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City target of possible data center project

Councilors, officials weigh in on project

By **Brendan Rooney**
Correspondent

HOLYOKE – Earlier this week, the Holyoke City Council chamber was red-hot as this past Tuesday night, the discussion in relation to the new proposed Data Center in the city hit the top of the ticket as At-Large City Councilor Mimi Panitch advocated for safeguards regarding the legislation to ensure proper oversight of the new development.

In response to the initial proposal, the City Council then voted on a measure that same evening that aimed to provide them with more time to establish comprehensive oversight legislation for such developments.

“We don’t want to get rid of a useful and important industry. We just don’t want to have it harm our people,” Panitch said. She then presented a sense of hope that the city can prevent the project from moving forward until a robust legal framework is in place.

However, this past Wednesday, Panitch took to social media to clear the air and revealed that she had “a good conversation with the mayor.” She then added, “In all fairness, I have to take back my assumption that everything that’s been making me twitch about the data center fight was done with his knowledge and blessing. I’m happy and very relieved to find that any assumptions I might have been making about his dread power and omniscience were wrong,” she wrote. “(No, this does not mean that I now have total confidence in everyone. Of that, I will say no more.)”

See **PROJECT**, page 6



A data center project is being proposed at 100 Water St.

City councilor talks data center parameters, impacts

By **Brendan Rooney**
Correspondent

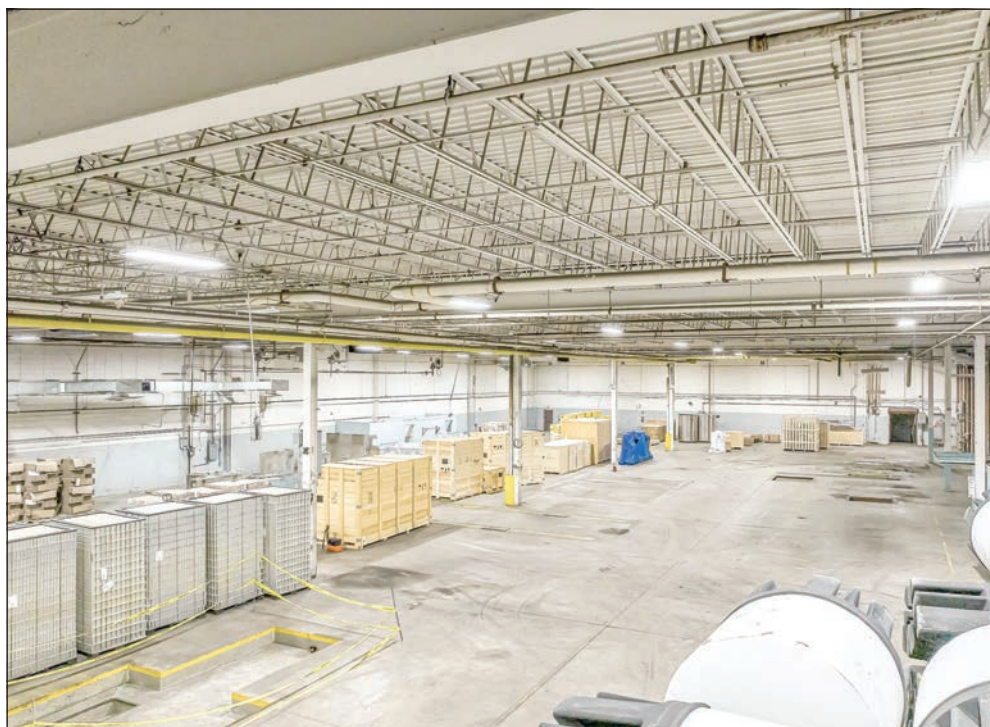
HOLYOKE – Earlier this week, the Holyoke City Council chamber was red-hot as this past Tuesday night, the discussion in relation to the new proposed Data Center in the city hit the top of the ticket as At-Large City Councilor Mimi Panitch advocated for safeguards regarding the proposal to ensure proper oversight in terms of legislation about the construction and implementation of potential data centers in Holyoke.

In response to the initial discussion, the City Council then voted on a measure on Tuesday night that aimed to provide them with more time to establish comprehensive oversight legislation for such developments.

“We don’t want to get rid of a useful and important industry. We just don’t want to have it harm our people,” Panitch said. She then pre-

sented a sense of hope that the city can prevent the project from moving forward until a robust legal framework is in place.

In addition, this past Wednesday, Panitch took to social media to clear the air and revealed that she had “a good conversation with the mayor.” She then added, “In all fairness, I have to take back my assumption that everything that’s been making me twitch about the data center fight was done with his knowledge and blessing. I’m happy and very relieved



The interior of one of the buildings on the Water St. property. The proposal is raising a lot of concerns among city councilors and residents.

Submitted photos

“This development has the potential to create meaningful economic benefits while utilizing infrastructure that is already in place, and that’s a conversation worth having.”

- **Zaisha Robert**

to find that any assumptions I might have been making about his dread power and omniscience were wrong,” she wrote. “(No, this does not mean that I now have total confidence in everyone. Of that, I will say no more.)”

And it turns out that the discussion came as a surprise due to multiple city officials taking to social media on Thursday to con-

firm they only found out about the report 45 minutes prior to the meeting.

Garcia extended an olive branch within his statement which invited the opportunity to have a conversation to ensure all voices are heard, by citing, “We need to understand, as we navigate growth and development pressures of new

See **CENTER**, page 6

Holyoke Community College celebrates 79th Commencement

HOLYOKE – Some people say, life is like a bowl of cherries; others, like a box of chocolates. To Yasmani Cardenales, though, student orator at Holyoke Community College’s 79th Commencement, it’s more

like a jigsaw puzzle.

At first, you’re drawn to the image on the front of the box. “That picture becomes your vision, the person you hope to become, the life you’re working toward,” she said.

You start around the edges, building a foundation. Some pieces fit easily together, others seemingly not at all, leaving you frustrated and uncertain.

“Sometimes,” she said, “you don’t even realize

you’ve been holding onto all the right pieces until they suddenly come together.”

“Standing here today,” she said from the Commencement stage in the MassMutual Center arena, “I realize just how powerful that moment truly is. It is an incredible honor to be part of the Class of 2026 and an even greater honor to speak in front of you, a room full of people who have all been building their own puzzles, piece by piece, in their own, unique ways.”

The event was both a moment of reflection and celebration for the graduates, their families, and HCC faculty and staff who filled the arena on Saturday, May 30.

This year, the college conferred a total of 849 associate degrees and certificates to 765 graduates, who range in age from 17 to 69 and hail from 71 different Massachusetts cities and towns, as well as California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, New York,

Candidates now sought to replace Ellie Wilson

By **Gregory A. Scibelli**
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – In a follow-up to the breaking story of the resignation of a Holyoke School Committee member, the Holyoke Public Schools have made the following announcement about the vacancy now existing on the committee:

The Holyoke School Committee has accepted a May 16 letter of resignation from Ward 7 School Committee member Ellie Wilson and will follow established procedures to select her replacement.

“My life has significantly changed over the past several months. I am no longer able to dedicate the time required to be effective,” Ms. Wilson said in her letter of resignation. “I am proud of the work that the Holyoke School Committee has accom-

plished to come out of Receivership. Most importantly, I am proud of the work the Committee does to remain student-focused and support the HPS staff.”

Ms. Wilson first joined the School Committee in 2022 and was re-elected twice more. She started her third two-year term in January 2026. She led the work on updating school committee policies in our transition out of receivership.

According to the Holyoke City Charter, the School Committee vacancy will be filled by an appointment made jointly by the School Committee, the City Council, and Mayor Joshua Garcia. The appointee will serve for the remainder of Ms. Wilson’s 2-year term as the Ward 7 representative. When the term is up in 2028, the seat will be filled by the voters during a regular election.

See **REPLACE**, page 10



The graduation took place at the MassMutual Center.

Submitted photo

See **HCC**, page 10



The 58th Annual Chamber Cup will be held in September.

Submitted photo

Greater Holyoke Chamber invites businesses to Chamber Cup

HOLYOKE – The Greater Holyoke Chamber is inviting businesses, professionals, local leaders, and community partners from across Western Massachusetts to participate in the 58th Annual Chamber Cup on Friday, Sept. 25, at Westover Golf Course. Registration is now open for the annual event, which brings together the regional business community for a day of golf, networking, visibility, and relationship-building.

