

Treasurer goes to ballot

Will the city treasurer become an appointed position?

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The city council voted unanimously to approve the budget question regarding making the treasurer a City Council-appointed position.

The appointed treasurer would have a term of three years and the needed qualifications would be established by an ordinance made by the city council.

This question will have to go to the state for approval, and then the city can run it as a special election alongside the federal election in November.

There had been debate in the charter and rules committee whether the position should be appointed by the city council or by the mayor. Either way, there was a desire to change the position from elected to appointed.

“I think there is a desire in the council to change it from an elected position to an appointed

See **VOTERS**, page 11

Gun violence awareness raised at event

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – City officials held a gun violence awareness event outside of City Hall on June 3, National Gun Violence Awareness Day.

At the event they handed out orange ribbons for attendees to wear. Orange is the color for national gun violence awareness as it is the color

hunters wear to protect themselves and others.

Also at the event they passed out orange hearts for attendees to write down the names of people they know who were affected by gun violence. The hearts were put up in the windows of City Hall.

The clock face of City Hall was lit up in orange over the weekend of June 8 to honor all of those affected by gun vio-

lence.

“It will be a tangible reminder and a way for everyone to participate,” Organizer Anne Thalheimer said.

Thalheimer hoped the event would help to bring legislative awareness to the issue of gun violence.

She herself was a student during a shooting at her school, where some of her friends and professors were killed during

the event. It was this incident that made her into an advocate for gun violence awareness.

“You do not come out of it the same person you were,” Thalheimer said.

Mayor Joshua Garcia also spoke out about the importance of gun violence awareness. He emphasized that there is only so much that local communities can do without federal support.

“Their inability to bring real change to this issue has put pressure on local governments everywhere,” Garcia said. “I have many people pointing straight to me saying, ‘mayor what are you going to do about this problem?’”

Garcia said that all he can do locally is invest in initiatives, such as shot spotter, investing in more police and active shooter lockdown drills in the schools.

However, many of these proposed initiatives have sparked debate in the community and created controversy.

“That’s the least we want to do in our community, is create divide,” Garcia said. “We have to do something because Congress doesn’t really give us much of an option.”

Garcia wants to create more initiatives in Holyoke, but he also finds himself struggling

See **AWARENESS**, page 6



Members of Roca gathered to show their support for the gun violence awareness event.

Turley photo by Quinn Suomala

City raises flag to celebrate ‘Pride Month’

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – Holyoke hosted a pride flag raising at City Hall on Monday, June 3.

This flag raising was to celebrate the month of pride, while also remembering all of the members of the LGBTQ+ community who have passed.

“Today, right now, we can

all love and mourn,” Colleen Court Member Natalie Morris said. “Love ourselves, love each other, mourn what we lost or what we could have had. Not in a way that’s sad, but in a way to honor ourselves and each other.”

Pride initially started as a riot, the Stonewall riot on June 28, 1969. It was that riot that began a complete change for LGBTQ+ rights, that allowed LGBTQ+ people to exist more safely in this country.

“June is pride month because of that,” City Councilor Juan Anderson-Burgos said. “For us, it’s important that these events happen during that month.”

While this movement has pushed the United States forward, many other countries are not as lucky.

“I want you to really acknowledge and be cognizant that moments like this are not possible everywhere around the world,” Jose Maldonado Velez said.

Mayor Joshua Garcia took the time to also acknowledge



Jose Maldonado Velez and City Councilor Juan Anderson-Burgos raised the pride flag to kick off Holyoke’s pride month celebration.

Turley photo by Quinn Suomala

See **PRIDE**, page 12

HUMBLE BEE



This humble bee is busy at work, stopping on an oddly named flower spiderwort, on its pollination journey. Turley photo by Kara Walsh-Vey

MacDuffie School held commencement at Mount Holyoke College



Class of 2024 Seven Year Seniors: Grace Marquez (Holyoke) and Emily Parnicky (Chicopee) at the commencement ceremony of Mount Holyoke College. *Submitted Photo*

HOLYOKE – The MacDuffie School held its 134th Commencement Exercises in Abbey Chapel at Mount Holyoke College on Saturday, June 1. The 50 members of the Class of 2024, from 8 different countries and 7 states, stood for their traditional photo on the steps, processed through the Chapel, and received their diplomas, as friends and family watched with pride.

Courage, character, and gratitude were the embedded themes of the Senior Speakers: Gabby Benoit (Belchertown) and Derrek Zhang (New Jersey). Head of School, Steve Griffin shared that the

people who make the biggest difference in your life are not the ones with the most credentials, but simply, the ones who care the most. His sincere hope was that “through MacDuffie’s promotion of the values of community, integrity and respect, and our value of active service, that a MacDuffie graduate is well equipped to be a caring individual; that caring nature will make a large contribution to you being an effective individual in your personal lives, your work lives, your communities, and beyond.” The Class of 2024 chose highly-respected teacher, Ms. Dawn Faber (Springfield) to be their

Faculty Speaker. Ms. Faber is our Director of Academic Support at MacDuffie. She presented three guiding principles to the graduates as they embrace their future: Do what you love; love what you do; Live within your means; Always look for the good and anticipate positive outcomes.

Once the prizes were awarded and the diplomas given, everyone joined in for the singing of the alma mater, The Magnolia Song. The graduates processed out of the chapel to Summer Suns Are Glowing. Refreshments and photo opportunities were plentiful on the Abbey Chapel lawn.

COLLEGE NOTES

STCC Dean’s List

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield Technical Community College celebrates the accomplishment of the 902 students who were named to the spring 2024 Dean’s List.

The Dean’s List is published each semester to recognize excellence in academic performance. To be considered, degree-seeking students must earn 12 or more college level credits in the current semester, or a total of 12 or more combined college-level credits earned during the fall and spring semesters, and achieve a 3.3 or above grade point average.

The following students are from Holyoke: Adalise Torres, Casey Dietz, Destiny Lee Rivera, Dylan Szostkiewicz, Ezra Clemens Prior, Giovanni Lee Rios, Jazion Roman, Jason Patrick Ferreira, Jayshalynn Oquendo, Jenny Louise Pike, Julie Elizabeth Guarente, Kaishla

Cabrera, Kathleen M. Denner, Kevin Jared Mendoza, Leiry Laura Garcia, Lorimar Rosado, Marangely Torres-Rosa, Margaret Ann Greaney, Michael Chatel, Moira Catherine Reardon, Renzo S. Ventrice and Robert Sears-Walter.

AIC celebrates 2024 graduates

SPRINGFIELD – American International College held its 139th commencement ceremony on May 11 at the Mass Mutual Center in Springfield, celebrating more than 600 graduates in the Class of 2024.

Jacinda Vazquez-Prieto of Holyoke received a Bachelor of Science degree in the Human Biology program.

Mariana Raphael of Holyoke received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree in the General Business program.

Corey Thomas of Holyoke received a Bachelor of Science in

Business Administration degree in the Management program.

Magaly Santana of Holyoke received a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study degree in the School Leadership program.

Xavier Ramos of Holyoke received a Master of Public Health degree in the Public Health program.

Melanie Wilkinson of Holyoke received a Master of Science in Nursing degree in the Family Nurse Practitioner program.

Keynote speaker Michael D. Smith - the CEO of AmeriCorps - regaled graduates, their families, and AIC faculty and staff with stories from his youth, growing up in the McKnight neighborhood of Springfield. Smith spoke of how being part of a community at the Boys and Girls Club of Springfield planted the seeds for his future in which he leads the country’s largest public volunteer force.

The ceremony saw 216 bachelor’s degrees, 279 master’s, seventy-two certificates of graduate study, and thirty-six doctorates awarded. The College’s

Interim President Nicolle Cestero invited the soon-to-be alumni to maintain close ties with their alma mater. “Return to the College often and stay connected with the community that has shaped you into the remarkable individual you are today. Whatever tomorrow holds for you, remember the lessons you’ve learned here, the challenges you’ve overcome, and the dreams that have fueled your aspirations.”

