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# HOLYOKE the Sun

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## ValleyBike program hits snag in service

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The ValleyBike share program's main service provider, Bewegen Inc., is no longer able to meet the services required of it by contract. Therefore, the program has to search for a new service provider.

Bewegen Inc. claimed to be initiating bankruptcy procedures in Canada, its home location and thus is dissolving contracts with bike share communities around the world.

Once hearing about this issue, Northampton, on behalf of all eight of the local bike share communities—Holyoke, Springfield, West Springfield, Chicopee, Easthampton, Northampton, South Hadley, Amherst, and the University of Massachusetts Amherst—attempted to negotiate a short-term contract with Bewegen Inc.

Unfortunately, it was soon clear that this solution wouldn't be stable or sustainable, so the ValleyBike share group began a search for a new provider.

The ValleyBike share program is key in assisting residents who may not have other forms of transportation. It is designed to allow for short bike trips in Holyoke and other communities by connecting large clusters of employers, colleges, shopping, and other destinations residents may need to reach.

See VALLEYBIKE, page 10



The ValleyBike share system is on hold while the program searches for a new service provider.  
Photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

## City celebrates MEMORIAL DAY



Mayor Joshua Garcia and City Council President Todd McGee complete the 22 push-up challenge on stage.  
Photos by Quinn Suomala

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The city's Memorial Day Ceremony started off with a 22 push-up challenge, as a way to honor the 22 veterans who are lost to suicide every day.

City council members, school committee members, Mayor Joshua Garcia, and others all participated in this challenge.

"We did 22 push-ups to remember those that we lose every day, 22 a day," City Council President Todd McGee said. "It is a staggering number. But, it was an honor to do the 22 push-ups with Officer Moriarty, fellow council members, and school committee members."

Garcia was also honored to take part in this push-up challenge.

"Today we also focus on the warriors who came home only to find that war had come home with them," Garcia said. "This morning's opening exercise, and I think exercise is the right word, was intended to remind us that the sacrifice continues to this day. That for many veterans there is no peace, no armistice, no truce. That every day 20 veteran lose their battle with Post-Traumatic Stress, succumbing to suicide on American soil. So it is fitting that we continue to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice and let us also resolve to support the efforts of the individuals and agencies that work to bring solace to the former servicemen and women for whom the battle rages on."

Other speakers came forward to promise their support and work in ensuring that veterans would have the resources



The DAV Department of the Massachusetts Honor Guard posts the colors.



The Caledonian Pipe Band opens the ceremony with a lovely musical performance.

es they need. "As your state representative in Boston, the support and resources that our veterans need, I'm your biggest champion and I promise you

that," Massachusetts State Representative Patricia Duffy said.

Taking a day to remem-

See MEMORIAL, page 6

## More candidates emerge

Nomination papers due Aug. 1

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – City council and school committee elections are just around the corner. The preliminary election, if needed, will take place on September 26. The local election date is set for Nov. 7.

So far, 25 people have taken out nomination papers for city council positions and 10 for the school committee.

Those who have currently taken out the papers for re-election on the city council are Jenny Rivera (Ward 1 Councilor), David Bartley (Ward 3 Councilor), Kocayne Givner (Ward 4 Councilor), Linda Vacon (Ward 5 Councilor), Juan Anderson-Burgos (Ward 6 Councilor), Kevin Jourdain (At-Large Councilor), Jose Maldonado Velez (At-Large Councilor), Tessa Murphy-Romboletti (At-Large Councilor), and Israel Rivera (At-Large Councilor). Of these incumbents, only Anderson-Burgos, Jourdain and Vacon are certified, meaning the registrar has certified their signatures and they are on, at least, the primary ballot.

New candidates challenging for city council are Victor Machado De Jesus (certified, running for Ward 1 Councilor), Janelle Mojica (running for Ward 2 Councilor), Ashley Stackow (running for Ward 2 Councilor), Carmen Yolanda Ocasio (certified, running for Ward 2 Councilor), Anne Thalheimer (running for Ward 3 Councilor), Ruth Garcia (certified, running for Ward 4 Councilor), William Diaz (certified, running for Ward 5 Councilor), Guy O'Donnell (certified, running for Ward 5 Councilor), Nicholas Duclos (running for Ward 7 Councilor), Megan Blanche Magrath-Smith (certified, running for Ward 7 Councilor), Steve Rosenbush (running for Ward 7 Councilor), Patricia Devine (certified, running for At-Large Councilor), Axel Fontanez (running for At-Large Councilor), Howard Greaney (certified, running for At-Large Councilor), Mimi Panitch (running for At-Large Councilor), and Michael J. Sullivan (running for At-Large Councilor). Sullivan and Greaney are former city councilors.

See CANDIDATES, page 10



# Four sentenced in shooting murder of Holyoke man

HOLYOKE – Luis Cotto, Keith Cotto, Isaiah Fraticelli, all of Springfield, and Victor Espinosa, of Chicopee, were sentenced to life in prison today after a Hampden County Jury convicted them of murder in the first degree on May 19. All four defendants were also convicted on lesser charges of, Possession of a Firearm, and Possession of a Loaded Firearm. All were sentenced to four to five years and 2 ½ years respectively on those charges, those sentences are to run concurrently with the life without parole sentence.

On Sunday, Nov. 3, 2019 the Massachusetts State Police Detective Unit was alerted to a shooting having just occurred on Interstate 91 North in Springfield in which the victim was not expected to survive. The shooting was witnessed and called in by an active on-duty Massachusetts State Police Trooper on patrol.

The victim, Mr. Gabriel Irizarry, of Holyoke, was shot at from the defendants' vehicle while he was operating his vehicle on Interstate 91 around 1 a.m. on Nov. 3, 2019. His vehicle was

mistakenly identified by the defendants as belonging to someone else they were targeting.

Hampden District Attorney Anthony Gulluni stated, "Gabriel Irizarry's family has suffered an immense and senseless tragedy, which can never be healed. I am appreciative of all the tireless work by investigators and my prosecutors in bringing some justice to Mr. Irizarry's family. I thank the detectives from the Massachusetts State Police Detective Unit assigned to my office along with Assistant District Attorney Katharine

Johnston, for their work on this case in order to achieve a just verdict."

Assistant District Attorney Katharine Johnston successfully represented the Commonwealth in this case, along with Assistant District Attorney Anna Lusardi sitting second chair, and Assistant District Attorney Joseph Coliflores as appellate counsel. Damaris Ramirez, Victim Witness Advocate, assisted the family during the court process. Detectives with the Springfield Police Department assisted in the investigation.



The Armour Yard Beer Garden will reopen on Monday, June 5.

Submitted photo

## Armour Yard Beer Garden set to reopen in June

HOLYOKE – Armour Yard Beer Garden, located at 164 Race Street, in the historic Canal District, is excited to announce its June reopening.

Now in its third year since its creation in 2021, the popular beer garden has grown, inspiring local businesses, community members, and artists. The "Yard" has become the place on Monday evenings during the Summer.

Created by Denis Luzuriaga (Cubit Building) and Mike Pratt (Holyoke Craft Beer) as a place to make new friends and relax outdoors, Armour Yard has become a staple in Holyoke's nightlife.

"Armour Yard has become a beloved gathering place for the community, and we can't wait to welcome back our loyal patrons and new visitors alike," Luzuriaga said.

It offers an expansive outdoor space with plenty of seating and a relaxed, laid-back vibe. Guests can enjoy a wide selection of local and regional craft beers, delicious food from some of the area's top food trucks and vendors, and live entertainment.

Last year, Armour Yard was attended by close to 100 people per event, pro-

viding a safe, diverse, family-friendly environment enjoyed by all. The Yard also created a space for local food trucks, restaurants, breweries, and artists to showcase themselves and their work, further enriching the community's cultural landscape.

With the 2023 season right around the corner, the planners have big goals to grow Armour Yard and create more opportunities for the community to experience this unique gem.

The beer garden will run every Monday evening from 5 to 8 p.m., starting on June 5 and ending on Sept. 25. Vendors will include White Lion Brewing & Holyoke Craft Beer, CRAVE Food Truck, Holyoke Hummus, The Wingman Truck, Thai Chili Food Truck, Vegan Pizza Land and Tempest Temptations Baked Goods, and Holyoke Ice Cream.