The Chamber Cup offers companies and organizations a valuable way to connect outside the traditional meeting setting. Participants can build business relationships, strengthen team connections, and engage with professionals

from across the region in a relaxed and welcoming environment. The event is open to Chamber members and non-members alike, making it a regional opportunity for businesses looking to expand their reach and community presence.

Businesses can participate in several ways, including registering a foursome, becoming an event sponsor, sponsoring a hole or meal, donating raffle prizes, or volunteering during the event. Each option offers a different path to visibility and engagement, whether a company wants to host clients, recognize employees, promote its brand, or support a signature community event.

The day will include golf at Westover Golf Course, breakfast, lunch,

raffles, and opportunities to connect with business owners, executives, public officials, nonprofit leaders, and professionals from throughout Western Massachusetts. For sponsors and raffle donors, the event provides added exposure before and during the tournament, helping businesses stay visible among a broad and engaged audience.

The Greater Holyoke Chamber encourages businesses to register early, secure sponsorship opportunities, and plan now for participation in the 2026 Chamber Cup. Companies interested in playing, sponsoring, donating raffle prizes, or volunteering can visit holyokechamber.com or contact the Chamber for more information.

Celebrate Juneteenth at Wistariahurst Museum

HOLYOKE – On June 19, Wistariahurst Museum and Genuine Culture welcome guests to the Wistariahurst gardens for our annual Juneteenth event, Celebrate Juneteenth! This event commemorates freedom and the country's second Independence Day through community and celebration. Wistariahurst and Genuine Culture are collaborating for the fourth year to bring back this celebration for the Holyoke community and beyond. Enjoy activities throughout Wistariahurst's grounds. Play games in the gardens, get creative with hands-on art projects, and more! There's something for everyone, with activities for

people of all ages.

This event will feature performances including Voices of Praise, storyteller Eshu Bumpus, and DJ Pzo Pete! Local food vendors will also be selling food and drinks for guests to enjoy, including Souper Sweet, White Lion Brewery, and Thai Chili Street Food. Other performers and food vendors are to be announced.

Black-owned businesses, makers, and artists will be selling a variety of locally made items. Local organizations will also have tables at the event, sharing information on their initiatives and what work they're doing in the community.

Juneteenth serves as a poignant reminder of the remarkable resilience of Black lives, symbolizing the challenges and victories of formerly enslaved individuals striving for unity, education, and political engagement during the Reconstruction period. The event takes place at Wistariahurst Museum on June 19 from 12 to 3 p.m. It's going to be a day of joy, making memories, honoring history, and uplifting the voices of the Black community in Holyoke. Admission to this celebration is completely free and open to the public.

This event is sponsored by the Adam's Foundation of South Hadley.

Arts League to be featured at exhibit

HOLYOKE – During the month of June, the Wistariahurst Museum at 238 Cabot St. in Holyoke will host an exhibition of artwork by members of the Holyoke Arts League (HAL). The museum and gardens are the historic home of the Skinner Family that owned and operated the Skinner Silk Mill, the world's premier silk fabric production facility in the city's Canal District.

Throughout the month of June, the exhibition may be viewed free of charge during the museum's open

hours, Mondays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Tuesdays from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

This juried show will include entries in oil and pastel, watercolor, acrylic, tempera, gouache and other non-oil wet media, graphite, charcoal, printmaking and other graphic media, sculpture and ceramics.

The arts league was founded in 1923 and is now celebrating its 102nd year in Holyoke. The League holds artist demonstrations and weekly adult figure drawing sessions. For more information about HAL, visit

<https://www.holyoke-arts-league.org> online. You may also address inquiries to holyokeartsleague@gmail.com

For more information about Wistariahurst, call (413) 322-5660 or online at info@wistariahurst.org. You may direct inquiries about Wistariahurst by emailing munselle@holyoke.org.

This program is funded in part by a grant from the Holyoke Local Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass. Cultural Council, a state agency.

Busy month of activities at UCCH announced

HOLYOKE – June is quite the busy month at The United Congregational Church of Holyoke.

Friday, June 5 is the final edition of Music in the Parks. Music in the Parks is a choral competition that draws young singers from across the region, making each event a wonderful opportunity to experience the energy, talent, and dedication of young performers at their best.

The June Community Meal is scheduled for the following Friday, June 12 at 5 p.m. We'll be serving pizza and salad and will follow dinner up with a family movie at 6 p.m. All Are Welcome, Everyone Eats and its absolutely free of charge.

We'll be celebrating America on Sunday, June 28 at 4 p.m. with a

free of charge concert sponsored by the Western Massachusetts chapter of the American Guild of Organists. During this patriotic event, music that celebrates America and music by American composers will be performed on a variety of instruments by volunteers. This event is also open to the public.

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

Farmers' Market to reopen at Holyoke Medical Center

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Medical Center (HMC) is excited to announce the reopening of the HMC Holyoke Farmers' Market at the hospital. The HMC Holyoke Farmers' Market will be open every Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. beginning June 10, 2026 through September 30, 2026.

Located in the hospital's Parking Lot D, the HMC Holyoke Farmers' Market is conveniently close to the front entrance of the hospital, with valet parking available. Holyoke residents are encouraged to utilize the hospital's free transportation shuttles. The transportation schedule is available at www.holyokehealth.com/ride.

"Holyoke Medical Center is excited to partner with the Greater Holyoke Chamber to once again offer a Farmers' Market for the fourth year. Access to healthy food has continued to be an area of concern for many people in our community, as identified in our Community Health Needs Assessments," says HMC Director of Community Benefits, Lisa Wray-Schechterle. "We are proud to continuously provide a convenient location and transportation, while also collaboratively partnering



with others to make this market a success."

The HMC Holyoke Farmers' Market is a collaboration with the Holyoke Farmers' Market, the Greater Holyoke Chamber, Let's Move Hampden County 5210, and many local businesses. EBT/SNAP and HIP benefits are accepted. Some of the vendors participating this season will include:

- A Good Mix Mobile Bar Service – Specialty Lemonades
- Agudelo Apiary – Fresh Produce, Plants, Honey
- Batch Ice Cream – Premium Ice Cream
- Be With Laura Lee – Lifestyle Items Crafts, Gifts, Soaps, Aloe Plants

- The Bread Basket – Bread, Cinnamon Rolls, Cookies, Pies, Whoopie Pies
- D&R Farm – Fresh Produce, Baked Goods, Jams, Chicken, Turkey, Eggs
- Greylog Farm – Fiber Products, Dog Treats, Eggs, Baked Goods, Soap, Herbs
- Holyoke Medical Center Endocrinology – Education And Healthy Recipe Sample
- Holyoke Medical Center Pediatrics – Education And Activity For Kids
- Holyoke Public Library – Information
- Jdb Creations By Joshua – Handcrafted Fine Silver And Fused/Dichroic Glass Jewelry
- Mystical Gifts From

Center School – Plants, Home Decor, Tie Dye Items, Candles, Wind Chimes

- Nightjar Farm – Fresh Produce
- Orlowski Gardens – Annuals And Perennials
- Portals Bakery – Sourdough Bread, Pastries, Locally Milled Flour
- Tayo Eatery – Lumpia Bao Buns, Noodles, Rice Bowls, Sandwiches, Soups
- Thai Place – Pad Thai, Drunken Noodles, Bacon Crab Rangoons, Dumplings
- Tiny Light Bakery – Gluten Free Cookies And Muffins
- Western Ma Master Gardeners Association – Information
- Vera's Love & Light Candle Co. – Candles, Wax Flower Bouquets, Ceramic Bowls
- Yj Catering – Empanadas, Kabobs, Rice & Beans

A list of participating vendors and their scheduled dates will be updated regularly at www.holyokehealth.com/market.

The HMC Farmers' Market is still accepting new vendor applications at <https://forms.gle/mk4HooXAQZrV2bp59>. Vendor questions can be directed to holyokefarmersmarket@gmail.com.