Spring Dean’s List at Stonehill College

EASTON – Ananda Hudson, a member of the Class of 2025 from Holyoke, has been named to the spring 2024 Dean’s List at Stonehill College. To qualify for the dean’s list, students must have a semester grade point average of 3.50 or higher and must have successfully completed all courses for which they were registered.

HCC announces spring 2024 Dean’s List

HOLYOKE – Each semester Holyoke Community College recognizes superior scholarship through the Dean’s List. A student is placed on the Dean’s List if their G.P.A. is 3.2 or higher. The students below have earned Dean’s List honors for the spring 2024 semester.

The following students are from Holyoke: Elizabeth Alvarado, Ryan Edward Aswegan, Maya A. Baksh, Jonathan Omar Benitez, Shae B. Blaisdell, Dustin Corey Bonnoyer, Liushka Borrero Ramos, Maximilian Alexander Bruel, Darien Bulgado, Katherine Mariel Cabrera Veloz, Alvin Rey Torres Carabuena, Andrea L. Cartabona, Yaritzia Castillo Torres, Luis Humberto Centeno, Lakeysha Tali Chavez, Ladeyshka Chavez, Michael Cranshaw, Jeremy Misael Cruz, Janiel Nehemias Cruz, Hayley Marie Cunningham, Destiny Zariah Davis, Christian De la Torre Santoyo, Brian Diaz, William Diaz Jr., Paige Hannah Dooley, Brendan Michael Duval, Margaret Eileen Farrell, Isabella Garbiel-Achorn, Karyna Gaston-Feliciano, Tessa Gauthier,

Avery Haskins, Nicole Louise Henchey, Anamaria Bianca Ivan, Estrella Marie Jusino, Nuriye Kartal, Brendan Joseph Kavanah, Cathryne Mary Kennedy- Cruz, Jordan Martha Larkin, Daley S. Levesque, Gabriel Ernesto Linares, Kaizer Maximus Lopez, Raymond William Lora-Pena, Desiree Angelica Luna-Walsh, Khamauri Maitland, Oceana Maldonado, Lizbeth Martinez, Luis Yandel Medina, Jennifer Marie Monserrate, Alejandra Lee Morales, David Moses, Michael Ernest Pepe, Izaak Antonio Perez, Elle Elizabeth Platanitis, Rosamond Jacinta Goncalves Porter, Jessica Mar-lyn Richards, Camryn Rist, Erykka Rocha, Jessica Conceicoa Sanches, Chasity Santiago, Destene Santiago II, Matthew Santiago I, Marcus J. Simon, Victoria Rose Smith, Kristina Smith, Aidan Stark, Patrick John Sweeney, Adam Joseph Sypniak, Verenyse Vargas, Marangely Vargas-Gonzalez, Mei-Lin Velez, Karen Webb, Aidan Clarence Whitley, Christine Winberg, Maria Fernanda Zaya and Ethan Malyke Zayas.



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Library releasing two new virtual walking tours

By **Quinn Suomala**
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Public Library is releasing two new walking tours that will be available through a website and a mobile app.

The library held a preview event for these tours on Saturday, June 8 where community members could come in and learn more about the tours, and offer feedback.

There were tables covered in paper and feedback forms so that those in attendance can easily provide feedback and respond to the content of the tours.

“People can respond to what they’re seeing, how it makes them feel, what questions it brings up, what they think we should do next, what they like, what they don’t like,” Archivist Eileen Crosby said.

During the event attendees got to preview the nearly 40 different tour stops

and discuss their thoughts and ideas with library staff and volunteers. They were also welcomed to offer their assistance with this community project.

These tours will go through The Flats of Holyoke as well as South Holyoke to try to tell the stories of these communities.

“We wanted to include more history of the community,” Crosby said.

Both of these tours will have both English and Spanish options to ensure that the majority of the Holyoke community is able to participate.

The Flats tour will have 19 different stops, including the foot bridge that used to go over the railroad tracks where the amtrak station is now.

“It wasn’t a magnificent building or structure, but it was there for a hundred years and it had a lot of memories associated with it,” Crosby said.

They also have a stop at McNally field that shows the history of the

Hispanic Family Festival.

The library also interviewed several Holyoke community members, including City Councilor Juan Anderson-Burgos and Former City Councilor Diosdado Lopez.

Crosby and the others involved in this project hope that this will allow people to learn more about the lesser-known history of Holyoke.

“There are parts of Holyoke’s history that are in great danger of getting lost and I’m hoping that this will be informative but will also inspire people to ask questions and do research and find out more,” Crosby said.

She hopes that visitors and Holyoke residents alike will be able to discover the city through these walking tours.

The library was able to pull together these tours thanks to the Expand Massachusetts Stories grant by the Massachusetts Humanities Foundation, which Crosby applied for.

“It was to find all kinds of storytelling projects but particularly projects that focused on bringing out stories that hadn’t been told,” Crosby said.

They wanted to go beyond the traditional walking tour that normally focuses on historic buildings, to discuss key buildings but also include the history of the community itself.

With the help of some bilingual staff at HPL, Crosby worked to pull the tours themselves together.

They also got some help from a company called STQRY, which helps institutions to build online walking tours.

Crosby is happy with how the two tours are so far, and she hopes that in the future they will be able to add even more, as the software they used for these tours will support five tours total.

To learn more about these tours, go to <https://www.holyokelibrary.org/> in the history room news and events section of the website.

PrideFest set for June 22

HOLYOKE – The City of HolyokePride Committee proudly announces the commencement of Pride Month with a series of vibrant and inclusive events designed to celebrate and support the LGBTQ+ community.

PrideFest will be on June 22. Mark your calendars for PrideFest, a vibrant celebration held at Veterans Park from noon to 6 p.m. The festival will feature live performances by renowned singer-songwriter Mary Lambert and Yuhua Hamasaki from season 10 of RuPaul’s Drag Race. Enjoy a day filled with music, food, art, and community spirit.

A full list of Pride Month events, including detailed schedules and additional activities, can be found on the official Holyoke Pride website at www.holyokepride.org.

The website also provides information on how to support Holyoke Pride through event sponsorships, donations, and volunteer opportunities.

City Councilor Juan Anderson-Burgos said, “Holyoke is a city that thrives on diversity and community spirit. Pride Month is a time to honor and support our LGBTQ+ neighbors, friends, and family members. We invite to join us in celebrating love, acceptance, and equality.”

Join in making this Pride Month memorable and impactful. For media inquiries, please contact: Jeff Bianchine at info@holyokeypride.org, 413-420-8303 ext 3. Stay connected with Holyoke Pride on social media: Facebook: HolyokePride, Twitter: @HolyokePride, Instagram: @HolyokePride.

Photographic tour of City Hall

HOLYOKE – The Friends of City Hall is sponsoring a photographic tour of Holyoke’s City Hall featuring photos by Stephanie Pierce. The photos will be on display from June 29 to July 28 at the Holyoke Heritage State Park Visitors Center at 221 Appleton St.

The Visitors Center is open daily from noon to 4 p.m. and admission is free.

Pierce, a native of Grand Rapids, Mich., is an architectural, industrial, and commercial photographer. Pierce received her Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Aquinas College where she also minored in Journalism. In 2012, she started a photography business currently located in the Indian Orchard Mills complex and online at www.spiercephotography.com.

Pierce took on the project of photographing the interior of Holyoke City Hall to ensure a photographic record of the unique interior elements of this gothic revival structure initially designed by architect Charles B. Atwood and later completed by Henry F. Kilburn.