Armour Yard is not just a place to grab a drink, but a community gathering spot, a hub of creativity and innovation, and a celebration of all that makes Holyoke great. For more information, visit Armour Yard's Facebook page [www.facebook.com/armouryard](http://www.facebook.com/armouryard) and on Instagram @armouryard.

### JOIN US FOR GUEST SPEAKER

Mitchell Clionsky, Ph.D. ABPP(CN)

JUNE 6th, 2023 at 7:00 pm

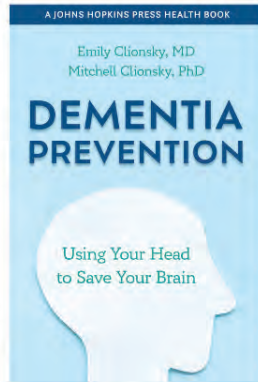
Light Refreshments Will be Served

The Arbors at Chicopee Assisted Living Residential Community



#### Worried About Memory Loss and Dementia Risk?

Join us for a special presentation by Mitchell Clionsky to discuss his new book **DEMENTIA PREVENTION: Using Your Head to Save Your Brain** (John Hopkins Press) Dr. Clionsky will present an overview of dementia and the various elements that go into dementia risk, but rather than just a lecture, he will be focusing on answering YOUR questions!!!



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# Velis works to get amendments in state budget

BOSTON – After considering over 1,000 amendments in a three-day-long debate, the Massachusetts State Senate today unanimously passed its final fiscal 2024 budget. During the debate, the Senate adopted 16 policy and funding amendments filed by State Sen. John Velis (D-Westfield) that allocated a total of \$3.76 million to policy initiatives and organizations across the Hampden and Hampshire District and the Commonwealth.

“This final Senate FY’24 budget makes transformative investments in so many important areas of our Commonwealth and I am grateful to my colleagues for adopting several of my amendments throughout the debate for veterans’ services, behavioral health supports, and so many other priorities in our district and state,” said Senator Velis, who is Chairman of the Mental Health, Substance Use, and Recovery Committee and Chairman of the Veterans’ & Federal Affairs Committee.

### Veterans’ Affairs Amendments

- Amendment 362: \$500,000 to the

Massachusetts General Hospital Home Base Program to expand trauma services for Veterans across the state

- Amendment 490: \$200,000 to implement the recommendations of last session’s Women Veterans Study, including expanding outreach to identify women veterans and services

- Amendment 372: Expanding eligibility for the MA Welcome Home Bonus to LGBTQ+ service members who were dishonorably discharged under “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell”

- Amendment 352: \$914,000 to Disabled American Veterans Department of Massachusetts Service Fund, Inc. to provide counseling and benefits assistance to disabled veterans and their families

- Amendment 584: \$100,000 to Vietnam Veterans of Massachusetts Inc to aid veterans in the commonwealth with filing claims for medical and financial benefits

### Health Care Amendments

- Amendment 531: \$500,000 to establish a Behavioral Health School

Pilot Program that will allow school counselors and administrators to call a specialist hotline to discuss behavioral health issues with students

- Amendment 378: Requires the Board of Nursing Home Administrators to report on nursing home closures and whether the closures were in compliance with state regulations

- Amendment 354: Ensures that Physicians are able to access mental health resources after being referred to Physician Health Services.

Another amendment from Velis, amendment 351, increases funding for the Massachusetts Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs by \$800,000, from \$2.2M to \$3M. That funding will support Boys & Girls Clubs across the Commonwealth in the next operating year.

In addition to these statewide amendments, Velis secured \$750,000 in local funding, with amendments for all 9 municipalities in the district. Funding includes \$250,000 to the Greater Holyoke Chamber of Commerce to promote building restorations and business upgrades throughout the City of

Holyoke, \$50,000 to Bay State Noble Hospital’s opioid treatment and overdose prevention community grant program, and \$50,000 to the West Springfield Council on Aging for renovations to their fitness center.

“It’s my job as Senator to go down to Beacon Hill and zealously advocate for our district however I can,” said Velis. “Over the past several months, my team and I have been meeting with local leaders and organizations throughout the district to learn about their needs and priorities. I am thrilled that I secured this important funding in the Senate’s budget to support our communities and some of the many incredible groups who do so much for our residents.”

Senator Velis represents his hometown of Westfield, Agawam, parts of Chicopee, Easthampton, Holyoke, Montgomery, Russell, Southampton, and West Springfield.

With these amendments now adopted into the Senate’s budget, it will now be considered in a conference committee with the House of Representatives.

## Students win Burns scholarships

HOLYOKE – This year the 30th Eleanor and William H. Burns Memorial scholarships were awarded to Sarah Kaifer and Taleishke Babilonia from Holyoke High North Campus, and Jonathan Suarez from the Dean Campus.

Awards given each year for the last 30 years to needing and deserving high schoolers.

William and Eleanor Burns were both Holyoke residents working and residing there and raising nine-plus children.

## STEM Beats performs for UMass music education class June 7

HOLYOKE – Student STEM Beat musicians recently performed for an undergraduate music education class at UMass Amherst—which included teaching college students how to perform a section of one of their original musical arrangements.

“Not only did our students perform, they also spoke about our program, answered students’ and professors’ questions, and had a chance to ask the undergraduate students questions about being a music education major at UMass,” said Holyoke STEM music teacher Aaron Di Pilla. “The professors and students were blown away by their skills.”

While at UMass, the STEM Beats performers toured the campus and

enjoyed a meal in a UMass dining hall. “This was a win-win for all involved,” Mr. Di Pilla said. “Our students were able to picture themselves being college students, and they were humbled with compliments on their skills. It also gave us the opportunity to represent Holyoke and recruit future teachers. We already have a number of UMass students from the class reaching out to inquire about opportunities to do classroom observations and about potential student-teacher placements.”

The next STEM Beats concert is scheduled for 5 p.m. on Wednesday, June 7 at the Holyoke STEM Academy, 1045 Main Street. Students will be performing their classics, past and present. Admission is free.

## Guertin graduates from WPI

WORCESTER – On Saturday, May 13, Tyler Guertin, who majored in Aerospace Engineering, was bestowed a bachelor’s degree at WPI’s 154th Commencement. Nearly 1,100 undergraduate degrees were awarded during the ceremony.

President Grace Wang and Board of Trustees Chair William Fitzgerald presided over the 154th Commencement exercises Saturday morning, marking the first time for both in their respective positions. In her remarks, President Wang, who officially joined WPI in early April, applauded the graduates for their dedication, persistence, passion for their field of study, and achievements. “You have earned your place among generations of exceptional WPI alumni. I hope you will take the

opportunity, as they did, to push boundaries, explore unknowns, and deliver a tangible and profound impact to the world.”

In his commencement address to undergraduates titled, “Don’t Switch Off Your Conscience,” Congressman James P. McGovern, who represents the Massachusetts second congressional district, urged graduates not to forget about the moral and ethical consequences of their work. “I ask you to stay true to yourself and the values you have learned at WPI. As citizens of the world, you have a responsibility to the greater good. To ask yourself not only what is profitable, but what is just. To ask yourself not only what is efficient, but what is equitable. And to ask yourself not only what is innovative, but what is honorable.”

## HCC celebrates nursing graduates

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College celebrated the graduation of 52 students from its Associate in Science in Nursing degree program on Thursday, May 25.

The students were recognized during a pinning ceremony at HCC’s Campus Center, during which they were formally inducted into the healthcare field as soon-to-be registered nursing professionals. During a traditional pinning ceremony,

new nursing graduates light candles, receive their nursing pin from a registered nurse, and recite the Nightingale Pledge.

The graduates, many of whom are already working, will sit for their exams before becoming licensed as registered nurses.

Holyoke Community College, Associate of Science in Nursing program graduates for 2023 from Holyoke are: Jessica Boulanger and Elissa Dingman.

## Vendors wanted for July 4th celebration

HOLYOKE – Holyoke’s July 4th Fireworks Celebration will take place on Friday, June 30 with the rain date of Friday, July 7 on the beautiful grounds of Holyoke Community College, located on Homestead Avenue.

“First, I’d like to thank Holyoke Gas & Electric, Holyoke Community College, and the city’s departments for continuing this tradition,” Garcia said. “Not only do we have the fireworks in honor of our nation’s history, but it also allows us to come together as a community and celebrate. As Mayor, it fills me with deep pride to see so many families and friends come out and enjoy a nice summer evening in Holyoke. We want this city to be welcoming and vibrant and the fireworks contribute to this.”