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Please contact **Pat James 413-726-8661.**

South Hadley hosting spring bike ride

SOUTH HADLEY – On Saturday, June 6 the public is invited to participate in a Bike Ride hosted by the South Hadley Bike/Walk Committee. The Ride, which will have a casual pace, is approximately 7 miles long, with some hills. This ride is for adults and teens; any younger children should be accompanied by an adult. Participants should bring a water bottle.

Meet at 12:45 p.m. in the lower parking lot behind Village Commons, at the end near the street. Traveling west on Hadley Street (Rt. 47) from College Street (Rt. 116), the lower lot entrance is just past the main lot entrance leaving at 1 p.m.

Riders will turn left out of the parking lot onto Hadley Street, and then left again onto Ferry Street, which continues past Brunelle's Marina on the riverfront, and onto Alvord Street. At River Lodge Road, turn right to ride to the end of Upper River Road and then back to Alvord Street. A short

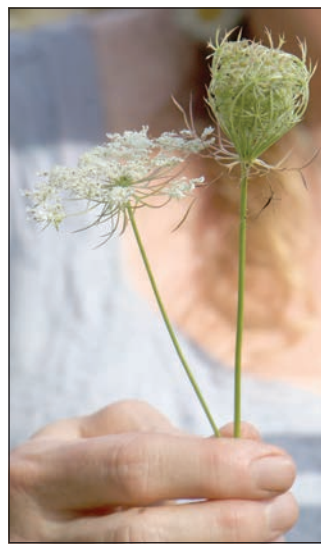
ride on Alvord will arrive at McCray's Farm Creamery for a rest stop and optional home-made ice cream. On the return, riders will continue back along Alvord, Ferry, and Hadley Streets to the Village Commons Lot. There is also an option to do an additional 1-mile loop at the River-to-Range Trail, which has a lookout over marshy wetlands and a short spur that leads to the CT River.

Bike/Walk Rides and Treks are subject to change or cancellation due to weather or ground conditions. Please check the Bike/Walk Committee page on Town website at www.southhadley.org/bikewalk for any cancellation notices or other details, including upcoming Treks and Rides. Should there be a cancellation decision, information will be posted online by 10 a.m. on the day of the event.

For more information on Bike Walk South Hadley visit our site. <http://www.southhadley.org/739/Bike-Walk-Committee>.



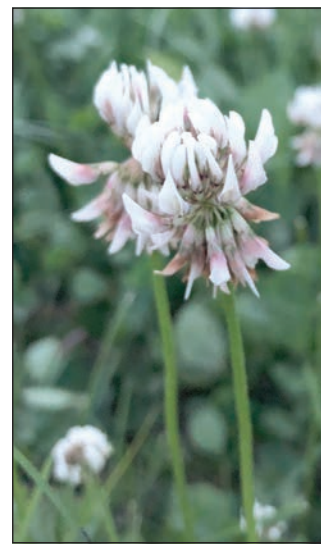
Mugwort leaf has a long history of being used for medicinal and culinary purposes.



Arianna Collins teaches about Queen Anne Lace during the event.



A look at pineapple weed.



White Clover is another such usable plant for various purposes.

First foraging walk conducted in Granby

By Ben Hernandez
Correspondent

GRANBY – Saturday, May 30 marked the first foraging event at the Granby Free Public Library. Resident forager Arianna Alexandra Collins conducted a walk around the library campus to identify edible and medicinal plants. During the interactive lesson, Collins not only pointed out what was edible on campus but also invited participants to sample test what was safe to eat without preparation.

Collins started her career as a naturals educator at the Bonnie Vail Environmental Education Center in Brattleboro Vermont and learned her craft working for “different institutions” around Massachusetts. She has 30 years of experience identifying flora and partners with local libraries. She also conducts private tours of resi-

dent properties where she educates clients on the area's surrounding flora.

“It’s just a lovely event for people to get to be more familiar with wild edibles,” said Collins. “I’ve noticed over the years as I’ve been doing this is that when I was just doing walks, people still felt kind of nervous.”

Collins expressed a major barrier she noticed on these walks is people’s hesitancy in handling the wild plants. She believes much of the concerns stem around the unfamiliarity residents have with the local ecosystem.

“Well, what can I really do? What can I add these ingredients to,” said Collins as she echoed sentiments from previous clients. Frequent questions such as these inspired her to incorporate cooking lessons into her talks. “That’s when I started adding this component of a feast, so that people could try different wild edibles in

salads, soups, pesto, desserts and drinks.”

The naturals educator stated her love for “bringing people outside” and helping establish a connection with nature. She reflected in the past there were concerns in the area around foraging as a practice due to potential liability issues. She mentioned foraging was an important skill to learn in light of growing concerns around food security.

Collins expressed a wealth of information and pointed out many surprising and common plants around New England as edible. She mentioned dandelions are very versatile, able to be added to salads and brewed as teas. She stated harvesting some edible plants can actually help the environment. She mentioned there are numerous invasive edible plant species which can be used as common ingredients in the kitchen.

“So, as my friend Blanche Derby says, ‘if you can’t beat it, eat it,’” said Collins. “Eat as much garlic mustard as you would like. Make all the pesto from garlic mustard that you would like. Use it in place of garlic.”

The walk was the first for the Granby library. Collins stated she would be more than interested in running another event depending on community interest and should the library have enough funds to host another interactive seminar.

“I just love sharing this knowledge about that there’s free food and medicines all around us,” said Collins. “If we just connect with our environment and really have a deeper awareness about who is out there that can provide food and medicine and have a reciprocal relationship with these flora and fungi, it just helps our bodies and our beings.”

Library loaning out tablets

HOLYOKE – The library is offering tablets for loan to patrons with a Holyoke address and a valid CW MARS library card. The devices are provided through funding from the Massachusetts Broadband Institute. The goal of the program is to expand access to education, workforce training, and telehealth by establishing public device lending programs. Devices are fully loaded with software. Please call or stop by the library for more details. Tablets should be used to support activity in one of three categories:

- **Workforce Development:** Allow for jobseekers to build skills that support them in crafting résumés, complete online training, apply for jobs and pursue remote work.
- **Education:** Strengthen participation of individuals to complete virtual coursework, homework help, adult education and digital literacy training.
- **Health Monitoring & Access:** Provide devices for telehealth visits, patient portal navigation, accessing health information and supporting remote patient monitoring programs.

Lions sponsoring Boston bus trip

GRANBY – Granby Lions Club will be sponsoring a bus trip to Boston on Tuesday, July 14. The chartered bus will be leaving East Meadow School Parking Lot at 8 a.m. and drop off in the Seaport District at approximately 10 a.m.

Celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States at SailBoston 2026, an international maritime event that brings tall ships and

naval vessels from around the world to Boston Harbor. You will be on your own to visit the ships and the bus will depart Boston at 4 p.m.

The cost per person is \$75. Please make your checks payable to the Granby Lions Club, and mail to Granby Lions Club, c/o Jim Pietras, 280 East State St, Granby, MA. 01033. Questions – email Jim at jpietas@comcast.net.

Ladies Night Out June 11

CHICOPEE - The Council on Aging will be hosting a “Ladies Night Out” on Thursday, June 11 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging’s RiverMills Center, 5 West Main St.

Enjoy craft stations, vendor tables appetizers and a cash bar (beer, wine and non-alcoholic beverages).

Tickets are on sale now for \$10 at RiverMills Center. You must register in advance.

Wheels for Hope Car Show returns on June 27

HOLYOKE – The third annual Wheels for Hope Car Show will return to High Street on Saturday, June 27.

The show, which will run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., is a fundraiser for cancer patients and their families. Money raised will be divided among Holyoke Medical Center’s Oncology Department; Rays for Hope, a Western

Massachusetts initiative dedicated to the fight against breast cancer; and children diagnosed with cancer.

Holyoke’s High Street, from Cabot Street to Appleton Street, will be closed to traffic during the one-day show.

The entry fee for exhibitors is \$30. Motorcycles and power wheels are welcome.

Prizes will be awarded in five categories. A special trophy will be presented by a cancer survivor.

The show includes raffles, food, music, face painting and more. Coolers will not be allowed.

The rain date is July 11. For more information, contact Carmen Rodriguez, (413) 210-8896.

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Guest Column

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor



I'm being released from Incarceration. What are my Social Security options?