A meet-the-artist reception will be held at the Center on June 29 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Pierce has donated a limited number of her photographs for purchase by the public with all proceeds going to support the restoration of the City Hall’s stained-glass windows.

The Friends of Holyoke City Hall and the Holyoke Preservation Trust are sponsoring Pierce’s effort. Those interested can purchase the limited-edition photographs, including those on display at the art exhibit, at www.holyokepreservationtrust.org.



Wistariahurst is an educational and cultural center owned and operated by the City of Holyoke and supported by The Wistariahurst Foundation. *Submitted Photo*

Go back in time with the Skinner Servants Tour at Wistariahurst

HOLYOKE – Spice up your summer with our Sizzling Summer with the Skinner Servants tour on July 14, 2024. Explore the first and second floors of the mansion while being escorted by one of the former housemaids. Beat the heat with this special ticketed event that will educate guests on the lives of the servants and workers who helped maintain and keep the household running back in the day. Guests will encounter the family nurse, housekeeper, chauffeurs, butlers, and private secretary, whose tales are documented in the Skinner Family archive. Seize the chance to explore the servants’ perspectives towards the family they worked for and understand the daily tasks they were entrusted with.

“Our costumed volunteers bring an incredible amount of life and learning into Wistariahurst,” praises Rachel Powell, the office assistant. “While you

may believe you already know quite a bit about Wistariahurst, our knowledgeable guides will undoubtedly teach you so much more. Their dedication and passion for history shine through, making the experience memorable and enriching.”

Our house tours at Wistariahurst offer a unique and unforgettable journey for its guests, and the Sizzling Summer with the Skinner Servants tour will surely delight all who attend. Two tours are available at 12:30 p.m. and 1 p.m. General admission is \$18, but admission for people with museum memberships is \$15. Guests are sure to enjoy this enriching walk as they journey back in time to explore the house and the perspective of labor from the workers’ point of view. Make this summer unforgettable and buy your tickets today. For more information go to <https://wistariahurst.org>.

VOC celebrating 50 years of WIC program

HOLYOKE – Valley Opportunity Council is celebrating 50 years of its Women, Infants and Children program with an event for families on Friday, June 14, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Holyoke Heritage State Park Visitor Center, 221 Appleton St.

The event will feature free fun family activities; a reading circle; free books for children; a snack demonstration; face painting; and fun on the Merry Go Round.

The VOC WIC Program provides healthy foods, nutrition education, breastfeeding support and referrals to healthcare and other services free of charge to qualified Massachusetts families. WIC serves

low- to moderate-income people in critical stages of growth and development. VOC has four WIC locations in Chicopee at 35 Mt. Carmel Ave., 2nd Floor; in Ludlow at Mid America Properties, 14 Chestnut Place; in Holyoke, 300 High St., 1st Floor; and in Westfield, 94 N. Elm St., Suite 207.

Mt. Tom State Reservation announces summer events

HOLYOKE – Mt. Tom State Reservation has entrances on Routes 5 and 141 on the Easthampton/Holyoke line. All programs are free of charge and admission to the park is free of charge after 4:30 p.m. on Saturdays. We meet at the picnic table next to the playground.

Bring water (none is available) and bug spray. For more info email to J6663@netzero.net

Mondays at 10:30 a.m. Senior Hike- A one hour hike on easy trails. Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. Advanced Hike for Seniors- 1-2 hour hike on all trails. We go slower and take many

breaks in consideration of the age group. Both hikes are free of charge.

Starting in July, Saturdays at 6:00 p.m. Family programs with a different topic each week. Come eat your dinner at a picnic table at 4:30 p.m. or so and then join in on the program at 6:00 p.m.

EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of July 4th, there will be an **EARLY AD DEADLINE**

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Guest Column

SOCIAL SECURITY
Matters
By Russell Gloor



Social Security's 'guaranteed' annual Cost Of Living Adjustment

Dear Rusty

I've been reading a lot lately about speculation on what next year's benefit increase will be, and it seems like most of the experts are suggesting a range of 2.5% to 3%. My neighbor says don't worry about it, because there will always be some level of increase come January. It's guaranteed, right?

Signed: Retired But Questioning

Dear Retired

You've brought up a common belief about the annual Social Security Cost Of Living Adjustment, one that we hear often. Let's start with some background. Each year's COLA results from comparing the third quarter average Consumer Price Index (CPI-W) each year to the same average from the preceding year.

The result of dividing the current year's average by the previous year's average produces the COLA for the following year. For 2024's adjustment, the 2023 third-quarter average was 301.2 and the comparable figure for 2022 was 291.9, producing the 3.2% benefit addition.

It's not always the case that the year-to-year CPI calculation produces a positive result, as was the case three times so far this century. As recently as 2016, for example, the 2015 third-quarter average was 233.3 and the comparable figure for 2014 was 234.2, producing a negative change. Fortunately for beneficiaries, Social Security law prohibits a negative COLA, so the negative result was ruled out

See SECURITY, page 5

Election letters to the editor welcome

The Holyoke Sun welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Holyoke Sun, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to thesun@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Friday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

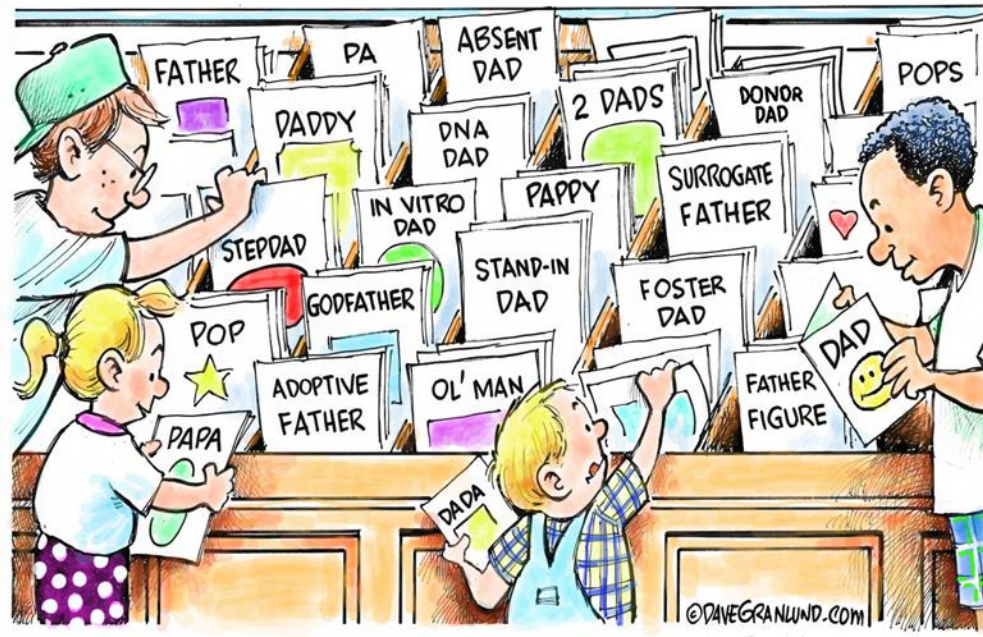
For more information, call 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

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

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

Reality FATHER'S DAY CARDS



Guest Column

June garden do's and don'ts



Iris

I get a lot of questions about what to do and when to do it! There are some gardening tasks that should be done now and other things you might be tempted to do now but should be done in another season. Read on from the archives to get your questions answered.

To ensure supermarket-size broccoli, do scratch in a tablespoon or two of balanced granular fertilizer around the base of your plants when heads are about the size of a quarter. Make sure the moisture is sufficient and harvest when the main head is still tightly packed but before it bursts into flower.

Do not, on the other hand, waste your fertilizer on beans – they generally grow well enough without extra food.

Do be on the look-out for the Asiatic Garden beetle – it has been spotted already, and earlier than normal. It is a tad smaller than the Japanese beetle and is chestnut brown in color.