“This is my second year attending the Holyoke Fireworks as Mayor, and my excitement only grows as I spend time engaging with the community and seeing the joy the fireworks bring to our residents and their families. I’d like to thank Holyoke Gas & Electric,

Holyoke Community College, and our city departments for making sure that every year the families in Holyoke have a chance to spend a fun-filled evening with their loved ones and celebrate Independence Day.”

The City of Holyoke Fireworks are sponsored each year by Holyoke Gas & Electric and the event is hosted by Holyoke Community College. Mayor Garcia encourages everyone to come early to enjoy the music and food. There will also be many activities for children. The event begins at 6 p.m., with the fireworks display scheduled to start at dusk.

Vendors interested in taking part in the event should contact the Parks & Recreation Department to obtain a permit application at (413) 322-5620. No alcoholic beverages or bottles are allowed on the premises. Only vendors permitted in advance will be allowed on site.

For additional information contact the Mayor’s office at (413) 322-5510.

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Poetry Corner

Playing In Puddles

By Thomas J. Kennedy

*I remember playing in puddles  
As we built our ships.  
Something that float-ed,  
Maybe humble little paper boats.  
Somehow they stayed afloat.  
But when heavy rains came,  
We found them down the hill!*

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Letters to the Editor

I'm approaching 65 should I claim Social Security?



Dear Rusty:

*I am fast approaching 65 (in August) and plan to continue working full time. I would like to know the implications of that, and about drawing Social Security. Same question for my husband who is past his full retirement age (he will be 67 this year) and he continues to work full time.*

Signed: Still Working

Dear Still Working:

Married couples should always coordinate their retirement strategy and you're very smart to do so. Born in 1958, your Full Retirement Age for Social Security purposes is 66 years and 8 months. Your FRA is the point at which your earnings from work no longer affect your Social Security benefits, but if you claim at age 65 and continue to work full time, you will be limited to how much you can earn before they take away some or perhaps all of your benefits. Here's what will happen if you claim Social Security to start in August when you are 65.

Your SS retirement benefit will be permanently reduced by 11% (you'll get 89% of your FRA entitlement). Your monthly amount will only change thereafter due to Cost of Living Adjustments.

If you start your benefits in August you

will be subject to an earnings limit, either a monthly limit of \$1,770 for the remaining months of the year or the 2023 annual limit of \$21,240. If the monthly limit is exceeded you aren't entitled to benefits for that month, or if the annual limit is exceeded they will take back benefits equal to \$1 for every \$2 over the annual limit. Social Security will use whichever method yields the smallest penalty.

Beginning in 2024, you will be subject only to Social Security's annual earnings limit, which will be something more than the 2023 annual limit of \$21,240. If you exceed the 2024 (or 2025) annual limit, Social Security will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit (half of what you exceed the limit by). The annual limit will be in effect until you reach your full retirement age of 66 years and 8 months in April 2026.

Since your husband has already reached his FRA, working full time will not negatively affect his monthly Social Security benefits if he chooses to claim his SS benefits now. However, if he hasn't yet claimed your husband is already earning Delayed Retirement Credits, which will increase his benefit when he later claims. DRCs are earned monthly (.667% per month; 8% per year) and can be earned up to age 70 when maximum SS benefit is attained. For your husband, his age 70 benefit would be 29% more than he was entitled to at his FRA. Whether it is wise to wait longer to claim depends on life expectancy, but break even age is about 83 for those who wait until 70 to claim vs. claiming at FRA. FYI, average life expectancy for a man your husband's current age is about 84; for you about 87.

Since you are both still working full time, be aware that depending on your combined income from all sources your Social Security benefits will become part of your taxable income. As a married couple both working full time, your combined income will likely be over the \$44,000 threshold after which income tax will be levied on up to 85% of your Social Security benefits received during the tax year using your normal IRS tax rate. I suggest you consider the income tax implications of claiming Social Security while you are still working full time.

You did not ask about Medicare, but if you and your husband now have "creditable" healthcare coverage from your employer ("creditable" is a group plan with at least 20 participants) you can defer enrolling in Medicare Part B until your employer healthcare coverage ends, thus avoiding the Medicare Part B premium while you are working.

*This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.*

*Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.*

A Quote

OF NOTE

*"There are far, far better things ahead than any we leave behind."*

C.S. Lewis

Letters to the Editor Policy

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

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions. Libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks or 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.

Lots of blue options for the spring border



I got so excited the other day. I was walking around my backyard and came upon a flower I had never seen before. Where did it come from and what is it?

After a little bit of research, I found out that it is named Blue-eye Grass or Sisyrinchium. It is very diminutive, looking like a miniature purple-blue iris, with sword-like leaves and all.

Its size would make it perfect for a rock garden or alpine plant garden.

I promptly moved it out of the way of the weed whacker to join some other blue flowers that are in bloom in one of my gardens, taking their place in the front of the border. During late spring, blue flowers abound.

In fact, you could easily design a monochromatic scheme using just cool tones for a late spring symphony!

Here are some of my favorites: For the

back of the border, try Amsonia tabernaemontana. This native plant is topped with clusters of pale blue flowers, each one opening to form a tiny star, hence its common name, blue star.

Growing to around three feet tall and not quite as wide, Amsonia almost qualifies for "specimen" status, although it is not as showy as other specimens like Peony or Dictamnus.

Only one plant is necessary per grouping in full sun or part shade. In my garden it self sows, but not so much to make itself a nuisance.

Sadly, the plant blooms for only a short while but makes a nice statement when it does. Make sure you choose your forever location wisely.

I need to move mine and with a crown two feet by two feet, it won't be easy.

Another plant best suited for the back row of the perennial garden is Baptisia australis, or false indigo.

Gray-green foliage is pretty in its own right, until you see the beautiful deep blue-purple pea-like flower spikes emerge in mid June. Easily four feet tall and three feet wide, Baptisia is a nice specimen perennial - one plant is certainly enough per grouping.

The size of the plant you purchase may lead you to think otherwise, though, since

transplants are usually puny and take a couple of seasons to establish.

Site false indigo in full sun or part shade in rich soil. Refrain from moving the plant once it reaches full size or its deep tap root may be compromised.

Blackish seed pods are hardly decorative on the plant, but do look nice in autumn decorations.

One of my favorite blue flowers is Aquilegia vulgaris. Although there are many cultivars of garden columbine, we grow the species variety at Old Sturbridge Village.

It can be found in white, pink, maroon, purple, blue and almost black. Ours tend to be mostly blue in a hue hard to describe - perhaps more royal blue than purple-blue.

If the color is hard to describe, the flower shape is even more difficult- maybe something along the lines of nodding bells with reflexed sepals?

Lobed leaves are another attractive feature of this plant, although vigilance against the dreaded leaf miner is a must in order to keep it looking good. Here too, full sun or part shade will grow decent two foot to two-and-a-half foot wispyish plants- a size perfect for the middle row of the border.

See GARDEN, page 5





I received an email from an Oakham resident last week, who had “three very raucous sandhill cranes” fly past his house, heading northeast.

He said he went to a web site to verify their call and he included the link in his email. To hear sandhill cranes visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DY-nHI9MqkE0>.

The sandhill crane is a 45 inches tall heron like bird. It is gray with a dark red patch on its forehead and a black bill. Some feathers on the back and wings are rusty-colored, possibly due to staining while preening from iron rich mud on its bill. They feed by picking or probing with the bill and eating weeds, agricultural grains and small animals.

A pair of sandhill cranes have nested in Hardwick for several years and successfully raised young. The cranes the Oakham resident heard flying over might be those.

The sandhill crane makes a mound like nest of arch plants, grasses and weeds placed on the ground or in shallow water. The female lays one to three olive eggs with dark marks. There call



Sandhill crane

is a low pitched “karoooo, karoooo karoooo.” Courtship displays are often seen during migration and involve graceful jumps off the ground in a dance like manner.

Years ago, a Barre resident saw a pair doing their courtship antics while they were in a field in Barre. This was years before the nesting pair appeared in Hardwick, so I assume they were in route to their summer breeding grounds further north.

Sandhill cranes form huge flocks in winter and during migration. They are often seen in agricultural fields and roost at night in the center of shallow lakes or large shallow rivers.

**Nesting bluebirds**

An Oakham resident said she has nesting bluebirds again this year. She



Bluebird

said usually the bluebirds and swallows squabble over the nest box, but she has not seen the swallows this year. She was wondering if anyone else has seen swallows.