Dear Rusty:

In a previous column, you wrote about people who filed for Social Security late in life.

I am currently incarcerated and will be filing for Social Security in the fall of 2029. I will be 74 years old in the first week of January 2029. Unless I read it wrong, could I be eligible to collect the previous six months?

If this is so, how would that work? Would I get that all at once or incrementally? According to the chart we once got in the mail, I should be collecting the maximum amount. I've worked all of my life and never collected Social Security before. Also, my ex-wife remarried and has since passed away. Do I qualify for part of her Social Security?

Signed, "D" in Danbury

Dear "D" in Danbury:

I'm afraid you cannot receive Social Security benefits while you are incarcerated, even if you are eligible for them prior to your release.

Thus, you cannot get retroactive Social Security benefits for any period you were still incarcerated. For clarity, although most who apply at a later age (e.g., in their 70s) do have the option to claim retroactive benefits, you cannot get any SS benefits for any month you were still incarcerated. Further, you will not get credit for delaying your application for SS benefits while you are incarcerated (you won't earn Delayed Retirement Credits during your incarceration).

Assuming (from what you shared) that you expect to be released from incarceration in the fall of 2029, you can apply for your SS benefits to start upon your release. Be aware, however, that it usually takes several months for your application for SS benefits to be processed and you can specify the month you wish your benefits start.

Your benefit amount will be based upon your average monthly earnings for the 35 highest earning years over your lifetime. But you cannot get retroactive SS benefits for time prior to your release from incarceration. Since Social Security does not pay benefits for partial months, you can file for your SS benefits to start effective with the month following the month

in which your incarceration ends. Be sure you have your official prison release documentation (parole or discharge papers) in hand when you apply for your Social Security benefits.

FYI, some correctional facilities have a "Prerelease Agreement" with Social Security, which may enable you to file for your SS benefits three to four months prior to your release from incarceration. Be sure to check with your facility to see if they have such an agreement with Social Security and, if so, use it to apply for your benefits in advance of your release. This will facilitate your SS benefits starting more quickly upon your release.

You did not ask about healthcare coverage, but since you will be eligible for Social Security, you will also be eligible for Medicare upon your release. When you apply for your Social Security benefits, you can also apply for Medicare Part B (coverage for outpatient medical services), the premium for which will be deducted from your Social Security payment. FYI, Medicare Part A (coverage for inpatient hospitalization services) is free and automatic because you are also eligible for Social Security.

Finally, regarding survivor benefits from your ex-wife, you can only get a surviving ex-spouse benefit if you were married for more than 10 years and your own SS retirement amount is less than your ex-wife was receiving at her death. In other words, you can only get one SS benefit either your own or your deceased ex-wife's amount, whichever is higher.

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Guest Column

A question and an answer?

Carole, who faithfully reads the column in *The Wilbraham-Hampden Times* each week, wrote in with this question for the Garden Lady:

"I am hoping you can provide me with some advice as to how to rid my garden of an incredibly invasive plant. It is called *Houttuynia cordata* or chameleon plant. I bought a single variegated plant about 25 years ago and now I literally have hundreds of them in my gardens and lawn. The plant is no longer variegated but reverted to green with red around the edges. For at least three or four years, I have been trying to dig them out one by one which has been extremely difficult due to the long roots - some can be over a foot long - which become intertwined with other plants, choking them. I have not been very successful, despite spending hours at a time. And I painstakingly try to get every piece of root out. I am not sure if they are spreading solely through the roots or also from the flower pod seeds.



Houttuynia cordata or chameleon plant

I notice they also spread under my brick walkway even though they get no sun there. It's been very frustrating. For that reason, I am considering using a herbicide, but am concerned that it might poison nearby plants or may not be effective due to the long roots. Yet, at this point, I am open to the idea. I look forward to any suggestions you may have.

Incidentally, I just learned from the internet that it is considered to be a medicinal herb, which I find quite shocking, given how much I have come to dislike them! Thank you very much for your time and assistance."

Happy to help, Carole! It's funny you mention that this plant is a medicinal herb.

Some years back I was taking extract of Japanese Knotweed, another invasive plant, in my quest to cure late stage Lyme Disease. I guess most plants have some merit although some times it's hard to want to admit it, especially in the situation you are in.

While I have never grown *Houttuynia cordata*, I have dealt with similar invasive plants. Not always have I been successful, but here are a few tactics you can try.

If there is a way to smother, go for it. Try black plastic, a thick tarp or cardboard covered in mulch.

Eventually, if the plant can't photosynthesize, it will die.

You are smart to try and remove every little bit of root when hand digging it out; it's kind of amazing how a tiny piece will start

a whole new plant. For that reason, never take the rototiller to a patch of any invasive plant, especially those that spread by rhizomes. The roots will be dispersed throughout the garden.

I also read about cutting the stems of the plants and then "painting" the open cuts with herbicide. To me that sounds like a smart plan to get the chemical right to the roots. Time consuming, but targeted.

I'll be curious to know how you make out trying to rid your landscape of this plant.

Diane, who gardens in West Chesterfield, had a possible solution for my hyacinths getting cut off at the soil line.

"We had a great disappointment this spring when something chopped off most of our cultivated black berries. When I was trying to prune what was left and save something I found the stalks laying on the ground but the tops were eaten. It looked like someone took a clean angle sweep with a hatchet to cut down the stalks. Then one evening at dusk we saw the culprit. It was about a 60 pound porcupine! He was chomping on our wild white rose bushes. He would bite the stalks off but since the rest of the bush wouldn't let the branch fall, he couldn't eat the top. What a mess. When I read your article I was thinking this might be the answer to the mystery."

Hmm, I will have to keep on the look out for a porcupine; you never know.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 34 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.

John Kunhardt of Belchertown took this photo of a green heron catching a fish at Lake Wallace.

The green heron is solitary at most seasons and often



Green heron

Photo by John Kunhardt

in my BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer

somewhat secretive, living around small bodies of water or densely vegetated areas.

When seen in the open, it often flicks its tail nervously and raises and lowers its crest.

The small heron is about 16 to 22 inches long. The green on this bird's back is an iridescent color and often looks dull bluish or simply dark.

They have orange yellow legs, chestnut neck, black crown feathers. Young birds are duller and brown with a striped neck.

Northern birds migrates as far as Panama and northern South American. Green herons in the most southern states do not migrate.

Green herons inhabit coasts and shorelines, forests and woodlands, freshwater wetlands, lakes, ponds, rivers and saltwater wetlands. Their call is a sharp "kyowk" or "skyow."

They nest in a wide variety of situations, including willow thickets, mangroves, dry woods and open marsh. The female lays three to five pale green or blue green eggs. Both the male and

female incubate the eggs which takes 19 to 21 days.

The male chooses nesting territory and calls repeatedly from prominent perch in tree or shrub. Displays of male include stretching neck forward and down and snapping bill shut, pointing bill straight upward while swaying back and forth. Male and female may perform display flights around territory. Nest site is usually in shrub or tree 5-30 feet above ground, but sometimes on the ground.

It is often very close to water, but it can be quite distant away. The nest is a platform of sticks. The male begins construction, then female builds while male

See BIRDS, page 5

the HOLYOKE Sun

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EDITOR/SPORTS
Greg Scibelli
aan@turley.com
sports@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES
Wendy Delcamp
wdelcamp@turley.com

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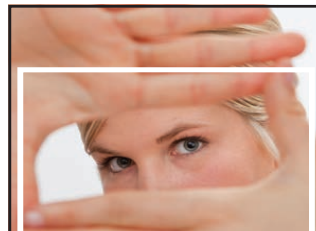
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your health

By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN
Guest Column

“But you look so good!” When someone with a disability hears those words, it’s not necessarily a compliment. In fact, it may make them feel unseen and unheard. That’s because many disabilities are not immediately apparent to others.

According to the World Health Organization, 1.3 billion people worldwide live with disabilities. In 2008, the number of Americans with disabilities was about 39 million, but that number is probably much higher now because of the effects of the COVID pandemic. About 17 million adults report symptoms of “long COVID,” with most saying that the symptoms limit their daily activi-

ties to some degree.