Since it feeds during the night, look for chewed foliage in gardens or planter boxes under lampposts, street lights or other outside lights. Cultivate directly underneath the affected plant during the day and you will likely see the culprit scurry back into the soil.

This is one pest you don't want to have around – send them swimming in a soapy bath or you may not have any plants left!

Floating row covers are great tools to keep bugs off of young squash seedlings. Do not leave them on too long however, or pollinators won't be able to do their work. Remove the fabric at the first sign of blossoms.

Sweet William (*Dianthus Barbatus*) and Wild Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*) are at their peak right now. Do leave a few seed heads of these and other favorite biennials in place.

With any luck seeds will drop and you will have enough volunteers next spring to replace the parent plants and share them with your friends.

Don't be surprised to see all foliage and no flowers next year. Biennials bloom the second year from sowing, making only leaves the first year.

Do remove spent flowers from Mountain Laurel bushes – you don't even need any clippers! Simply bend the sticky stems forward and they should break right off. With the flowers gone the shrub can redirect energy spent on seed making into

forming next year's buds.

Don't wait much longer to prune spring flowering shrubs – next year's flowers are usually set in early to midsummer. Rose of Sharon should also be left alone – it will bloom in August. A haircut now would certainly be at the sacrifice of flowers.

Bearded iris can be divided now.

Start digging at the outer edge of the clump, lifting as you go. Once the entire clump is removed, rhizomes can be pried apart by hand.

The healthiest "fans" of foliage are those the furthest from the center. Leave about two inches of rhizome attached to each fan for replanting.

If you are changing your site altogether, keep in mind that irises need at least six hours of full sun a day for optimal flowering. They despise "wet feet," so plant where drainage is good.

If your soil is lean, compost can be added to richen it up. While you're at it, add a sprinkling of lime as well; irises prefer a soil near neutral.

Dig a shallow hole wide enough to fit the rhizome. Make a ridge of soil in the hole for it to sit on so that its fibrous roots can hang down. For optimal blooms, the top of the rhizome should be level with the soil surface and exposed, not buried.

If your peonies are overcrowded and have begun to bloom poorly division may be necessary.

Although it would be logical to think that this should be accomplished shortly after blooming, it is not the case. Tackle this project in September.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

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

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

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

Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

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

SECURITY, from page 4

and the COLA for 2016 was zero. So, the rumor that there will always be a benefit increase in January is untrue, although having only three zero COLA years since the start of automated adjustments in 1974 leads folks to assume there will always be a boost in the new year. The size of the adjustment fluctuates with economic cycles and has ranged from a high of 14.3% in 1980 to 0.3% in 2017 (excluding, of course, the zero years). Incidentally, the historical average since automatic COLAs began is 3.8%, so the 2024 adjustment of 3.2% isn't that far from the average.

Social Security's rules are myriad and often confusing, but no question is too simple to be asked. The AMAC Foundation's Social Security Advisory Service is available, at no charge, to answer all your Social Security questions, via email at SSAdvisor@amacfoundation.org or call 1-888-750-2622.

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

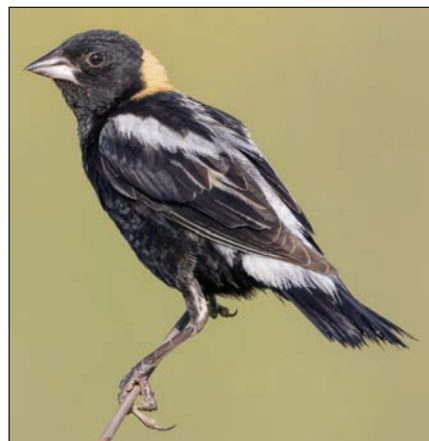


I received an email from a Brimfield resident. He said, "In Brimfield I found bobolinks at two locations, a field off of Hollow Road, and a field bisected by Agard Road. I'll check back to see if the birds at either field are successful in raising young."

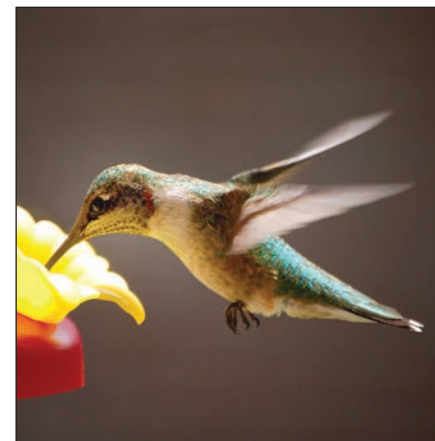
The male bobolink has a black head and body with a yellowish nape and white feathers on the rump and wings. The white rump is visible in flight. The female has brown streaks on the back and flanks, buff breast and dark line behind the eye.

Bobolinks feed on the ground, eating insects, weed and grass seeds. They inhabit hayfields and grasslands. There population declined due to loss of grassland breeding habitat and hunting during the last century to protect rice crops.

The female lays four to six cinnamon colored eggs with brown blotches in a nest of coarse grass and sedge lined with finer material on the ground. Urban development, reforestation and loss of dairy farms resulted in loss of their breeding habitat. Early cutting of hayfields can kill more than 80% of unfledged young. Their song is a long bubbling sound given by the male in flight. The call is a "pink."



Bobolink



Hummingbird

Hummingbirds

I receive an email from a resident of Lake Lashaway in North Brookfield. She said, "Hummingbirds arrived at my feeder May 3. They visited for a week, but I have not seen one in the last week and a half." She changed the sugar water mix, but still no hummingbirds. She said a neighbor has not seen hummingbirds recently.

Dusting turkey

A Brimfield resident, who frequently sends emails, said, "Recently I had noticed an area behind the house where the ground had been disturbed. I thought I knew what had caused the disturbance, but wanted to be sure so I set up a wildlife camera near the area. When I checked the camera some of the pictures showed what I expected, a turkey taking a dust bath."

On one occasion, he said, "the bird spent over half an hour taking a dust bath. Shortly after the bird finished one

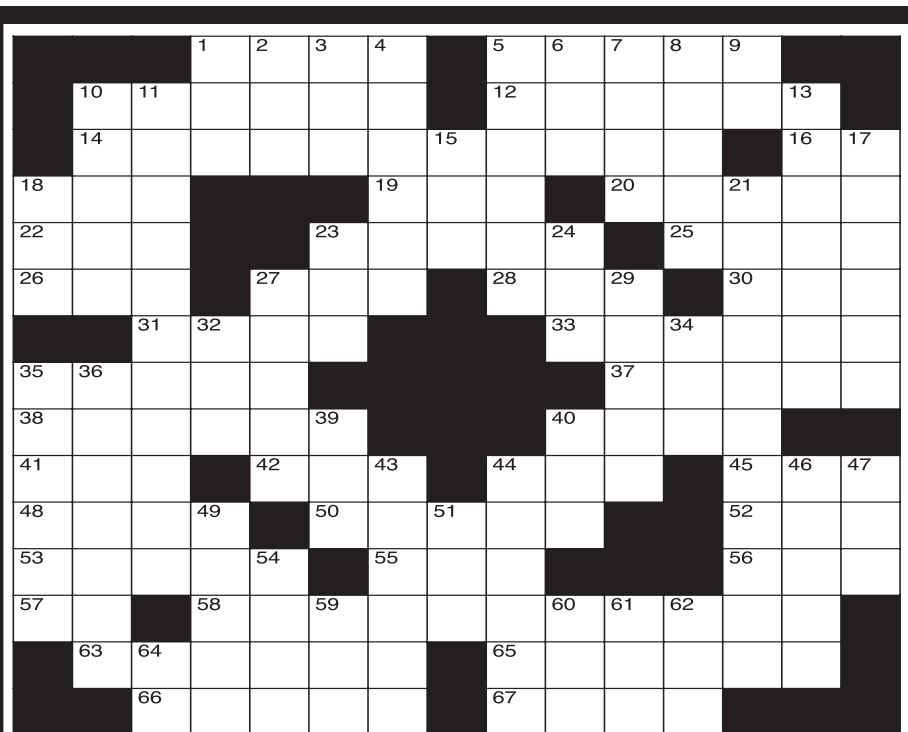
of our resident gray foxes spent some time checking out the area."

