)(2): 15380(L.Rivera)(3): 15398(R.McKeithen)(24): 15406(E.Colon)(3): 15408(G.Ellerbee)(6): 15409(F.Mosher)(1): 15421(A.Formel)(4): 15431(R.Hernandez)(2): 15435(A.Ring)(3): 15438(A.Pagan)(2): 15443(K.Caudle)(1): 15451(J.Hopkins)(2): 15454(H.Hughes)(3): 15460(D.Gardner)(2): 15467(R.Cruz)(2): 15479(M.Sheehan)(4): 15486(I.Alvarez)(2): 15518(D.Crawford)(1): 15536(J.Cloutier)(3): 15541(J.Hurd)(2): 15553(A.SkyLimit)(1): 15559(S.Acevedo Sr)(4): 15591(E.Witt)(2): 15592(B.Murray)(1): 15598(L.Sims)(2): 15600(R.Young)(2): 15602(T.Pownall)(4): 15603(R.Wainrib)(2): 15607(T.Sweeney Jr)(2): 15642(L.Pinard)(2): 15664(F.Colon)(1): 15669(J.White)(3): 15678(M.Newson)(1): 15694(W.Sepulveda)(5): 15704(R.Harrison)(3):
05/10, 05/17/2024

**LEGAL NOTICE
CITY OF HOLYOKE
GAS & ELECTRIC
DEPARTMENT
UTILITY LINE
MATERIAL - LINE
RECLOSERS,
SECTIONALIZERS,
AND CONTROLS**

Sealed bids for furnishing the above material will be received by Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept. until **2:00 p.m. May 30, 2024**, at the Office of the Manager, 99 Suffolk St0, Holyoke, MA 01040, at which time proposals will be

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

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

Please mark sealed envelopes **“Bid for Utility Line Material - Line Reclosers, Sectionalizers, and Controls”** and address them to:
James M. Lavelle, Manager
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept.
99 Suffolk St.
Holyoke, MA 0104
05/17/2024

**City 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 tejadab@holyoke.org

Planning Chair
Mimi Panitch
05/10, 05/17/2024

The Holyoke Sun OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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



PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

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

[visit www.publicnotices.turley.com](http://www.publicnotices.turley.com)

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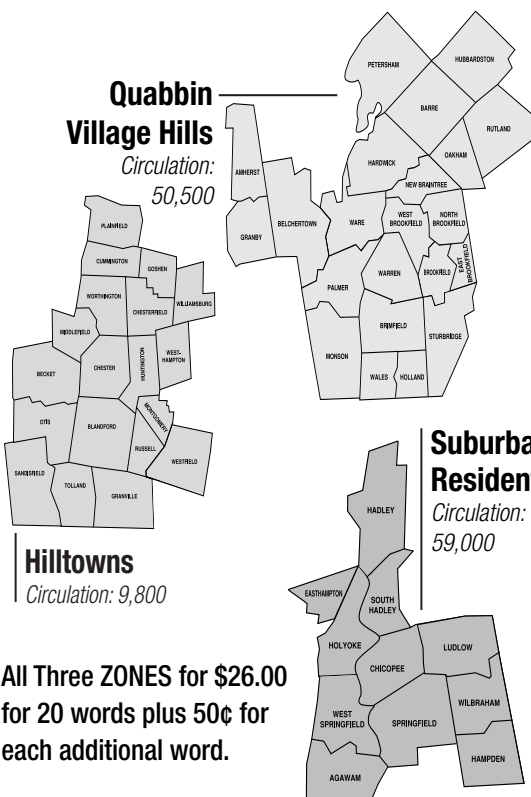
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STRONGER, from page 1

Garcia and other workers in the mayor's office and the city council have kicked off the master planning process that is going to help them improve the city over the next 25 years.

Additionally, the city has been working hard to make an economic comeback in the wake of the pandemic.

"Today thanks to good governance, smart policy, from the local level all the way up to the Healey administration...that interest has been transformed into new businesses here in our city," Garcia said.

Garcia mentioned two businesses in the city that have helped improve its economic state and work toward an improved climate for all: Sublime Systems and Clean Crop Technologies.

Sublime Systems is a company that develops a fossil free low carbon alternative to cement. This company will soon begin construction on its first commercial manufacturing site in Holyoke.