I have seen them in my hayfield and I also saw some flying over Long Pond in Rutland.

**Nesting ospreys**

I received another email this week about the nesting pair of ospreys in Wilbraham. He said the pair were on or near the nest. If the eggs hatched, the young were too small to be seen. He will make a return trip later.

In a previous column he said for anyone wanting to go see this nest the best place to view the nest is from the Wilbraham Senior Center parking lot and park on the side of the lot facing the



Osprey

playing fields. There are stick nests on three light poles.

**Hummingbirds**

An Oakham couple reported lots of hummingbirds at their feeder. They keep busy filling the nectar feeders. People may make their own nectar by adding 1/4 cup white sugar to 1 cup water and bring to a boil. I make extra nectar, which I keep in the refrigerator. It will keep up to a week, but I am refilling every two to three days so it never gets past the one week mark.

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.

**GARDEN, from page 4**

Mountain bluet, or perennial bachelor button, as it is sometimes called, is one of my most treasured perennials.

There is nothing rare about *Centaurea montana*, or even all that unique about it. I just plain like its oversized cornflowers and their lovely true blue shade.

At eighteen inches tall it is another plant best suited to the middle row of the garden. Plant in full sun or slight shade for best results. Cut back after it is done flowering for a chance at late season rebloom.

Jacob’s ladder, *Polemonium caeruleum*, is another of my favor-

ite blue perennials. Its pinnately compound leaves surely resemble a ladder, hence the Biblical reference, but it is best known for its pretty cup shaped, light blue flowers that hang from multi stems growing 18 inches to 2 feet tall and blooming in May in part shade locations.

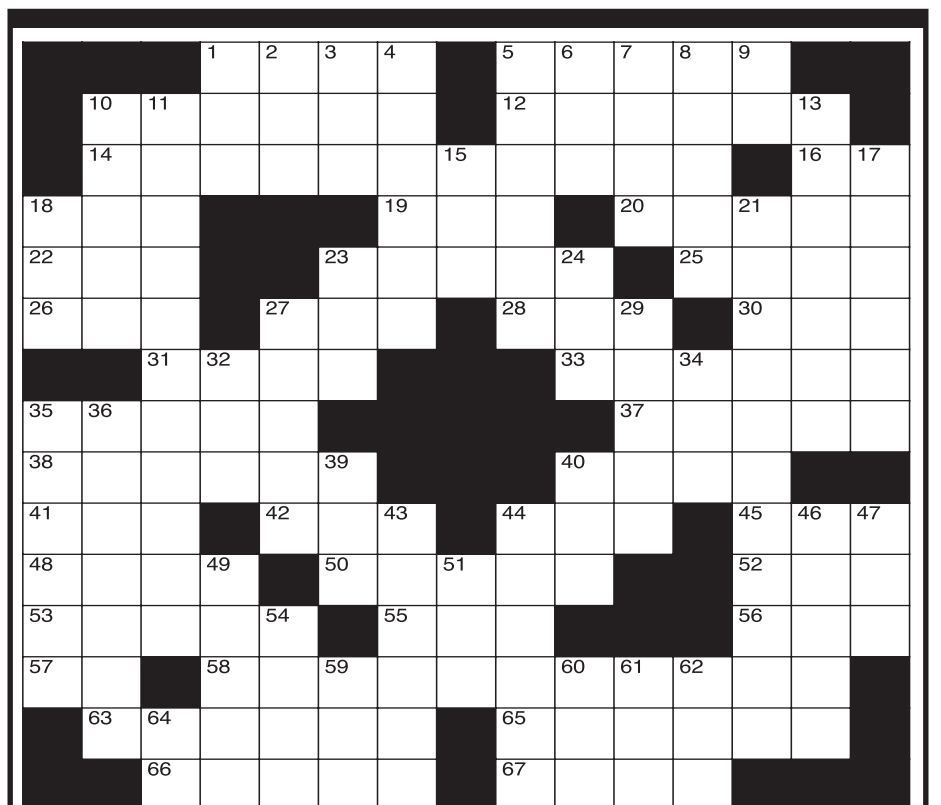
Have fun playing with blue hues this spring. By high summer blue will be few and far between in the landscape.

*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. Sloping position
- 5. Descendant of a notable family
- 10. Following accepted norms
- 12. Root vegetable
- 14. Having a shape that reduces drag from air
- 16. Integrated circuit
- 18. Records electric currents of the heart
- 19. Used to anoint
- 20. Japanese city
- 22. After B
- 23. Muffles
- 25. Pass over
- 26. Vase
- 27. Soft touch
- 28. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- 30. Patti Hearst’s captors
- 31. Israeli politician
- 33. Degrade

**CLUES DOWN**

- 35. Type of wrap
- 37. Polyurethane fabric
- 38. Avoids capture
- 40. Vegetarians avoid it
- 41. Decay
- 42. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 44. Vessel to bathe in
- 45. Inches per minute (abbr.)
- 48. Frosts
- 50. Dipped into
- 52. Controversial replay system in soccer
- 53. Comforts
- 55. Needed for yoga
- 56. Ands/\_\_\_
- 57. South Dakota
- 58. Printing system
- 63. Dramatic works set to music
- 65. Highest points
- 66. Social division
- 67. Used to treat Parkinson’s disease

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Hill or rocky peak
- 2. Initial public offering
- 3. Type of light
- 4. Test
- 5. Flaky coverings
- 6. Former NFLer Newton
- 7. Part of the eye
- 8. Roman god of the underworld
- 9. Negative
- 10. Indiana pro basketball player
- 11. Replaces lost tissue
- 13. Denotes one from whom title is taken
- 15. Historic college hoops tournament
- 17. Hut by a swimming pool
- 18. Defunct European monetary unit
- 21. Feeds on insects
- 23. Adult male
- 24. Melancholic
- 27. Sheets of glass
- 29. Slang for famous

**person**

- 32. Not good
- 34. “Ghetto Superstar” singer
- 35. The “World” is one
- 36. Used to make guacamole
- 39. Midway between south and southwest
- 40. Wet dirt
- 43. Ancient Egyptian name
- 44. Set of four
- 46. Strips
- 47. Wife
- 49. More dried-up
- 51. Socially inept person
- 54. Clusters on fern fronds
- 59. Bar bill
- 60. Prefix indicating “away from”
- 61. Very important person
- 62. Fiddler crabs
- 64. Special therapy

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 10



# Six-mile paddle cruise on Westfield River Saturday



Participants from the Westfield River Watershed Association's Canoe and Kayak Cruise paddling down the Westfield River. Submitted photo

WESTFIELD – Paddlers on Saturday, June 3 will be treated to unique vistas of the Westfield River at the annual Westfield River Watershed Association Canoe and Kayak Cruise. This leisurely six-mile paddle from the Great River Bridge in Westfield to Robinson State Park in Agawam reveals a river so special that parts of it are designated Wild & Scenic by the US Congress. Members of the Association lead the group through the lower watershed past former industrial sites and restored riparian areas that are once again teaming with fish and wildlife. Bald eagles, blue herons, beavers, otters, red tailed hawks and snapping turtles are likely to be seen. The event begins at 9 a.m. at the corner of Meadow and Elm Streets in Westfield and concludes at approximately 2 p.m. in Robinson State Park in Agawam.

“This family-friendly on water event began in 1997 with the Watershed

Association wanting to get more people to appreciate the natural beauty of the Westfield River,” says Brian Conz, a WRWA Board member and professor of geography at Westfield State University. “Each year there is great excitement as people get a view of the river so removed from urban life yet inherently a part of it. The route takes paddlers through some of the riverine wilds hidden just out of sight from some main roads and neighborhoods, revealing the critical habitat for many of our local species.”

“The story of the Westfield River Watershed is one of renewal,” Conz continues. “The organization was founded in 1952 by a coalition of concerned citizens in Westfield and the Hilltowns. They were aware of the pollution from the mills, but as those factories shut down saw great promise from environmental restoration and recreation.”

The Westfield River Watershed

Canoe & Kayak Cruise is suitable for novice paddlers who welcome the added support of navigating the river in a group. Children under 14 are welcome if they are paddling with an adult. Unlike the Westfield River Wildwater Races, which the organization is the presenting sponsor of, there is no whitewater. “For anyone interested in building up to the Wildwater Races, which take place upriver starting in Huntington, this is a chance to expand your knowledge and experience,” says Brian Conz. “There will be some experienced paddlers participating in the Cruise and they will share their knowledge of the river and paddling in general.”