He also saw a great crested flycatcher taking a dust bath. He said, "On three different days, a flycatcher was seen taking a dust bath." The great crested flycatcher and a house wren are both using nesting boxes he put up in the yard.

Bear

The Brimfield resident had a bear take down his oriole jelly/oranges feeder. The jelly was eaten, but the oranges were untouched. He put the feeder back up with just oranges and no jelly. Last night nothing bothered the feeder.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Native American people
- 5. Very long periods of time (Brit.)
- 10. Schoolboard accessory
- 12. Rods
- 14. One who renews
- 16. Sculpted body part
- 18. Chatter incessantly
- 19. ___ King Cole, musician
- 20. Plates on a turtle's shell
- 22. University of Utah athlete
- 23. The world of the dead
- 25. Singer Redding
- 26. Former Yankee great Mattingly
- 27. Prefix indicating wrongly
- 28. Unhappy
- 30. Anger
- 31. Dark brown or black

- 33. Restaurants have a lot of them
- 35. Made a mistake
- 37. Damp
- 38. Type of gasoline
- 40. Actor LeBlanc
- 41. Perform in a play
- 42. One's mother
- 44. Prohibit
- 45. Swiss river
- 48. Part of a banana
- 50. Indian hand clash cymbals
- 52. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- 53. Agave
- 55. Noted journalist Tarbell
- 56. Computer firm
- 57. Type of record
- 58. Bacterium that can cause infection
- 63. Sheaths enclosing the spinal cord
- 65. A narrow opening (as in a rock wall)
- 66. Pattern

- 67. Very eager to see something

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Witch
- 2. Utilize
- 3. Writing utensil
- 4. Places to perform
- 5. Subsides
- 6. Consume
- 7. Athleisure clothing brand
- 8. California town
- 9. Atomic #50
- 10. The Muse of lyric and love poetry
- 11. Creates anew
- 13. Humorous commentaries
- 15. Cool!
- 17. Most ignoble
- 18. Soggy dirt
- 21. Designed to be useful
- 23. Hebrew unit of liquid capacity
- 24. High schoolers' test
- 27. One-time internet accessory
- 29. City in India
- 32. Furniture
- 34. You have likely chatted with one
- 35. Pass or go by
- 36. Proof of purchase
- 39. A digital tape recording of sound
- 40. More (Spanish)
- 43. Disfigured
- 44. White (Spanish)
- 46. Building occupied by monks
- 47. Georgia rock band
- 49. Device that generates intense beam of light
- 51. State of agitation
- 54. Make by braiding
- 59. Local area network
- 60. Unit of work or energy
- 61. Indigenous person of Thailand
- 62. Liquefied natural gas
- 64. Distance to top

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 9

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



Representative Patricia Duffy encouraged attendees to reach out to their Congress people about gun violence.



Mayor Joshua Garcia shared some of the work he has done and some of the challenges he has faced in addressing gun violence in Holyoke.



City Councilor Patti Divine emphasized the importance of gun violence awareness.



State Sen. John Velis shared his ideas on what to focus on to decrease gun violence.



Young Roca Member Jalen McDonald shared some of the work Roca is doing to support young people.



Holyoke Resident Lyn Horan shared her experience with gun violence. *Turley photos by Quinn Suomala*



Organizer Anne Thalheimer shared information about the initiative to raise gun violence awareness in Holyoke.

AWARENESS, from page 1

to find solutions that are debated, ones that don't create division.

"My concern as mayor is how do I get my community to work together and do what we need to do to proactively address these issues without dividing?" Garcia said. "That's where I get frustrated."

Another event attendee, Lyn Horan, encouraged people to write to Congress and ask them to do more about gun control.

Senator John Velis was present at the event and he agreed that more needed to be done for gun violence. He emphasized the importance of prevention and increased support for mental health.

"Why is it that so many young men and women feel like they need to turn to the world of gun violence?" he said. "Why don't we make it so the individual is never exposed to the criminal justice system? Why don't we start there? So instead of talking about mandatory minimum sentences, we're talking about where this individual is going to college?"

Garcia agreed that prevention is key. He also asked about how to come up

with short-term prevention ideas, rather than long-term ones.

"We all know we need to invest more in our youth, and we're doing that...that's long-term prevention, but what about the next hour and thirty minutes from now?"

Unfortunately, many of these questions do not have concrete answers.

Thankfully in Holyoke and surrounding areas there is Roca, a local organization that provides support to the community. Their goal is to try to disrupt poverty, incarceration and racism through engaging youth and community partners.

"We relentlessly work with these young men and women and our program has a great success rate," Roca Member Shaun Hurst said. "We bring them in and help them change their behavior, because that's what it's about, behavior change. We help them to stop and think instead of reacting off an emotional trigger."

This organization works hard to support communities around it, and they hope that their support can help to prevent future acts of violence from people who feel they have no other choice.

To learn more about Roca, go to <https://rocainc.org/who-we-are/overview/>.

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Blue Sox outlast Nighthawks in extra innings

HOLYOKE – The Valley Blue Sox took down the Upper Valley Nighthawks 4-1 in extra innings earlier this week.

In a stalemate 1-1 game Tuesday night, filled with good pitching and in/outfield play, the fifth man in the lineup for the Upper Valley Nighthawks Chris Baillargeon walks up to the plate where he'd be 0-3 so far on the night. On a 2-2 count, Conor Wolf stares down Baillargeon and delivers a fastball down the middle that Baillargeon crushes into left. The Blue Sox watched with all the hard work they'd done throughout the game hanging in the balance on one hit, as it soared past the infield and to the back wall. However, left-fielder Jack Basseer had other plans for the Blue Sox as he rose up to make a fantastic grab at the wall to give the Blue Sox the second out of the inning, and eventually giving the Nighthawks another score-

less inning.

This game remained 1-1 through nine innings, forcing an exhilarating 10th inning. On an added note, the New England Collegiate Baseball League (NECBL) does not play traditional extra innings as the MLB does. With a runner on second base at the start of each half, both teams have opportunities to score with this extra advantage.

With Logan Hugo on third base after he stole a base in the top of 10th, Michael Toth hits a sacrifice single as Hugo runs home. After a late throw home from the pitcher, Hugo is ruled safe and the stalemate from the second inning is finally broken. Shortly after, Justin Butler hit a massive double as well, bringing both Frankie Ferrentino and Michael Toth home to increase the lead to 4-1, sealing the win for the Blue Sox.

See BLUE SOX, page 8



Jess Mazo tries to settle the ball.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Theriault makes big impact in Mutiny debut

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW – Maddy Theriault scored a total of 143 goals and had 39 assists during her outstanding varsity soccer career at Palmer High School.

Theriault, who'll be a junior on the Fairfield University women's soccer team in the fall, made a major impact in her first match as a member of the New England Mutiny.