Many symptoms of long COVID, such as fatigue and “brain fog,” are invisible. In fact, it’s estimated that more than 70% of disabilities are invisible, including autism, ADHD, dyslexia, chronic illnesses and mental health conditions. Many invisible disabilities go undiagnosed or misunderstood, leading to barriers in education, employment, travel and marketplaces.

“True inclusion begins when we start recognizing what we cannot see,” says Mary Anne Ehlert, president of Protected Tomorrows in Lincolnshire, which helps special needs families prepare for the future. “Families in all walks of life experiencing all forms of disabilities,

Not every health challenge is a visible one

no matter if developmental, cognitive, physical or mental health disabilities, need specialized guidance and support.”

Autism is a prime example. It lies along a spectrum from mild to severe, meaning that many children and adults who appear “normal” may in fact be struggling with work, school and social interactions. Someone could wonder why that person is behaving as they do without realizing that there is an underlying cause.

Another example in the news recently is dyslexia, which causes children and adults to have difficulty with reading and writing because of how their brains are wired. Cruelly, children with dyslexia have been labeled “stupid” or “slow,” when in fact, the only difference is that they approach learning differently. Many successful people, from Tom Cruise to Cher to California Gov. Gavin Newsom, have dyslexia.

If you’ve ever watched someone pull into a handicapped parking space and get out of the car without apparent difficulty, remember that three-fourths of those with disabilities don’t use assistive

devices, such as wheelchairs, walkers or canes, according to the Invisible Disabilities Association (invisible disabilities.org).

“Everyone deserves to live their best life,” Ehlert said. “Whether or not a person utilizes an assistive device, if they are debilitated by symptoms such as fatigue, dizziness, mental health disorders or cognitive difficulties, they are living with invisible disabilities.”

People are quick to judge, writes Kathleen Bogart, a psychology professor at Oregon State University, Psychology Today. She cites a study that showed people are less willing to help individuals when the disability isn’t visually apparent. “Society relies on appearance when deciding who is legitimate, truthful or entitled to support,” she wrote.

Invisible disabilities may also cause doctors to overlook diagnoses or assume symptoms are exaggerated.

“If providers overlook symptoms, individuals may choose not to disclose their disability at all or lose trust in the health-care system, leading to fewer supports, connections, and increased

mental health strain,” Bogart wrote.

In 2016, Gatwick Airport and some partners created the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower as a way to for someone to voluntarily communicate their need for extra time or assistance without having to explain themselves over and over. The sunflower symbol is now recognized all over the U.K., and has been adopted at U.S. airports, too, including Boston Logan.

The Sunflower organization offers lanyards along with personalized ID cards that identify a person’s hidden disability and the types of assistance they may need. Businesses and nonprofits can join the Sunflower network as well. Visit hdsunflower.com/us for details.

The symbol conveys a universal request: Approach with patience and understanding. It is also a way to increase disability representation and show connection with the disability community.

Recognition of invisible disabilities is likely becoming a larger challenge because “inclusion” has been tainted as the cur-

rent political climate turns against diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). Research shows that few employees reveal invisible disabilities to their employers, and even fewer are comfortable asking for accommodation, which they are entitled to under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

We can all play a part in building awareness of invisible disabilities by not being afraid to reveal them and showing kindness and consideration to those who do.

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, R.N., a registered nurse and board-certified patient advocate, is the founder of www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com, which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. A Monson, MA resident, she is the author of “How to Be a Healthcare Advocate for Yourself & Your Loved Ones” and her new book, “Advocating Well: Strategies for Finding Strength and Understanding in Health Care,” available at Amazon.com. Contact her at Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com to set up a free phone consultation.

BIRDS, from page 4

brings materials.

Both parents also feed their young by regurgitation. Young begin to climb about near nest by 16-17 days after hatching, usually make first flight at 21-23 days.

They are fed by parents for a few more weeks. Young are reportedly capable of swimming well. These herons have one to two broods per year.

These herons forage mostly by standing still or stalking very slowly at edge of shallow water, waiting for prey to approach. Sometimes they use bait” by dropping a feather or small twig on surface of water to lure fish within striking distance.

They eat mostly small

fish, but will also eat crayfish and other crustaceans, aquatic insects, frogs and tadpoles. Other items include grasshoppers, snakes, earthworms, snails and small rodents.



Black and white warbler
My daughter, Paula, saw a black and white war-

bler by the cross country trail at Quabbin Regional High School last week. As the name implies, the warbler has black and white feathers with black streaking on the breast and white wing bars, white eye line and white belly.

Red shouldered hawk

A Montgomery resident had a red shouldered hawk in her yard. She sent a photo of it in flight.

Whippoorwill

I received an email on May 15 from a Belchertown resident. She stated, “The whippoorwill is back in my yard again this year. The calls starts around dark and continue off and on till sunrise. She or he perches on the roof and calls all night. It can be very annoying as you are

trying to sleep, but I still feel blessed or cursed.”

Common Ravens

A Brimfield couple had common ravens in their yard last month. They stated in an email, “We mostly hear them and sometimes see them flying over a local feature called West Mountain that is about 1000’ elevation and runs north/south about a half a mile east of our house.”

They stated, “On a Thursday a raven was in the driveway where I throw a seed mix daily for ground feeders. I saw the bird from inside the garage, my wife saw it with binoculars from inside the house.”

They stated, “We both noticed the larger size, bigger than the American Crows that often feed in the same area. I noticed the wedged

shaped tail when it flew away and my wife saw larger, heavier bill and the shaggy throat feathers.” A few days later they saw three ravens.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Egyptian bull-god
- 5. A young canine
- 8. Cologne
- 11. Fictional British P.I.
- 13. Midway between northeast and east
- 14. A place to shop
- 15. Minneapolis suburb
- 16. Single lens reflex
- 17. NY Mets great Tommie
- 18. Informal loan clubs
- 20. Habitual twitching
- 21. Holm oak
- 22. Willing to consent or submit
- 25. In an early way
- 30. Made possible
- 31. Language in Ghana
- 32. Relating to one's birth
- 33. Deep-bodied fishes
- 38. Defunct European
- currency
- 41. Small American songbird
- 43. One from L.A.
- 45. After tenth
- 47. Hillside
- 49. Red deer
- 50. Partner to “ooled”
- 55. Indian musical pattern
- 56. Israeli city ___ Aviv
- 57. Golden peas plant
- 59. Breezed through
- 60. Midway between east and southeast
- 61. Frameworks
- 62. Danish krone
- 63. Fall back
- 64. Influential Korean leader
- 2. Expression of sorrow or pity
- 3. Large, stocky lizard
- 4. Turkish leader title
- 5. Nag
- 6. Blank
- 7. Closely woven cotton fabric
- 8. A nice shot in golf
- 9. Away from wind
- 10. Evergreen shrub genus
- 12. Large African antelope
- 14. Something you receive
- 19. Satisfy
- 23. Wet dirt
- 24. No longer here
- 25. Writing utensil
- 26. Ribonucleic acid
- 27. Consume food
- 28. Licensed for Wall Street
- 29. Alternative forms of a gene
- 34. Buddy
- 35. We all do it
- 36. Chicken
- 37. No seats available
- 39. Yearned to possess
- 40. Ineffectual
- 41. Explosive
- 42. Turkish title
- 44. Worn near the foot
- 45. Impatient
- 46. Set an example for others
- 47. Actor Pitt
- 48. Instrument of torture
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Grayish white
- 53. A way to print
- 54. Storied college hoops program
- 58. Midway between south and southeast

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 8

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Chestnut River Power and Infrastructure is the applicant for the project.

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CENTER, from page 1

industries growing in our city, we need to be thoughtful, responsible, and comprehensive so that we are not negatively harming our community and draining our resources," he said. He then discussed and provided additional commentary on the subject.

"I hear the concerns people are expressing. Across the country, we've seen troubling stories about massive hyperscale data centers (gigawatt-scale facilities) that drive up electricity rates for families, consume vast amounts of water, create constant noise for nearby neighborhoods, and deliver fewer local benefits than promised. Those con-

cerns are valid, and I sympathize with residents who worry about similar impacts here in Holyoke," he confessed. "This project, however, is fundamentally different. At just 21 MW, this is a small, right-sized facility, comparable to the Massachusetts Green High Performance Computing Center (MGHPCC) that has operated responsibly in Holyoke since 2012 without negatively impacting our water or electric supply. It is nothing like the massive gigawatt-scale projects proposed by billionaire developers elsewhere. To put it into perspective, there are 1,000 MW in just one gigawatt. This is a fraction of that scale."