Participants need to bring their own canoe or kayak, paddles and personal flotation devices, as well as sunscreen and drinking water. Organizers recommend that participants have some experience

See PADDLE, page 10

## MEMORIAL, from page 1

ber all that our veterans have done and sacrificed for this country is crucial. It is their work that protects the country we all hold dear.

“We need to remember our veterans and their families 365 days of the year, but I so appreciate having this moment where we can come together as a community,” Duffy said.

Veteran Master Sergeant Leslie James Kennedy also spoke during this ceremony. He thanked those who had come for the day to honor the veterans and spoke on the importance Memorial Day has to him.

“People say ‘Happy Memorial Day’, but to me it is not a happy day. It is a memorial day. It is a day where we remember those that fell in combat or fell after combat,” Kennedy said.



Gathered community members complete the 22 push-up challenge.

Photo by Quinn Suomala

This ceremony also highlighted the students who took top honors in the contest created by the Patriotic Events Committee.

“In words or pictures, they responded to the question ‘what does Memorial Day mean to you?’” Garcia said.

Three students, ages 11 and 12, were

chosen as winners of the challenge for their work in responding to this question.

Overall, this ceremony was a wonderful opportunity to pause and reflect on Memorial Day and to remember the veterans who have sacrificed so much for this country.

“So, for those families who have

lost someone, we recognize you as well and say thank you for your sacrifice. So, when you’re home today, whatever you’re doing, with family, friends, if you’re just sitting home alone and relaxing, take a moment to remember our veterans who sacrificed for us. Say a prayer for them and remember,” McGee said.

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## Hall of Fame adds new lighting

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced a recent addition to the museum’s iconic exterior, a state-of-the-art LED projection lighting display. The dome, one of the city’s most prominent structures, will be lit up every night and will display an array of festive colors and patterns for holidays and events throughout the year.

“We’ve completed a major renovation on the inside of the Hall, and adding this dynamic lighting package to the building’s exterior demonstrates our ongoing commitment to beautifying the property and enhancing the riverfront area,” said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. “We couldn’t be more pleased with the result and to be able to help light Springfield’s night sky.”

In an effort to honor those who have sacrificed everything in service to the nation, the dome and building was lit red, white, and blue on Memorial Day Weekend.

This summer, the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame will light the night to celebrate the winner of the NBA Finals, Independence Day, Enshrinement Weekend, and more.



Jaycalee Santos sizes up an easy grounder.



Jenialis Camacho makes a play for the Knights.



Tryanna Ayala swings at a pitch.

Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

## Knights make tournament

HOLYOKE – While they did not get into the Western Mass. tournament, the Holyoke High School softball team is headed for postseason for the first time in years. The Knights have qualified for the state tourna-

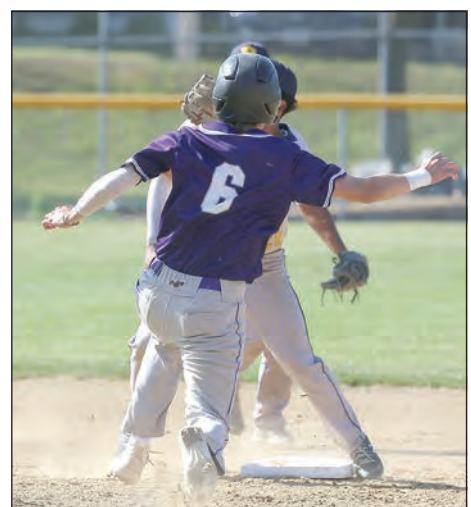
ment with an 11-8 record. The Knights are set to face Canton in a preliminary round game. Last week, the Knights fell in a pair of nonplayoff games. One at home to St. Mary’s 8-1 and one at Hoosac Valley 13-1.



Kylie Blaha throws to first.



Yomar Rodriguez squeezes a grounder.



Braeden Lamirande slides into second safely.

## Knights finish up season in non-playoff games

HOLYOKE – Last week, Holyoke concluded its season by participating in nonplayoff games after not qualifying for the Western Mass. tournament. The Knights would face

off with Putnam at home last week, and defeated the Beavers 16-0.

The Knights finished the season 7-12, but did not make the state tournament.



Owen Pecia pitches for the Knights.

Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Nathan Pok fires a throw to first.



# Hirschman dominates to win at Granite State Derby

LEE, N.H. – In the inaugural Granite State Derby at Lee USA Speedway, Matt Hirschman dominated early but came up short in the stretch. This time around, Hirschman would not be denied.

“Big Money Matt” took charge on the third lap and never looked back en route to his first NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour win of the year and his first at “New Hampshire’s Center of Speed.”

“We just finally closed one,” Hirschman said in victory lane. “These races are tough to win, and I think we should have had five or six of them in recent years.”

The Northampton, Penn., veteran started third and only needed a couple laps to get alongside polesitter and defending race winner Doug Coby. Once at the front, Hirschman checked out, maintaining a modest advantage over Coby, Sam Rameau and Jon McKennedy as the leaders plotted their tire strategy.

Patient and clean racing through the pack was paused on lap 69 when Max Zachem spun down the frontstretch, opening the pit strategy window. Hirschman led the entire field down pit road for tires, then beat Coby and McKennedy back to the track to lead the field back to green.

Coby stumbled on the restart with clutch problems, sliding back through the pack as McKennedy and Austin Beers settled into second and third. Beers snuck past the reigning series champion and into



Matt Hirschman gets the win in the Granite State Derby.

Submitted photo

the runner-up spot, but Hirschman was setting a steady pace at the front that the sophomore could not outmatch. The leaders prepared for one last pit stop, all the while managing their tires to go the distance if necessary.

McKennedy slipped back around Beers with 25 laps to go, carving time off Hirschman’s advantage as the leader dispatched slower traffic. But the caution McKennedy needed to erase that advantage never came.

Hirschman, ever disciplined at conserving equipment, crossed the line 1.120 seconds ahead of McKennedy to win his sixth career NWMT race and his first since the 2021 season opener.

“We deserve better than what the

results have been, and a lot of that is on me,” Hirschman said. “I take the most responsibility for that. But today, we delivered.”

Beers held on for third place, with Rameau and Ron Silk rounding out the top five. Coby raced his way back to sixth at the finish.

Hirschman’s win is a small step toward repeating last year’s Whelen Granite State Short Track Cup championship for car owner Roy Hall’s Pee Dee Motorsports. Coby won the first leg of the triple-race program, the Duel at the Dog 200 at Monadnock Speedway.

In addition to the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour, six more feature races kept fans on the edge of their seats with

a mix of local and regional star power. Supermodified wunderkind Jeffrey Battle passed his uncle Eddie Witkum with the white flag in sight to claim victory in the 350 Supermodifieds. Tom Harwood prevailed in a three-way battle to win the 25-lap New England Dwarf Car Series showdown. The New England Pro 4 Modifieds staged their inaugural Dan Meserve, Sr. Memorial Race, with Brayden Meserve taking an emotional win for the family.

Massachusetts’ Ryan Kuhn topped Lee’s best Pro Stock racers, leading wire-to-wire in a commanding performance in the 80-lap Pro Stock open. Wade Gelinas turned in a similar performance with the NHSTRA Late Models. And setting the stage for the night’s main event, Kyle Valeri took his first-ever win with the NEMA Lites.

The next scheduled event for JDV Productions is the inaugural Winchester Open Modified 100 at Monadnock Speedway in Winchester, N.H., where the JDV Open Modifieds will make their debut at “Mad Dog” Saturday, June 3. More information on this special event will be released later this week.

For more information on JDV Productions, visit [JDVProductions.com](http://JDVProductions.com) and follow on social media for the latest updates throughout the season, including updates from the track on race day with feature winner posts.

# Registration open for 2023 Bay State Summer Games

WOBURN – Registration for the 41st annual Bay State Summer Games is now open. The 2023 Summer Games will include thirty sports with competitions from June 3 to July 29 at venues throughout eastern and central Massachusetts including Game On in Fitchburg, Boston Sports Institute in Wellesley, Union Point Sports Complex in Weymouth, and New England Sports Center in Marlborough. 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.