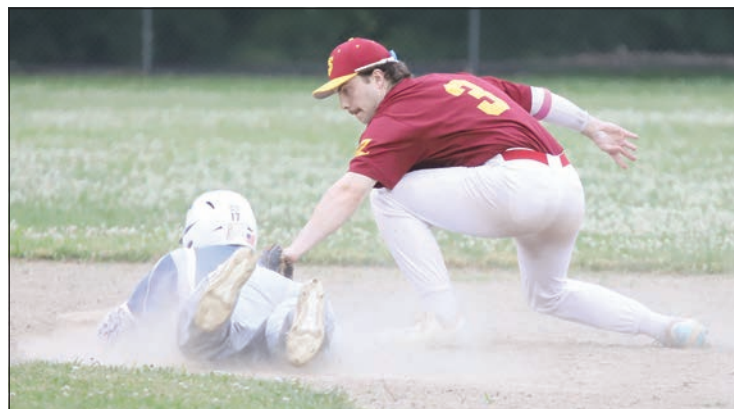
Theriault, who's a forward, posted a hat-trick leading the Mutiny to a 7-1 victory in their most recent home match against the Albany Rush at Lusitano Stadium on June 1.

"It's really nice to play for a very good summer soccer team," said Theriault, who played a match at Lusitano Stadium for the first time in more than ten years. "I'm very excited to be a member of this

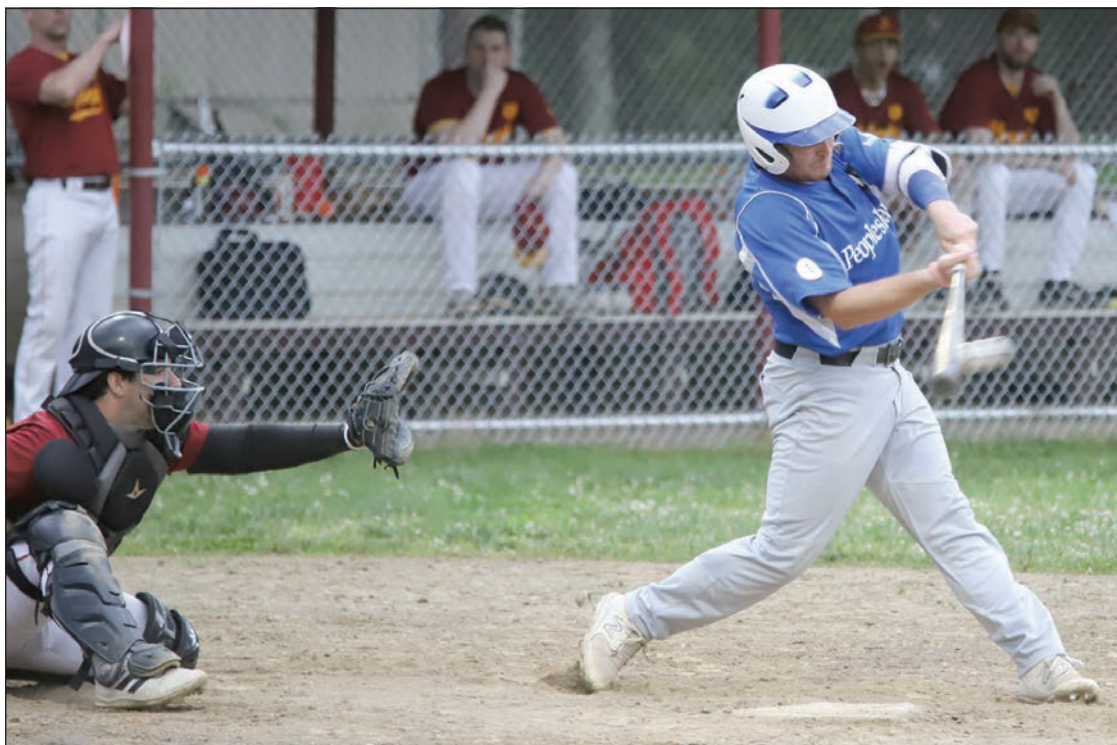
See MUTINY, page 8



Devin Slattery, of Ware, makes a play at short for St. Joe's.



Devin Slattery tags out Cam Rivest, of Agawam, at second base.



Cam Rivest swings and connects for the Bankers.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Tri-County season gets underway

PALMER – Though its size has struggled in recent years, the Tri-County Baseball League, the premier adult baseball league in Western Massachusetts, is back up to seven teams this year and the Franklin County is also once again represented. The venerable league veteran teams of PeoplesBank and St. Joseph's played their season opener against one another at St. Joe's Field last Friday night. This year, they are joined by the Chicopee Falls Tigers, which made a return to the league two years ago

after a hiatus, bankESB, which also took a hiatus and returned this season. The Longmeadow Cardinals a returning team and Teddy Bear Pools takes over as the sponsor for 413ATC. A previous team that played its games at Frontier Regional High School rejoins the league this year with a sponsor of Hilltown Tents. The Bankers are once again the defending league champions, and the season will be an 18-game schedule with each team facing their opponents three times each.



Cam MacDonald picks up a grounder to third.



Left-hander Jimmy Flahive fires a pitch to the plate for PeoplesBank.

Registration now open for 18th annual Owl Club Golf tournament

WESTFIELD – Registration is now open for the 18th annual Owl Club Golf Tournament, which will be played on Monday, Aug. 5 at Crestview Country Club in Agawam, Mass.

The tournament is a primary fund-raising event to support Owls athletics.

Registration is open at www.westfieldalumni.org/OwlGolf

New Owls' head football coach Lou Conte, Jr. will be the guest of honor for the tournament. Meet coach Conte and learn about his plans for the future of the Owls program, while enjoying a great day of golf.

"It's a great chance for us to introduce Lou to some of our most loyal alumni, and the folks that support Westfield State athletics," said Westfield State director of athletics Richard Lenfest, Jr. "It's great that Lou has ties

here in the local area, and I think that everyone will look forward to hearing his approach to Westfield State football."

Conte joins the Owls after a year as head coach at American International College in Springfield, and a seven-year stint as an assistant and offensive coordinator at The Citadel, a NCAA Division I program in the Southern Conference.

The Owl Club Golf Tournament includes 18 holes with cart in a scramble format, a cookout style lunch before the round, and a buffet dinner following. Raffles, on course contests, and a player's oasis on the course helps to ensure an enjoyable round for golfers of all levels. For more information on the tournament, [CLICK HERE](#).

The event has been popular with alumni, parents, friends and fans, and has sold out for the last 15 events. Westfield

Bank will serve as the lead sponsor for the event.

Register early to ensure your team's participation. Foursomes are preferred, but we will pair individuals or smaller groups.

"It's always a great day to see a lot of old friends and classmates, and some of the sponsors that really help to support the accomplishments of our talented student-athletes," added Lenfest. "The golf is fun, but the proceeds help to put our Smith Cup-winning programs in position to be as competitive as possible on the field and in the classroom."

Westfield Bank serves as the title sponsor of the event. Additional sponsor packages are still available; contact Associate Athletic Director Dave Caspole at 413-572-5433 or dcaspole@westfield.ma.edu.

BLUE SOX, from page 7

"I just dug in my normal approach that I have," Butler said. "It's been working out for me but surely out tonight, so happy to happen and glad the Sox gotta win for sure."

To recap the win, Gregory Shaw started on the mound for the Blue Sox, pitching over four innings with four strikeouts and only giving up one earned run off three hits.

Upper Valley did not go down without a fight either, with Joseph Purcell starting the game on the mound. Purcell also only gave up one earned run off three hits in three innings. It was a solid game for the senior out of Slippery Rock University, but in the end the Blue Sox took this game from the Nighthawks through their brick wall of a defense in the in/outfield.

"It was a very gritty game and you got to tip our cap to the pitching staff of the Nighthawks and even their hitters, too," Butler said. "I mean, they swung it well and they pitched so well. So it was just that we had to score more than them, and luckily we came out on top tonight."

T-Birds name assistant coaches for new season

ST. LOUIS, MO – Springfield Thunderbirds General Manager Kevin Maxwell announced today that the team has hired Jaroslav Modry and Chad Wiseman as assistant coaches. They join head coach Steve Konowalchuk on the new coaching staff for the 2024-25 season.