In addition, many resi-

dents also voiced opposition to the proposal, which caught the attention of Holyoke City Councilor At-Large Israel Rivera, providing concerns as he responded to a thread, citing, "This is nothing like textile and paper mill industries; the only similarities will be the pollution taxpayers will be left to clean in the future, as we are currently experiencing today," he shared. "Textile and paper mills employed hundred if not thousands in Holyoke, Chicopee, Springfield and surrounding communities. Here we are talking about a minimal amount of jobs and not necessarily for residents that live within the immediate vicinity of where it is located."

Rivera took ire of how the current center is hasn't produced jobs unlike what Garcia has noted, and if the new facility is built, it will yield a similar result.

"Our current data center is a prime example of what residents will experience with this new addition. This equates to less than 10 jobs, and I would dare so none are residents of Holyoke," he said. Before closing his thoughts, by taking a grievance to the location and purpose.

"I'm all the way set especially wanting to house it in the lower wards. I'm super all the way set lol. 20MW on a grid that is said to put out 71 MW (not a real number either) is not small," Rivera said.

PROJECT, from page 1

Garcia extended an olive branch within his statement which invited the opportunity to have a conversation to ensure all voices are heard, by citing, "We need to understand, as we navigate growth and development pressures of new industries growing in our city, we need to be thoughtful, responsible, and comprehensive so that we are not negatively harming our community and draining our resources," he said. He then discussed and provided additional commentary on the subject.

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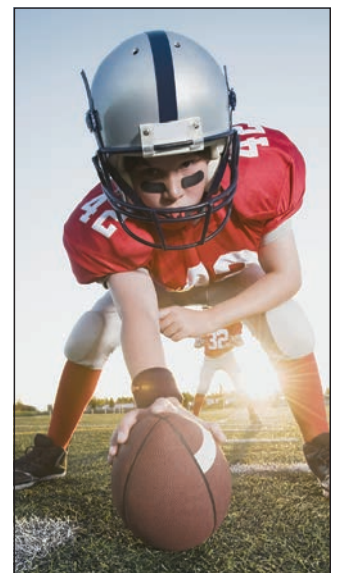
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SPORTS

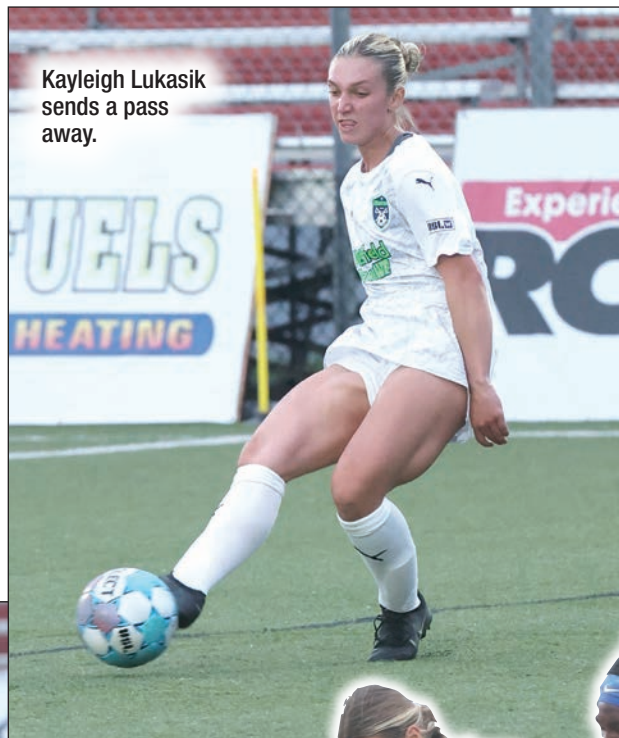
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Kursten Shade looks to shoot in traffic.



Kayleigh Lukasik sends a pass away.



Sam Breton clears the ball away.



Nadia Cassmajor sends a pass away.



Kendall Bodak, of Monson, sends a free kick away.



Se-Hanna Mars fights for the ball.

Mutiny battles Hartford to scoreless draw

LUDLOW – On Friday, May 22, the New England Mutiny battled the Hartford Athletic to a scoreless tie. The Mutiny is now 1-1-1 on the season. They previous-

ly defeated the Worcester Wanderers and had a defeat against the Hudson Valley Crusaders. More on the Mutiny and their new challenges in next week's edition.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Thomas Wadas, of Ludlow, eyes a teammate up the field.

WMass Pioneers fall to NEFC

LUDLOW – On a very rainy evening, the turf was not kind to the Western Mass. Pioneers as they fell at home against NEFC 4-2. The Pioneers, which have a lot of new players on the roster this season, fell to a disappointing 1-2 on the short regular season. The Pioneers had another home game scheduled during the weekend, and were in action on the road against Black Rock FC. The Pioneers are on a lengthy road trip and are not playing at home until Friday, June 19.



Pearse O'Brien seeks to settle the ball.

Cougars qualify for NJCAA DIII Golf Championships

HOLYOKE – HCC Golf is headed to its fourth National Tournament in the past five years. Cougars golf has qualified for the 2026 NJCAA Division III Golf Championships, having been named the top team in Region XXI (New England). Holyoke will be making their fourth appearance in the past five years at the national tournament event.

The team will travel to Chautauqua, NY to play in the championship event which will be hosted by Jamestown CC at the beautiful and challenging Chautauqua Golf Club. The tournament consists of four rounds being played June 2-5.

Alex Gochinski, the Cougars' most experienced and skilled golfer, will lead Holyoke into competition at the national tournament. Gochinski shot an 88 during a round at the championships at Chautauqua Golf Club during his freshman season. He had six birdies in that round.



Jaiden Williams makes his way up the field.



Ben Alexander gets ready to clear the ball.



Michael Gouvin sends a pass away.



Jarvis, Beecher top guns at Monadnock Speedway

WINCHESTER, N.H. – Joey Jarvis survived a sluggish start to win his first Modified feature of the summer on May 23 at Monadnock Speedway. The second generation Vermont pilot accomplished the feat by sitting in the best seat in the house, the pole, from where he was immune to the wildness behind him.

Jarvis was one of five first time 2026 winners on the high banks of the fast quarter mile Saturday. Justin Beecher, in house for the night's special R&R Open Street Stock show, duplicated his victory of the same event a summer ago, and reigning speedway Mini Stock champ John Fultz - in his first run of the summer - picked up where he left off last September.

In the Pure Stocks, red hot rookie Josh Brigham scored the first win of his career. New England Dwarf Car pilot Ryan Carman scored his first career vic-

tory on the high banks, and then there was 11-year-old Dylan Stati.

Stati, a quiet fifth grade student at the Old Mill Pond School in his hometown of Palmer, Mass. on weekdays, puts on his super hero personality every Saturday, when he dominates the speedway's Young Guns division. On this Saturday, he cruised to victory for the fourth time of his rookie campaign.

Jarvis and open-wheel rookie Kyle Kenny sat up front as Saturday night's Allstates Materials Group 604 Modified main event went green. They would run in that order until Ben Byrne blasted into second on lap four, with Nate Wenzel close behind.

Wenzel took third on lap 11 and with the two veterans battling for second, Jarvis was able to open some breathing room at the front. That, though, went out the window when a lap-

21 caution brought Byrne back to his side.

Jarvis was again up to the task, holding a perfect line for all 40 laps to score his second career victory on the high banks. And he may not have had the fastest car.

A grinding lap-25 multi-Mod dance out of turn four heavily damaged the Patnode and Martin rides, among others, and brought Nate Wenzel to the front row for the restart. Electrical issues, though, sent Wenzel quickly to the pits, returning now seventh at the green.

Flying back through the field, Wenzel would finish second, three lengths behind the speedy Jarvis. Andrew Brousseau, victorious seven days earlier, gobbled up Tyler Leary in turn three to come home second. Leary was fourth on the night, and Ben Byrne, in the mix all 40, came home fifth.