Clean Crop helps to increase crop yields, reduce food waste and improve food safety, all while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

"Just last year both of these companies...were named in Time Magazine's list of America's Top Green Tech Companies," Garcia said. "With these companies, and still more to come, we're showing that America's economic future and, guess what? It's happening right here in the city of Holyoke."

He also highlighted the potential for the new sports complex that plans to come to the city in the next few years.

"It is poised to do wonders for the local economy," Garcia said.

Garcia also highlighted the improvements the city has made to housing.

"In the past few years we've developed over a

BOND, from page 1

the uncertainty of repair work, having the additional \$1.5 million could be beneficial.

"Dollar for dollar this work all needs to be done," Jourdain said. "This is maintenance on city property that has to be approved by this council. They don't have the money in their budget to do this kind of capital improvement."

In The News

hundred new housing units and we're looking forward to seeing more in the very near future," he said.

The WayFinders Phase Two project, also known as the Essex project, will be complete by the end of the year and will therefore add 41 affordable units of housing to the city.

The mayor hopes to continue seeing such growth in housing in the city.

Furthermore, Garcia also made sure to mention that the city is on the path back to local control of the schools.

This is a huge step forward for the city, which has been in receivership since 2015. All in the city are hopeful that regaining local control will help them to make significant improvements to the district.

While Garcia acknowledged all of the growth Holyoke has made, he also made sure to take note of the growth the city still has left to do.

"Even as we acknowledge and celebrate our progress as a city, we can't allow ourselves to look away from our people's struggles," he said.

He knows that many in the city are struggling to make ends meet, with hundreds of residents facing homelessness and some afraid to have their kids go outside.

"We can't just wish these things away, we can't accept these realities as inevitable," Garcia said.

Therefore, Garcia challenges all who work in the government of Holyoke to continue to push themselves so Holyoke can continue to improve, so that the residents do not have to face these struggles.

"Holyoke can overcome its painful past," Garcia said. "I'm asking what are we going to do to make change that lasts?"

Garcia hopes that with all working together, Holyoke will continue to improve.

"If we summon what is best in us, the story of Holyoke will be bright and full of promise," he said.

Jourdain also mentioned there are concerns that the former police station behind City Hall, which is now a "subterranean cave", is no longer structurally sound, which could add to the amount of money the DPW needs for repairs.

The councilors did agree to have the DPW come back within 90 days to give an update on how the repairs are going and how they plan to spend the funds provided to them by the council.

IT Academy creates career opportunities

SPRINGFIELD – The IT Academy at Springfield Technical Community College is a life-changer for Juan Burgos, a Springfield resident.

Echoing comments from other students enrolled in the IT Academy at STCC, Burgos said he's excited to be working toward certifications that are tickets to good-paying jobs in the cybersecurity industry. Students in the first cohort held in spring 2024 are enrolled for free, supported by a grant.

"This opportunity came up, and I jumped on it," Burgos said one Wednesday afternoon at STCC, where he was seated in a classroom with the other students. "This is a life-changer. This is going to change everything."

Launched on March 12, the IT Academy's Pathway to the Cybersecurity program at STCC supports non-traditional students who are new to Information Technology and computer technology. They are learning skills that set them up for entry level IT careers. Students also have the option of moving into the two-year Cybersecurity Program, which can lead to an associate degree.

The comprehensive curriculum combines theoretical knowledge with practical, hands-on experience. The program includes a part-time option running classes three evenings a week for 9 months. A summer and winter boot camp will be offered that runs for 10 weeks (full-time day program), which allows students to attend classes five days a week.

Eventually, students who follow the cybersecurity track will use The Richard E. Neal Cybersecurity Center of Excellence in Springfield, scheduled to open later this year. The facility will serve as a dynamic hub for advancing cybersecurity awareness, education, innovation and battling global security threats.

The 6,000-square-foot facility will include a cyber range, which is a simulated training environment, and security operations center, which is envisioned as a support service for Massachusetts municipalities, as well as regional businesses, to detect cybersecurity events in real time and respond quickly.

STCC offers a number of training opportunities through its Workforce Development division, from a free program that prepares students to be paraeducators in Springfield to the Hampden Prep program, which provides basic computer skill training.