Modry, 53, joins the Thunderbirds for his second tour of duty as an assistant coach in the AHL. He served in the same capacity with the Ontario Reign from 2017-20. Since 2021, Modry has been coaching in the Czech professional league, where he served as the head coach for HC Motor České Budějovice during the 2021-22 and 2022-23 seasons. Last season, he served as the head coach for HC Kometa Brno.

During his playing career, Modry skated in 725 NHL games as a defenseman for six different teams (NJD, LAK, OTT, ATL, DAL, PHI), recording 250 points (49g, 201a) and 510 penalty minutes. He also captured a Calder Cup championship with the Albany River Rats in 1995. Modry was originally a ninth-round pick by the New Jersey Devils (179th overall) in the 1990 NHL Draft.

Wiseman, 43, joins the Thunderbirds following two seasons as the head coach for the Guelph Storm in the Ontario Hockey League, where he compiled a 68-56-12 record and led the Storm to back-to-back playoff appearances. He previously served as an assistant and associate coach in Guelph from 2018-22. Wiseman also brings prior head coaching experience, serving in that capacity with the New York (Metropolitan) Riveters in the National Women's Hockey League from 2015-18.

Wiseman enjoyed a 14-year playing career, including parts of 11 seasons in the AHL for six different franchises. The forward set a career-high with 59 points (24g, 35a) in 2009-10 as a member of the Springfield Falcons. In 603 lifetime AHL games, Wiseman posted 431 points (171g, 260a) and 560 penalty minutes. He also skated in nine NHL games with the New York Rangers and San Jose Sharks between 2002 and 2006. Wiseman was originally an eighth-round pick by the Sharks (246th overall) in the 2000 NHL Draft.

MUTINY, from page 7

soccer team. It's close to Palmer and I get to play with a bunch of great players. It's a lot of fun."

The home victory improved the Mutiny's season record to 3-0-0. They've outscored their first three opponents, 14-3.

The other two Mutiny forwards are Chioma Okafor, who plays soccer at UConn, and Cat Berry, who plays at the University of South Carolina.

"Both of them are amazing soccer players," Theriault said. "We work very well together, and I really enjoy playing on the same team with them."

Unfortunately, Berry, who recorded a hat-trick in the Mutiny's previous match against Sporting CT, will be heading back to South Carolina in a couple of weeks.

Okafor, who plays at UConn, is also a first-year Mutiny player. She netted the only goal of the opening half during the fifth minute.

The scoring play began with Berry sending a pass from the left side to Theriault, whose shot attempt was deflected away by Albany goalie Molly DiCarrio, who made a couple of key saves during the first half.

Okafor was in the right spot to knock home the rebound shot giving the Mutiny an early 1-0 advantage.

Berry had several shots on goal during the final 40 minutes of the first half, but they were saved by DiCarrio, who plays soccer at Clarkson University.



Maddy Theriault, of Palmer, scored three goals in her Mutiny debut on June 1. Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

The Mutiny was still leading 1-0 at halftime.

Less than five minutes into the second half, Okafor was fouled in the box and the Mutiny were awarded a penalty kick from referee Stephanie MacFarland.

It was an all-female official crew. The two assistant referees were Julia Connor, and Diana Kolodziey, who's the Director of the prestigious Pioneer Summer Soccer League, along with her husband, Chris. The fourth official was Meghan Litten.

Mutiny midfielder Avery Klingensmith, who plays college soccer at American University, stepped up to the line and delivered a line-drive shot into the upper right corner of the net.

Klingensmith, who graduated from Belchertown High School, and Theriault faced each other a couple of times during their varsity careers.

"I played soccer against Maddy at the youth level and in high school, so it's great to finally be playing on the same team with her," Klingensmith said. "Maddy is a very hard worker, and she had a hat-trick in tonight's game. I think it's awesome to have a lot of the local players playing for this team."

Theriault scored her first goal wearing a Mutiny uniform during the 59th minute.

The initial shot which was taken by Jess Mazo was saved by DiCarrio, but Theriault put home the rebound shot.

"I just knew the ball was going to ricochet off the goalie, so I just wanted to get in the right position to score a goal," Theriault said. "It felt very nice to

score my first goal with this team."

About sixth minutes later, Theriault fired a left footed shot into the back of the net from the middle of the box, which gave her new soccer team a commanding 4-0 lead. Mazo was credited with the assist.

After receiving a pass from Berry, Theriault completed her hat-trick by scoring another goal during the 69th minute. She came out of the game at that point.

"It's very exciting scoring my first hat-trick with this team," Theriault said. "I was just in the right place at the right time. I'm just glad that I could help my team win tonight's game."

Mutiny head coach Federico Molinari was impressed with Theriault's performance.

"This was the first game that Maddy was on the roster, and she did very well," Molinari said. "We played a lot better in the second half."

Mazo, who also played college soccer at UConn last year, scored a goal, which was assisted by Berry, during the 71st minute.

The Mutiny's final goal of the home match was scored by Catie Bean.

Just when it looked like Mutiny goalie Katrina Chorzeпа would post her first shutout of the regular season, Ruth Hotaling netted a stoppage time goal for the Rush (0-2-0).

The Mutiny will be playing their first road match of the season against the Maine Footy on Saturday night. Their next home match will be against the Hudson Valley Crusaders at 7pm on June 15.



Chioma Okafor works in traffic.

City of Holyoke Office of Purchasing 536 Dwight Street, Room 3 Holyoke, MA 01040 Invitation to Bid 2024-58FD REBID AC Replacements Fire Stations #3 Filed Sub Bids Due 6/27/24 @ 1:30PM GC Bids Due 7/16/2024 @ 1:30PM All documents available at biddocs.com

The City of Holyoke invites written proposals from qualified individuals or firms for the construction of the "HVAC Replacement, Fire Stations Nos. 3 & 6, Holyoke, MA" in accordance with Contract Documents prepared by R.W. Hall of Agawam, MA and the City of Holyoke. Fire Station No. 3 is located at 1579 Northampton Street and Fire Station No. 6 is located at 640 Homestead Avenue, Holyoke, MA. DCAMM Certificate required in the category of work defined as MECHANICAL SYSTEMS. Filed Sub Bids in the Category ELECTRICAL.

A pre-bid walkthrough will be held starting at Fire Station #3 on June 18, 2024 @ 12PM. Full specs will be available on June 12, 2024 @ 12PM EST. This project is being managed electronically through biddocs.com. Bids will be received until June 27, 2024 @ 1:30pm for Electrical Sub Bid Category, GC Bids are due by July 16, 2024 @ 1:30PM at which time they will be opened and read according to MGL Ch.30B and all applicable MA public purchasing laws. This project is funded with Federal funds. Respondents will be verified for eligibility to receive Federal funds and must comply with all Federal requirements including Part 200. The city reserves the right to reject any and all bids. 06/14/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD24P1199EA Estate of: Prudence Lamont Dubois Also known as: Prudence L Dubois Date of Death: 04/18/2024 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Michael J Dubois of Holyoke, 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: Michael J Dubois of Holyoke, 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 06/27/2024. This is NOT a hearing date, but a dead-

line by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court. Date: May 30, 2024 Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate 06/14/2024

LEGAL NOTICE CITY OF HOLYOKE GAS & ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT 637 LINE RECONDUCTORING

Sealed proposals for the above contract will be received by Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept. until 2:00 p.m., September 10, 2024, at the Office of the Manager, 99 Suffolk St., Holyoke, MA 01040, at which time proposals will be publicly opened and read.

Prevailing Wage Rates set by the Mass. Dept. Labor & Industries shall be paid to all people engaged in work under this contract.

All Bidders are required to submit a Bid Deposit equal to 5% of the total value of the bid.