The R&R Open Street

Stock feature saw three dominant Bay State stars again take center stage, Justin Beecher - who makes a habit of swooping onto the high banks to score victories in these specials - took first from Chris Buffone on lap eight and never looked back.

Top hometracker JD Stockwell, representing his Saturday night home well, got up for second on lap 11 and kept Beecher close until exiting in a cloud of smoke 51 circuits later, leaving Buffone to finish second, a third-lap shy of the high flying Beecher. Former speedway regular Adam Gray completed his hard night's work in third.

Jon Fultz strutted his championship stuff in the Keene Towing and Recovery Mini Stocks. Taking the lead from Tim Paquette on lap seven, the 2025 speedway king never looked back as he sped off to his first win of the season.

Paquette held strong to come home second, just ahead of week one winner Kevin Clayton. Tim O'Shea was fourth, and early race leader Craig Chaffee was fifth on the night.

Red hot rookie Josh Brigham left no doubt Saturday that his freshman season will be one to remember in the Brattleboro Towing and Recovery Pure Stocks. Coming off a handful of strong early season runs, Brigham started in row three Saturday, took the lead from Colton Hull on lap 17, and sped off into the night to score his first career victory. And, with the win, move to the top of the points parade.

Sophomore speedster Kyle Begos finished at Brigham's bumper in second, high roller Jimmy Zellman, victorious a week earlier, was third, with Hull and Linsey Wenzel completing Saturday's top five.

Ryan Carman took the lead on lap seven of Saturday's Dwarf Car feature and dashed off to win by three lengths over series super star Tom Harwood. It was Carman's first career win on the high banks. Andrew Harmon was third on the night, just ahead of Cody Hodgson.

With Dylan Stati again working his magic in the Doug's Auto Body Young Guns to win his fourth in a row, Maevé Barry continued to get stronger each week, coming home second Saturday.

Monadnock Speedway will return to action next Saturday, May 30, with a Limited Late Model special event atop a full card of NASCAR Local Racing Series competition, including the exciting 604 Modifieds. Post time is 6 p.m.; every Saturday on the high banks of New England's fastest quarter-mile oval.

► Public Notices

CITY OF HOLYOKE PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
The Holyoke Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, June 23 2026, 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, Section 4.6.3.2, a Special Permit for an Exceed in Fence Height for Mathylsha Reyes, at 187 West Franklin Street Holyoke, MA (060-09-005/-006)

The complete application may be viewed through the Holyoke Planning Dept M-F, 8:30-4 p.m. Applicant: Mathylsha Reyes Planning Board: Lauren Niles, Chairperson 06/05, 06/12/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD26P1160GD In the matter of: Felicitá Miranda Figueroa Of: Holyoke, MA RESPONDENT Alleged Incapacitated Person CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Mercy Medical Center** of Springfield, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Felicitá Miranda Figueroa** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Carmen E Gonzalez** of Holyoke, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

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

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of **06/26/2026**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: May 29, 2026

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
06/05/2026

Holyoke Local Historic District Commission PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Local Historic District Commission will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, June 10, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom.com**; Call in * 67 646 558 8656. **Meeting ID:** 861 6078 9065 ; **Passcode:** 102238; to hear, pursuant to Historical District Acts (Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40C, as amended, and the Holyoke Code of Ordinances (Chapter 18-100) Certificate of Appropriateness for proposed exterior work within a local historic district at 68 Fairfield Avenue, Holyoke MA (103-00-046).

A complete copy of the application may be seen at the Holyoke City Clerk's office. M-F

9:00 am to 4:30 pm
APPLICANT: 68 Fairfield Avenue, Jesse Castellano
Holyoke Local Historic District Commission Chairperson: Katherine Hopkinson
06/05, 06/12/2026

CITY OF HOLYOKE PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
The Holyoke Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, June 23 2026, 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, Section 6.4.6.4, a Special Permit for an Increase in Sign Size and for Multiple Signs for Holyoke Mall Company, LP - Pyramid Companies, at 50 Holyoke St, Holyoke, MA (176-00-010B/010C)

The complete application may be viewed through the Holyoke Planning Dept M-F, 8:30-4 p.m. Applicant: Takeform Planning Board: Lauren Niles, Chairperson 06/05, 06/12/2026

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by M Tran Properties LLC to Danny S. Larochelle and David N. Larochelle, Trustees of the 948 Dwight Street Realty Trust, said mortgage being dated August 25, 2023, and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 25131, Page 51, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at **11:00 A.M. on Thursday, July 2, 2026**, upon the premises described in said mortgage, namely 948 Dwight Street and 0 Whiting Avenue, Holyoke, Hampden County, MA 01040, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

That certain parcel of land situated in Holyoke, Hampden County, Massachusetts, with the buildings thereon, being more particularly bounded and described as follows:

PARCEL 1
Beginning at a point of intersection of the southerly side of West Dwight Street with the westerly side of Whiting Avenue, and thence running

WESTERLY on said West Dwight Street, fifty-four (54) feet, more or less, to land now or formerly of one Neil; thence running

SOUTHERLY along land of said Neil, ninety (90) feet to land now or formerly of one McCrohan; thence running

EASTERLY along land of said McCrohan fifty-four (54) feet, more or less, to said Whiting Avenue; thence

NORTHERLY on said Whiting Avenue, ninety (90) feet to the place of beginning.

PARCEL 2
Beginning at the northeasterly corner of said lot on the west line of Whiting Avenue, so-called, ninety (90) feet southerly from West Dwight Street; thence running

WESTERLY on land now or formerly of George Thayer and land now or formerly of John H. Clifford, one hundred (100) feet to a stake and stones; thence

SOUTHERLY by land now or formerly of G.N. Philbrick, forty (40) feet to a stake; and thence running

EASTERLY on land now or formerly of Henry Coombs, one hundred (100) feet to said Whiting Avenue, thence by the west line of said Whiting Avenue, forty (40) feet to the place of beginning.

Said real estate is known and numbered 948 Dwight Street, Holyoke, Massachusetts.

Said premises will be sold subject to and/or with the benefit of any and all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, improvements, covenants, outstanding tax title, municipal or other public taxes, assessments, liens or claims in the nature of liens, rights of parties in possession, and existing encumbrances of record created prior to the mortgage, if any there be, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the Deed.

No representations, express or implied, are made with re-

spect to any matter concerning the premises which will be sold "as is".

The successful high bidder will be responsible for paying the Massachusetts State Documentary Tax Stamps, all closing costs and all recording fees.

TERMS OF SALE: The highest bidder in the sale shall be required to deposit cash, bank treasurer's check or certified check in the amount of **FIFTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$15,000.00)** at the time and the place of the sale of the premises to qualify as a bidder (the present holder of the mortgage is exempt from this requirement) to be held by the Mortgagee. The successful bidder will also be required to deposit an additional sum equal to ten percent (10%) of the amount bid less the \$15,000.00 deposit (but no less than \$15,000) with the Mortgagee's auctioneer, Aaron Posnik & Co., Inc., 31 Capital Drive, West Springfield, Massachusetts 01089 or the Mortgagees attorney as may be directed within five (5) days of the date of the sale to be held by the Mortgagee, and the balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified or bank treasurer's check at the closing which shall occur within thirty (30) days after the date of foreclosure sale, time being of the essence, unless the Mortgagee agrees otherwise. The successful bidder at the sale will also be required to pay a buyer's premium of 5% and shall sign a Memorandum of Terms of Sale containing the above terms at the auction sale.

In the event that the successful bidder at the public auction shall default in purchasing the within described property according to the terms of this Notice of Mortgagee's Sale and/or the terms of the Memorandum of Sale executed at the public auction, the Mortgagee reserves the right, at its election, to sell the property to the second highest bidder at the public auction provided that Mortgagee, in its discretion, may require (1) said second highest bidder to deposit the amount of the required deposit as set forth herein within three (3) business days after written notice to the second highest bidder of the de-

fault of the previous highest bidder, (2) the second highest bidder to execute a Memorandum of Sale, and (3) the closing to occur within twenty (20) days of said written notice, time being of the essence unless the Mortgagee agrees otherwise. The Mortgagee reserves the right to sell any parcel or any portion thereof separately, or in any order that Mortgagee may choose and/or to postpone this sale to a later time or date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the sale and to further postpone any adjourned sale date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the adjourned sale date.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the time and place of the sale.