"We are excited to offer a wide range of training programs that help nontraditional students pursue their dream careers," said Gladys Franco, assistant vice president of Workforce Development at STCC. "Our goal is to make it easier for people looking to get started in a career. We're particularly excited about the IT Academy, which provides a pathway to build a career in IT and cybersecurity. It's a growing field with many opportunities."

Students in the Pathway to Cybersecurity Program are learning in person in a classroom taught by April Bellafiore, Cruz Antonio Pagan, and Andrew Collins, a professor for the Cybersecurity Program at STCC.

Students also participate in interactive computer training labs focused on obtaining CompTIA certifications, which are industry standards that IT professionals can use to demonstrate their knowledge and skills to potential employers.

The training is "beginner friendly," Bellafiore said. The course provides students with skills to be successful in the Cybersecurity Program and in the workforce.

Students enrolled in the course come from a variety of backgrounds. Shelby Kiendzior of Easthampton graduated from STCC with a degree in Dental Hygiene and worked in the field, but plans on changing her career.

"I will be getting four certifications in different IT related courses," Kiendzior said. "This course will set me up for where I want to go in IT or tech."

Luz Padilla, who is from Puerto Rico and now lives in Chicopee, called the IT Academy "the best thing that's ever happened to me."

"I love computers," she said. "I love troubleshooting and I would like to work in homeland security someday. The class is amazing. The teacher's great. I got a lot of encouragement from everybody here, especially Miss April."

She referred to the instructor April Bellafiore, who has taught in-person and online courses for over 20 years.

"I am excited to work with the IT Academy students to prepare them for a dynamic and exciting industry," Bellafiore said. "We also encourage students to continue their education and apply for the STCC Cybersecurity two-year degree program. In today's digital age, every industry relies on IT expertise. It's a growing field with many rewarding and diverse job opportunities."

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Mayor Joshua Garcia was excited to take part in the second annual Mayoral Bike Ride.



Chair of the Bike and Pedestrian Committee Kristen Sykes welcomed everyone to the second annual Mayoral Bike Ride.



Bike and Pedestrian Committee Member Price Armstrong walked everyone in attendance of the Mayoral Bike Ride through the route they would take, as well as the safety instructions they needed to know.



Community members lined up to receive instructions before the Mayoral Bike Ride.



Holyoke hosted its second annual Mayoral Bike Ride, and dozens of community members came out to participate. *Turley photos by Quinn Suomala*



Everyone lined up to begin the Mayoral Bike Ride.

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SAMPLE

BIKE, from page 1

The BikePed Committee wants to encourage more people in Holyoke to use biking as a form of commuting, and they hope that this event will help to show people that biking in Holyoke is safe and possible.

"We continue to do infrastructure upgrades," Garcia said. "We're making sure that we're offering mobility safety, especially for bikers."

Garcia is aware that there can be a struggle for people interested in biking in Holyoke, so he hoped that this ride would help people to see the improvements legislatures and other government officials have made to help with bike safety.

He also hoped this ride would help him to get a better perspective of what Holyoke still needed to improve on in order to ensure bicyclist and pedestrian safety.

"Beyond just encouraging the public to get on a bike and encouraging bicycling in the community, I also think that when we ride together it is going to give us a firsthand visual as to how safe it is, really, to bike in our community," Garcia said. "This gives us a firsthand opportunity to see whether or not we're doing enough."

This year's bike ride was also a mural tour, allowing those who joined to see the murals done by Beyond Walls last year.

They also wanted to highlight some of the biking infrastructure that the city has implemented over the past few years, such as protected bike lanes.

The ride itself ended at Fame Lounge/Eatery for people to enjoy food, drinks and receive t-shirts celebrating the ride.

The BikePed committee first started doing this bike ride last year. Prior to that they would have a bike breakfast, but they wanted to see the community come together and see the city.

"There is a small bike commuting population in Holyoke and we'd like to do more of that," Sykes said. "We figured doing a family-friendly bike ride that everyone could join in would be a good way to encourage people to come out."

So far, the bike ride has been a big success. The first year Sykes was pleased by the turn out, and this year the group was even larger.

"This is more bikes than I've ever seen in Holyoke at one time, so this is exciting," Sykes said.

Sykes hopes that people came away from the day realizing that they can, in fact, bike around Holyoke.

She also invites people to participate in the BikePed committee, which meets the first Monday of every month both in person and on zoom.

"If you have something that you'd like to see change in regards to biking and walking in the city, come in and let us know," she said.