Eight high school showcase sports will take place for a variety of sports, including baseball, basketball, field hockey, ice hockey, lacrosse, 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,

archery, judo, 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 girls lacrosse, rugby, and 6v6 field hockey.

The 2023 Summer Games will feature Game On in Fitchburg as the host venue for 8 sports. Bay State Games expects 1,500 athletes and their families to attend competitions at Game On during the second week of July. “We are excited to expand the roster of sports being held at Game On this year,” said Kevin Cummings, Executive Director of

the Bay State Games.

An additional feature in 2023 is that in over a dozen sports, athletes who win a gold, silver, or bronze medal at the 2023 Bay State Games will qualify to participate in the 2024 State Games of America in San Diego, California. The State Games of America feature more than 8,000 athletes from over 30 different state games programs nationwide. To see the list of qualifying sports, please visit [www.stategamesofamerica.com](http://www.stategamesofamerica.com).

In addition to sports programming, Bay State Games offer college scholarships, a sportsmanship initiative, college internship opportunities, and a High School Ambassador program.

For more information on all sports in the 2023 Summer Games, links to online registration, and information on other programs, go to [www.baystategames.org](http://www.baystategames.org).

For questions, email [info@baystategames.org](mailto:info@baystategames.org) or call 781-932-6555.

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## Blue Sox in need of host families

HOLYOKE – The Valley Blue Sox is still searching for a few host families for the 2023 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, 2023 volunteer host families will receive:

- Free general admission to all Valley Blue Sox home and away games
- Food vouchers for every home game
- Transportation and ticket free to the Boston Red Sox game on June 12
- 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.



**City of Holyoke  
Office of Planning &  
Economic Development  
License Board**

The Holyoke License Board will be holding a Public Hearing on **Monday, June 12, 2023, at 5:15 pm.** You can join via Zoom.com; ID: **88512685693**; CALL IN: **\*67 646 558 8656** or in person at **City Hall 536 Dwight St. 2nd floor Old Tax Collector Office**, regarding the application for a Transfer of an All Annual All Alcohol Liquor License (On-Premises) from Corich Corp DBA Mels Restaurant, at 490 Pleasant St. to JOLC, LLC DBA Mitchell's Public House, at 490 Pleasant St., pursuant to M.G.L. Ch.138.

Applicant: JOLC, LLC

License Board:  
Anthony Luciano, Chairman  
06/02, 06/09/2023

**PUBLIC HEARING  
NOTICE**

The Holyoke Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, June 13, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.com ID: 836 3939 8493; CALL IN \*67 646 558 8656 to hear, pursuant to the Holyoke Zoning Ordinance an Increase in Sign Size for Western Mass Appliances, at 2291 Northampton Street Unit 1 (Parcel 116-00-011), submitted by Chuck's Signs Co.

The complete application may be viewed through the Holyoke Planning Dept M-F, 9-4 p.m.

Applicant: Jason Brazee  
Planning Board:  
Mimi Panitch  
05/25, 06/02/2023

**LEGAL NOTICE  
CITY OF HOLYOKE  
GAS & ELECTRIC  
DEPARTMENT  
COBBLE MOUNTAIN  
UNIT 2 SALE OF  
SURPLUS HYDRO  
GENERATION  
EQUIPMENT**

Sealed bids for the sale of the above will be received by Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept. until **2:00 p.m., June 16, 2023**, at the office of the Manager, 99 Suffolk St., Holyoke, MA 01040, at which time bids will be publicly opened and read.

Additional information may be obtained from:

Chi Wong  
Holyoke Gas and Electric  
Dept.  
99 Suffolk St.  
Holyoke, MA 01040  
(413) 536-9308

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

Please mark sealed envelopes "**Bid for Cobble Mountain Unit 2 Sale of Surplus Hydro Generation Equipment**" and address them to:

**James M. Lavelle, Manager**  
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept.  
99 Suffolk St.  
Holyoke, MA 01040  
06/02/2023

**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. HD23A0031AD  
In the matter of:  
Natasha Lee DeJesus  
CITATION  
G.L.c. 210, §6**

TO:

any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth.

A petition has been presented to said court by:

**Arbellio Diaz, III of Holyoke, MA  
Elizabeth Hernandez of Holyoke, MA**

requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to

**Natasha Lee Diaz**

**If you object to this adoption you are entitled to the appointment of an attorney if you are an indigent person.**

An indigent person is defined by SJC Rule 3.10. The definition includes but is not limited to persons receiving TAFDC, EACDC, poverty related veteran's benefits, Medicaid, and SSL. The Court will determine if you are indigent. Contact an Assistant Judicial Case Manager or Adoption Clerk of the Court on or before the date listed below to obtain the necessary forms.

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT **Springfield ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON: 06/15/2023.**

WITNESS, **Hon. Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: May 19, 2023

**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
06/02/2023

**City of Holyoke  
INVITATION TO BID  
No. 2023-420CD**

The City of Holyoke Purchasing Department as the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Demolition Contractors for Bid No. 2023-420CD – Building Rubble Removal and Disposal / Demolition of the Southeast section of 510 South Bridge Street, and 160 Pine Street, Holyoke, MA. General Demolition Bids will be received by the City of Holyoke Purchasing Department, City Hall, 536 Dwight Street, Holyoke, MA 01040.

**A pre-bid walk-through has been scheduled on 06/13/23 at 1:00 PM at the Site.**

The deadline for receiving sealed demolition bids is before **1:00 PM local time on 06/20/23**, at which time they will be opened and read publicly.

DCAMM certificates of Eligibility and Update Statements must be submitted separately but with the bids. Specifications will be available after 05/31/23.

The IFB package can be requested electronically by emailing the Purchasing Department at [morrowj@holyoke.org](mailto:morrowj@holyoke.org).

Attention is called to the minimum wage rates to be paid on the work as determined by the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development and the Federal Labor Standards Provisions, where applicable. Bids and contracts are subject to the provisions of MGL c. 149 sec. 44A-J, inclusive as amended, and MGL c. 30, sec. 39M, and Chapter 193 of the Acts of 2004. All bids for each project must be accom-

panied by a bid deposit in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the bid amount and in the form of a bid bond, or certified check, or a treasurer's check or cashier's check issued by a responsible bank or trust company.

The City of Holyoke reserves the right to reject any or all bids. No electronic submissions allowed..

Purchasing Department  
City of Holyoke, MA 01040  
06/02/2023

**Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and  
Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD23P1089EA  
Estate of:  
John Meyer Gurvitch  
Date of Death: 05/10/2023  
CITATION ON  
PETITION FOR  
FORMAL  
ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Marc G Gurvitch of Northampton, MA and Sarah A Gurvitch of Hadley, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Marc G Gurvitch of Northampton, MA and Sarah A Gurvitch of Hadley, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
**You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/26/2023.**

**This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a 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 24, 2023

**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
06/02/2023

**CITY OF HOLYOKE  
PURCHASING  
DEPARTMENT  
REQUEST FOR  
PROPOSALS**  
The City of Holyoke,

Massachusetts, acting through its Chief Procurement Officer, will receive sealed proposals for:

**RFP 2023-41P  
Injured On Duty (IOD)  
Administration Services**

Proposal procedures will be in accordance with the latest edition of M.G.L. Chapter 30B. Said proposals will be addressed to the Purchasing Department, 536 Dwight Street, Room 3, Holyoke, Ma 01040. These proposals will be received until 1:00PM pm June 13th, 2023. Any proposals received after the specified time will not be accepted. All proposals will be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked "SEALED PROPOSAL ENCLOSED RFP2023-41P IOD Administration Services". Price proposals must be submitted in a separate sealed envelope clearly marked "SEALED PRICE PROPOSAL ENCLOSED RFP#2023-41P IOD Administration Services."

The City of Holyoke Purchasing Department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals or to waive any informality in the proposing. Also reserved is the right to reject, for cause, any proposal in part or whole, if it is judged by the Chief Procurement Officer that the best interests of the City will be served thereby. Attention is called to the "Equal Opportunity Clause" and the standard Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Construction contract specifications. All Proposers will receive consideration without regard to race, color, creed, age, sex, religion, or national origin.  
06/02/2023

**Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and  
Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
Docket No. HD23P1097GD**

**In the interests of  
Nathaniel Aries Lopez  
Of Holyoke, MA  
Minor  
NOTICE AND ORDER:  
Petition for Appointment  
of Guardian of a Minor  
NOTICE TO ALL  
INTERESTED PARTIES**

**1. Hearing Date/Time:**  
A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on **05/25/2023** by **Wanda Y McIntosh of Springfield, MA** will be held **06/27/2023 08:30 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing.** Located: **Probate and Family Court, 50 State Street, 4th Floor, Springfield, MA 01103**

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

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

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

**4. Counsel for Parents:** If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are

indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.