The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

Danny S. Larochelle and David N. Larochelle, Trustees of the 948 Dwight Street Realty Trust, Present Holder of said Mortgage

By /s/ David A. Lavenburg
David A. Lavenburg,
Its Attorney
BACON WILSON, P.C.
33 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
413-781-0560
06/05, 06/12, 06/19/2026

CITY OF HOLYOKE PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Holyoke Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, June 23 2026, 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, Section 6.4.6.4, a Special Permit for an Increase in Sign Size and for Multiple Signs for Schermerhorn's Restaurant, at 224 Westfield Road, Holyoke, MA (157-00-072)

The complete application may be viewed through the Holyoke Planning Dept M-F, 8:30-4 p.m.

Applicant: F&M Hideaway, Inc. Planning Board: Lauren Niles, Chairperson 06/05, 06/12/2026

The Holyoke Sun
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Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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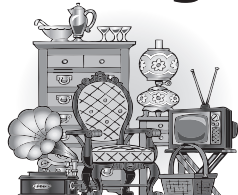
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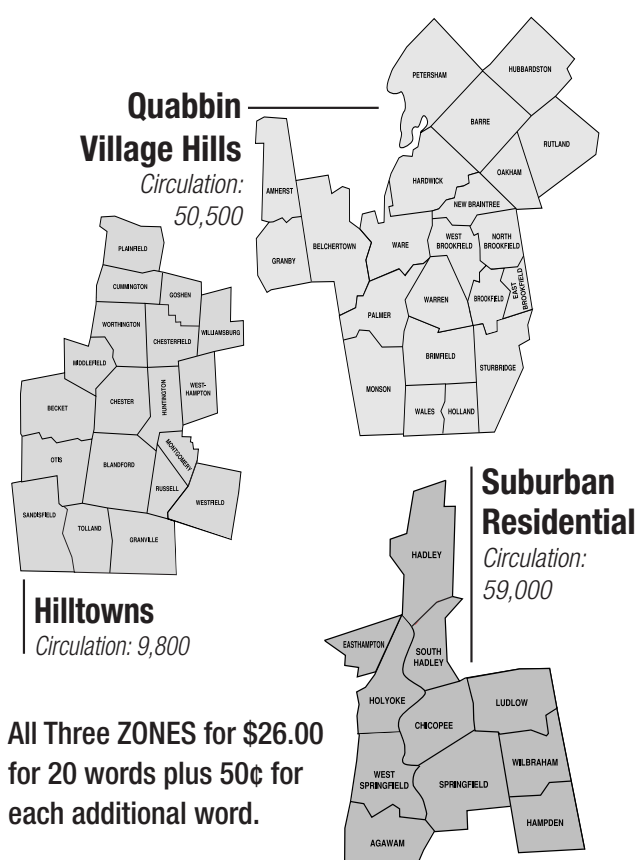
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In The News

HCC, from page 1

Vermont, Brazil, Cambodia, Colombia, China, Congo, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Spain, Sri Lanka, Turkey, and Ukraine.

“At HCC, you have learned alongside people whose life experiences may have been very different from your own,” said President George Timmons. “You have worked with classmates from different cultures, languages, identities, beliefs, and perspectives. Those experiences matter because they teach us one of the most important lessons any college can offer: that our differences do not weaken us; they strengthen us.”

Faculty speaker Patricia Sullivan, HCC professor of English and an HCC alum from the class of 1976, opened her remarks by asking all the graduates to stand, along with all the other people in the arena with a direct connection to the college.

“Graduates,” she said. “Look around and see that you are a part of our HCC community. HCC will always be part of your story, and HCC is lucky you chose us as the place to further your education.”

As the recipient of the 2026 Elaine Marieb Faculty Chair for Teaching Excellence Award, Sullivan, a lifelong Holyoke resident and teacher at the college since 1981, led the procession of graduates into the arena and gave the keynote address.

“Attending HCC was one of the best decisions I have ever made in my life, and years later, I was offered a job to teach here,” she said. “It was the thrill of a lifetime. HCC is my second home, and the people here my sec-



HCC's commencement ceremony took place on Saturday, May 30.

Submitted photo

ond family. I could have retired many years ago but have chosen to stay because I love my work here, the institution, and its people. My students have given me so much. You are the real heroes today.”

Cardenas talked about how she had left high school 26 years ago without any idea where her life would take her. Over the years she worked multiple jobs, taking opportunities as they came.

“I stayed involved in my community and kept searching for where my purpose fit,” she said. “Over the years, I built a life I was proud of. I met my wife – my greatest supporter. We built a home together and welcomed our daughter Sofia into the world.”

Working for the

American Red Cross for 20 years taught her compassion, resilience, and the importance of serving others she said. But after COVID, something shifted, the world felt uncertain and so did she.

“I realized there were pieces missing from my puzzle,” she said, “pieces I had been searching for without even knowing their shape.”

She took the leap and enrolled at HCC. Saturday, she graduated with high honors and her associate degree and will attend the Elms College bachelor's degree program in nursing on a Presidential Scholarship.

“To every adult learner here,” she said in closing, “it's never too late to begin again. Never stop searching for your missing pieces. Never stop learning. Never

stop growing. And never underestimate the power of a community that supports you, challenges you, and believes in your vision. Even when you're still trying to figure out the picture on the box.”

Graduates from Holyoke include: Ariana Stephanie Alvarado Diaz, Elliott Leo-Tate Anthony, Cedric Lucca Ayzavian, Henry Aidan Bayne, Fatima Bergman, Jacob Michael Bissonnette, Dustin Corey Bonnoyer, Liushka Borrero Ramos, Kelsy Margaret Brainard, Dawne K. Brown, William Michael Burke, Pearl Abigail Burns, Rihanna Ashley Cabrera, Destiny Calderon, Genesis Marie Cardona, Jeremy Misael Cruz, Julian Anatoly Danilchenko,

Alexis Jeremaiah De La Cruz, Seren Devers, Ishmael Flores, Yetzalee Garcia, Ana Gillis, LeJon Jacob Gonzalez, Kaylany Gracia, Grace Hanegan, Jordan Louise Hart, Nicole Louise Henchey, Victor

Michel Herlemont, Dhyani Ife, Tanner Owen Joseph, Zachary Thomas Kent, Jemima Mueni Kitsa, Wesley Kulig, Eliana Langlois, Legheda S. Laporte, Hannah Lynn Laprade, Cristal Marie LaSanta, Arnaldo Lassend, John Wayne Leblanc, Shawn Anthony Lebron, Tiffany Pearl Mackey, Khamauri Maitland, Oceana Maldonado, Gilmarys Marrero, Kiara M. Martinez Melendez, Lizbeth Martinez, Vincent Aldo Maupin, Luis Yandel Medina, Destiny Miller, Jamil Navarro, Erin Frances O'Donnell, Eithan Emilio Ortiz Viera, Nicole Rose Ouimet, Emely Palacio, Steven Joseph Pinkney, Anna Claire Puttick, Kristen Renta-Vazquez, Ashanti Ridley, Lily Michelle Rivera, Erykka Rocha, Jacob Thomas Rodriguez, Judeliz Rodriguez, Katelyn Roque, Jackie Rosa, Genessys Rosado, James Liam Ross, Olivia Rose Royland, Matthew Santiago, Melissa Ann Sepulveda, Minoshkielee Joanne Serrano, Seline Solis Suero, Aidan Stark, Sadie Francis Swindell, Stephen Andres Szweczyk, Mahaya Denise Tabira, Keilymar Vazquez Negron, Denisse Vazquez, Yashira Vazquez, Amy Renee Watson and Amani Willis.

REPLACE

, from page 1

The City of Holyoke invites interested residents to apply for interim appointment to the Ward 7 School Committee seat to complete Ms. Wilson's term. Those interested are asked to send their letters of interest, accompanied by a resume to:

**City of Holyoke
Personnel Office
20 Korean Veterans Plaza
Holyoke, MA 01040**

Letters of interest and resumes may also be submitted by email.

Applications will be accepted until June 17, although candidates are encouraged to submit their interest sooner than the deadline.

Candidates will be interviewed during a June 17 joint meeting of the Holyoke School Committee, City Council, and Mayor Joshua Garcia.

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