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

Date: May 25, 2023  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
06/02/2023

**CITY OF HOLYOKE  
PURCHASING  
DEPARTMENT  
REQUEST FOR  
PROPOSALS**

The City of Holyoke, Massachusetts, acting through its Chief Procurement Officer, will receive sealed proposals for:

**RFP 2023-40P  
Workers Comp  
Administration Services**

Proposal procedures will be in accordance with the latest edition of M.G.L. Chapter 30B. Said proposals will be addressed to the Purchasing Department, 536 Dwight Street, Room 3, Holyoke, Ma 01040. These proposals will be received until 1:30PM pm June 13th, 2023. Any proposals received after the specified time will not be accepted. All proposals will be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked "SEALED PROPOSAL ENCLOSED RFP2023-40P Workers Comp Administration Services". Price proposals must be submitted in a separate sealed envelope clearly marked "SEALED PRICE PROPOSAL ENCLOSED RFP#2023-40P Workers Comp Administration Services."

The City of Holyoke Purchasing Department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals or to waive any informality in the proposing. Also reserved is the right to reject, for cause, any proposal in part or whole, if it is judged by the Chief Procurement Officer that the best interests of the City will be served thereby. Attention is called to the "Equal Opportunity Clause" and the standard Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Construction contract specifications. All Proposers will receive consideration without regard to race, color, creed, age, sex, religion, or national origin.  
06/02/2023

**Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and  
Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
Docket No. HD23P1095GD**

**In the interests of  
Yandiel King Nunes  
Of Holyoke, MA  
Minor  
NOTICE AND ORDER:  
Petition for Appointment  
of Guardian of a Minor  
NOTICE TO ALL  
INTERESTED PARTIES**

**1. Hearing Date/Time:**  
A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on **05/25/2023** by **Wanda Y McIntosh of Springfield, MA** will be held **06/27/2023 08:30 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing.** Located: **50 State Street, 4th Floor, Springfield, MA 01103**

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

**4. Counsel for Parents:**

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

**5. Presence of the Minor at Hearing:** A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.  
Date: May 25, 2023

**Rosemary A Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
06/02/2023

**COMMONWEALTH OF  
MASSACHUSETTS  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
HAMPDEN, Division  
Docket No. HD23P1080PM**

To all persons interested in the estate of ANNIRENE YANNI otherwise ANNIERENE O. YANNI, of Wallingford, in the State of Connecticut.

A petition has been presented to said Court by Celeste Yanni, Conservator of said Respondent, appointed by the State of Connecticut in the Wallingford Probate Court, New Haven County, for license to sell at private sale certain real estate of said Respondent situated in Holyoke, MA.

If you desire to object thereto, you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at **Springfield** before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the **fourteenth day of July 2023**, the return date of this citation.

Witness, **BARBARA M. HYLAND**, Esquire, First Justice of said court, this twenty-fourth day of May 2023.

**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register  
06/02, 06/09, 06/16/2023

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



# Dual Language Program is accepting lottery applications for 2023-24 school year

**HOLYOKE** – Holyoke Public Schools’ dual language program is right for all students, including students who are English dominant, Spanish dominant, already bilingual, not exposed to either language, on an IEP, or not on an IEP. Families who are considering enrolling their children in the program are encouraged to apply as soon as possible for the admissions lottery. (Note: If your child is already enrolled in the Dual Language program or if you previously applied for this year’s lotteries, you do not need to fill

out another application.)

Rolling admission opens on July 22 and is open to all students across the district, including those who have been placed on a wait list from Rounds 1 or 2.

HPS strives to accept an equal balance of students who are Spanish-dominant speakers, English-dominant speakers, and bilingual speakers, based on the following requirements:

- Students entering preschool must be 4 years old on or before Sept. 1, 2023.
- All students applying for grades

2 and up will need to be evaluated to determine their verbal, written, and reading level in Spanish. Those students must meet the Spanish language criteria for the grade they are applying to in order to be accepted into that grade.

For the 2023-24 school year, E.N. White School will offer dual language for grades PreK-5, while Kelly School will provide dual language for grades PreK-3. Sullivan Middle School will continue to host the middle school pathway, and Holyoke High School North will host the high school pathway.

## PADDLE, from page 6

paddling, given that river conditions may be unpredictable. Children under 18 must be supervised by a parent or guardian. Children under 14 must paddle in the same boat as an adult. Other suggestions for what to bring include a picnic for a late lunch once you reach Robinson State Park and snacks for munching along the way. A shuttle will carry paddlers to the start so that they can leave their vehicles at the finish.

The participation fee of \$15 per person (\$10 for members) helps cover shuttle service, insurance and light refreshments. Registration begins at 9 a.m. in the municipal parking lot off Meadow Street near the Great River Bridge in Westfield. Participants will register, unload boats and gear, drive their vehicles to Robinson State Park and return by shuttle to the launch area. Staggered Cruise departures will begin around 10 a.m.

Low or high water conditions or severe weather may require cancellation of the event. Please like our Facebook page and check it for notifications or visit [www.westfieldriver.org](http://www.westfieldriver.org).

## VALLEYBIKE, from page 1

Due to Bewegen Inc. no longer being able to provide services, this program will temporarily be on hold. The ValleyBike share group is working hard to find a new provider in order to get this program back up and running.

“ValleyBike will be back and we are working hard to ensure the program is sustainable and consistent moving forward,” Stephanie Colón, the Mass in Motion Coordinator, said.

The ValleyBike share group is aware that this issue will affect many residents and hope to ensure that this program will be available again soon.

“This affects many residents who rely on ValleyBike as their main mode of transportation. ValleyBike is

a big part of our community and we are determined to find a new provider alongside the ValleyBike Share group,” Colón said.

There is no set timeline as to when this program will be back, but Colón says they are hopeful on getting new bikes out for next year.

“The ValleyBike Share group is focused on finding a new provider—one that will fit the needs of the community,” Colón said. “Up to now the timeline is TBD but we are hoping to get the bikes out for next year.”

All of the communities involved in this project are determined to get this program back up and running as soon as possible, with plans in place to ensure that the program will be ready for long-term success once it returns.

## PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

## CANDIDATES, from page 1

Should all of these candidates be certified, a primary election will be held. A primary election will be required if there are more than two candidates per ward seat, or if there are more than 12 total candidates for the six at-large seats.

Currently, those who have taken out papers to run for re-election on the school committee are Gustavo Romera Correa (Ward 1), Yadilette Rivera Colón (Ward 3), John Whelihan (Ward 5), William Collamore (Ward 6), Eleanor

Wilson (Ward 7) and Erin Brunelle (School Committee At-Large). All of them are yet to be certified.

New candidates for school committee are Gloria Caballero Roca (certified, running for Ward 4), Faizul Johnny Sibdhanny Jr (running for Ward 4), and Luisette Arroyo Rosado (running for Ward 7 and At-Large).

There is no election this year for mayor since the city went to having four-year terms. Mayor Joshua Garcia’s term is up in 2025. The last day for candidates to turn in nomination papers is August 1.

## Community Newspaper EDITOR WANTED

Turley Publications is looking for a “hands on” energetic candidate who loves telling stories to be the editor for two weekly publications. This position will include managing and coaching a small news staff that will provide the community with a great local newspaper.

The editor will need to cover local government and events while representing the newspaper at public venues.

The successful candidate will have strong community journalism skills and is also expected to gather news and write stories for the two papers as well as for other occasional companywide publications.

This is a job for a self-starter who has a vision for growing and connecting with our valued readers, and who thoroughly enjoys community journalism.

This full-time position with flexible schedule is based in our Palmer office at 24 Water St., this is not a remote position.

### Qualifications should include:

- Bachelor’s degree or equivalent experience
- Willingness to mentor a staff writer and correspondents
- Editing experience and ability to write clean copy in a fast-paced, deadline-driven environment
- Proficiency in Associated Press style
- Management experience and/or experience managing content for a print publication.

### Please send resume and writing examples to:

Eileen Kennedy, Executive Editor  
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069  
or email directly to  
[ekennedy@turley.com](mailto:ekennedy@turley.com)

## JOB OPENINGS

# STAFF WRITER

Turley Publications, based in Palmer, is seeking a storyteller who is curious about everything, and who understands how town government works to join our team of weekly reporters.

Experience in covering town government is a huge plus, and any experience in community journalism is as well. Staff writers cover all aspects of communities from features to municipal meetings to crimes and fires. Successful candidates must have people skills, plenty of curiosity and able to tell a story.

If you’re a self-starter who enjoys community journalism and who can envision themselves connecting with our communities, we encourage you to apply for this position. Not a remote position.

### Qualifications should include:

- Bachelor’s degree or equivalent experience
- A determination to get the story, whatever it might be
- Equally comfortable writing hard news, features and event coverage
- Ability to write clean copy in a fast-paced, deadline-driven environment
- Proficiency in Associated Press style

## newspaper correspondent

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

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

Please tell us in a cover letter why you would be a good fit for this position and send it along with a resume and three writing samples to

**Turley**  
Publications, Inc.  
[www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com)

Eileen Kennedy, Executive Editor  
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069  
or email directly to  
[ekennedy@turley.com](mailto:ekennedy@turley.com)

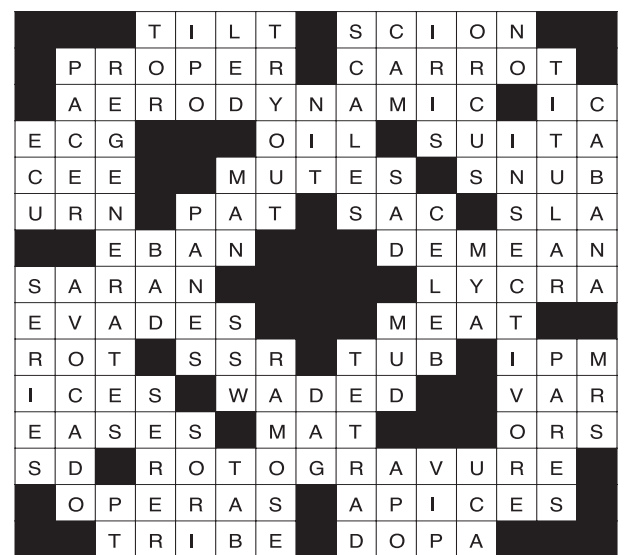
## The Sun OBITUARY POLICY

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 \$120, 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](mailto:obits@turley.com).

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



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- 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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## WANTED

### WANTED TO BUY

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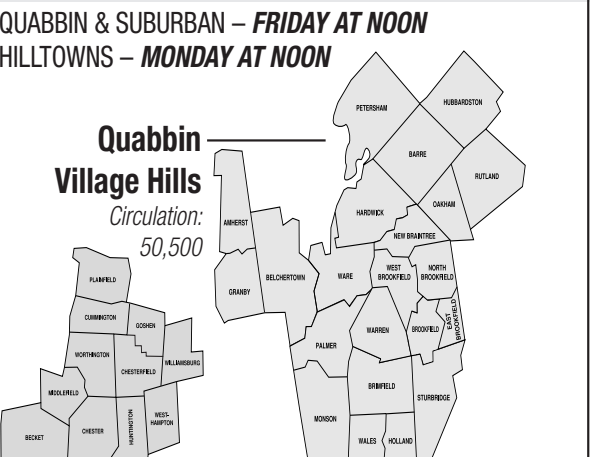
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Number of Weeks: \_\_\_\_\_ X per week rate = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card:  MasterCard  VISA  Discover  Cash  Check# \_\_\_\_\_  
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## New immunotherapy offers hope to melanoma patients

SPRINGFIELD – Whether basking in the sun (in the first place, you shouldn't do that) in your backyard, at the local park, or at the beach, heed these warnings, noted Dr. Richard Arenas, chief, Surgical Oncology, Baystate Regional Cancer Program:



Dr. Richard Arenas

One in five Americans will develop skin cancer by the age of 70.

More than two people die of skin cancer in the U.S. every hour.

Having five or more sunburns doubles your risk for melanoma, the third most common skin cancer which causes the most deaths.

However, there is good news when it comes to melanoma.

Surgery is the main treatment for most cases of melanoma and can often cure early-stage cancers before they metastasize and decrease the likelihood of a cure. For patients with non-melanoma skin cancer, treatment options may include surgery and several ablative – the process to remove tissue from the body – approaches, such as cryotherapy and photodynamic therapy.

Today, immunotherapy, in particular the development of immunity checkpoint inhibitors – which rely on a person's own immune system to help kill cancer cells – is making a huge difference in how melanoma is treated. They are the first class of therapy to improve the overall survival for patients with advanced melanoma.

According to Arenas, we are only beginning to understand the impact of the immune system in fighting cancer by explaining that the use of immunotherapy before surgery can provide even

better outcomes. A recent study published this year in the New England Journal of Medicine showed that patients with advanced-stage melanoma who were treated first with pembrolizumab, a particular immunotherapy drug, had a better chance of having their melanoma successfully removed with surgery and a better overall survival.

Arenas and the National Cancer Institute recommend these tips to protect your skin from sunlight, which can also be reflected by sand, water, snow, ice and pavement:

Wear a hat with a wide brim all around that shades your face, neck, and ears. Baseball caps and some sun visors protect only parts of your skin.

Wear sunglasses that block UV radiation to protect the skin around your eyes.

Wear long sleeves and long pants. Tightly woven, dark fabrics are best. Some fabrics are rated with an ultraviolet protection factor (UPF). The higher the rating, the greater the protection from sunlight.

Use sunscreen products with a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 15. (Some doctors suggest using a product with an SPF of at least 30.) Apply the product's recommended amount to uncovered skin 30 minutes before going outside and apply again every two hours or after swimming or sweating.

"All it takes is just a few blistering sunburns in our childhood to more than double our chances of developing a potentially deadly melanoma later in life," Arenas said.

The American Academy of

Pediatrics and Arenas recommend the following tips for infants and children:

Babies under 6 months of age should be kept out of direct sunlight. Move your baby to the shade under a tree, umbrella, or stroller canopy. Dress babies in lightweight clothing that covers the arms and legs and use brimmed hats that shade the neck to prevent sunburn. If adequate clothing and shade are not available, it is okay to apply a small amount of sunscreen on infants under 6 months, such as on the face and the back of the hands. Remember, it takes 30 minutes to be effective. If an infant gets sunburned, apply cool compresses to the affected area.

Kids should also cover up with clothes made of tightly woven fabrics. Cotton clothing is both cool and protective. Also, kids should wear a wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses with ultraviolet (UV) protection. Stay in the shade whenever possible and avoid peak intensity hours between 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Apply sunscreen with an SPF 15 or greater to areas of your child's skin that aren't covered by clothing. Before applying, test the sunscreen on your child's back for an allergic reaction. Apply carefully around the eyes, avoiding eyelids. If a rash develops, talk with your pediatrician. Be sure to apply enough sunscreen -- about one ounce per sitting for a young adult. Reapply sunscreen every two hours, or after swimming or sweating. If your child gets a sunburn that results in blistering, pain or fever, contact your pediatrician.

For more information on the Baystate Regional Cancer Program, visit [baystatehealth.org/brcp](http://baystatehealth.org/brcp) or to request an appointment or ask a question, call 413-794-9338.

## Enrollment open for Extended School Year

HOLYOKE – Eligible students with IEPs in grades preK-12+ can now register for the 2023 Extended School Year (ESY) Program, which provides a range of special education learning opportunities.

If you are unsure if your child qualifies for ESY programming, you can check your child's current IEP or ask your child's special education teacher or building team leader. You may send an email to Enrollment for assistance with online registration. You may send an Email to Jill Hughes for more information about extended year services.

ESY programs will begin on July 10 and will end on August 3, 2023. All programs are scheduled to take place in-person. HPS will follow all state and local guidelines for social distancing and/or other precautions that may be required over the summer.

Based on their IEPs, students may qualify for one of these programs:

- Early Childhood Integrated Program (Donahue): Ages 3-5
- ABA Program (Donahue): PK-12
- RISE/SHINE Program (Donahue): Rising K-12
- Excelsior Program at Jericho: Rising 1-12
- Therapeutic Intervention Program Lawrence: Rising K-8
- Transitions Academy: Ages 18-22

More information is available on the HPS website.

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