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

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

Please mark sealed envelopes "Bid for 637 Line Reconductoring" and address them to:

James M. Lavelle, Manager Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept. 99 Suffolk St. Holyoke, MA 01040 06/14/2024

City of Holyoke Office of Purchasing 536 Dwight Street, Room 3 Holyoke, MA 01040 Requests for Quotes Painting 13 Classrooms Morgan School 2024-59SD

The Holyoke School Department is soliciting quotes for the painting of 13 classrooms located at Morgan School 596 South Bridge Street Holyoke MA 01040. The painting includes all the walls within, the doors and door jambs in each room. Each classroom has an average of 2 doors each and the each of the classrooms itself has a floor area of roughly 900 square feet with 9-foot-

tall ceilings. The number of coats of paint will be two or as many as it takes to cover the areas properly with the colors and sheens to be determined later. Non-Mandatory but highly recommended pre bid walkthrough on June 17th, 2024 @ 4PM at Morgan School. Starting June 12, 2024 @ 1PM documents can be requested electronically from tomorrow@holyoke.org or sweeneye@holyoke.org. Quotes are due electronically to tomorrow@holyoke.org with a CC to sweeneye@holyoke.org no later than Thursday June 27th, 2024 @ 2PM, at which time they will be opened and read according to MGL Ch.30B and all applicable MA public purchasing laws. Project being funded using Federal Funds. Eligibility to receive Federal Funds will be verified. City reserves the right to reject any and all bids. 06/14/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield MA, 01103 Docket No. HD23P2663PM

In the matter of: Jose Rodriguez Of: Holyoke, MA Protected Person/Disabled Person/Respondent CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF CONSERVATOR'S ACCOUNT

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the First and Final account(s) of Nancy C. Godbout of Granby, MA as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance.

You have the right to object to the account(s). If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 07/02/2024. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection

is based and a copy shall be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court.

You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the Petition and account(s) at no cost to you.

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. Barbara M. Hyland, First Justice of this Court. Date: May 28, 2024 Rosemary A. Saccomani Register of Probate 06/14/2024

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS SUPERIOR COURT HAMPDEN, SS. CASE NO. 2479CV00062 Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee for Saxon Asset Securities Trust 2006-2 Mortgage Loan Asset Backed Certificates, Series 2006-2 (Plaintiff) VS. Catrina Durise Moye, Malcolm Willis and All Unknown Heirs, Devises or Legal Representatives of the Estate of Willie Willis (Defendants)

Liberty Park Condominium Trust, Commonwealth of Massachusetts acting through its Department of Revenue and United States of America acting through its Department of the Treasury (IRS Division) (Defendants/Parties-In-Interest

TO: All Unknown Heirs, Devises or Legal Representatives of the Estate of Willie Willis

This cause came on to be considered on the Plaintiff's Motion For Alternative Service on Defendant, "All Unknown Heirs, Devises and Legal Representatives of the Estate of Willie Willis" via publication.

It is ORDERED, and Adjudged that an order of notice issue to said defendant by publishing an attested copy of this notice once a week for three consecutive weeks in The Republican and The Sun, newspapers of general circulation in Hampden County and in the Town of

Holyoke with the first publication in each newspaper to be on or before June 14, 2024.

You are hereby notified that a complaint has been filed by the above-named Plaintiff with the Hampden County Superior Court (the "Court") in which you are named as a Defendant. The address of the Court is Hall of Justice, 50 State Street, P.O. Box 559, Springfield, MA 01102-0559. This complaint concerns a certain parcel of land in Holyoke, Hampden County, Massachusetts, being known as and numbered 344 Maple Street a/k/a 336-344 Maple Street, Unit No. 344 of the Library Park Condominium. In the complaint, Plaintiff prays for a judgment declaring that (a) Plaintiff is a party entitled to enforce the terms of a certain Loan Modification Agreement dated July 19, 2019 (the "Modification") between Willie Willis and the Plaintiff through Plaintiff's loan servicer, PHH Mortgage Corporation; (b) Plaintiff is the owner and/or party otherwise entitled to enforce the terms and conditions of the Modification; and (c) Plaintiff, as the owner and/or party otherwise entitled to enforce the terms of the Modification, is also the holder of the Mortgage dated June 7, 2006 given by Willie Willis to Saxon Mortgage, Inc. DBA Saxon Home Mortgage recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 15962, Page 453 and entitled to exercise the default remedies provided for therein, including exercise of the statutory power of sale.

This complaint is available for viewing and/or downloading from the Massachusetts' Judiciary's Electronic Filing System or you may obtain a copy by submitting a written request to Plaintiff's attorney, whose address appears below. You may also make your request to Plaintiff's counsel by email at jmcnicholas@kordeassociates.com.

If you intend to make any defense, you are hereby required to file your answer or other responsive pleading with the Court AND to serve a copy of your answer or other responsive pleading upon the Plaintiff's attorney, John S. McNicholas, Esq., Korde & Associates, P.C. whose address is 900 Chelmsford Street, Suite 3102, Lowell, MA 01851 on or before (insert date) July 18, 2024 which date is no less than twenty (20) days after the last publication of this notice.

If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief

demanded in the complaint. Unless otherwise provided by the Massachusetts Rules of Civil Procedure, your answer must state as a counterclaim any claim which you may have against Plaintiff which arises out of the transaction or occurrence that is the subject matter of Plaintiff's claim, or you will thereafter be barred from making such claim in any other action.

Unless otherwise provided by Mass. Rule of Civil Procedure 13(a) your answer must state as a counterclaim any claim which you have against the Plaintiff, Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee for Saxon Asset Securities Trust 2006-2, Mortgage Loan Asset Backed Certificates, Series 2006-2, which arises out of the transaction or occurrence that is the subject matter of the Plaintiff's claim or you will be forever barred from making such claim in any other action.

By the Court Entered: June 7, 2024 /s/ Edward J. McDonough, Jr., J. 06/14, 06/21, 06/28/2024

INVITATION TO BID: Library Commons Phase II 213 Chestnut St., 344 Appleton St., 188-190 Chestnut St. and 207 Elm St. Holyoke, MA

Project is comprised of four buildings and 41 units.

Building A is an existing historic building requiring:

selective demolition of interior, and full renovation into new apartment units.

Buildings B, C, and D are new construction of multiunit townhomes.

Project is: Tax Exempt and Open Shop

This contract is subject to contract compliance requirements.

Bid Due Date: 7-2-24 @ 3 pm

If you are interested in bidding, Please email Taylor Els tels@haynesct.com 203-888-8139 your business contact and trade information, we will add you to Procure and send you the ITB.

HCC encourages the participation of all Veteran.

S/W/M/VBE, SDVOBE, DOBE, LGTBTE, PBE & Section 3 Certified Businesses

HAYNES CONSTRUCTION COMPANY 32 Progress Ave., Seymour, CT 06483 AA/EEO EMPLOYER 06/14/2024



EARLY DEADLINES In observance of July 4th, PUBLIC NOTICES EARLY AD DEADLINE Place your public notice no later than NOON Thursday, June 27 - Thank you!



Farmers Market celebrates 45th season, kicks off this week

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Farmers Market announces the kickoff of its 45th season, which began June 11 and June 12, marking another year of serving the greater Holyoke community with accessible, fresh produce. As a cornerstone of the local community, the market remains dedicated to its mission of promoting healthy eating habits and supporting local farmers.

Since its inception, the Holyoke Farmers Market has been a vital hub for both residents and farmers alike, fostering connections and promoting sustainability. With its 45th season kickoff, the market reaffirms its commitment to providing high-quality, locally sourced fruits, vegetables, and other goods to residents in Holyoke and surrounding areas. “The Holyoke Farmers Market continues to grow and expand as we aim to serve the community’s needs better and provide greater access to locally grown and produced items,” said Market Manager Alexis Diaz Dejesus. He adds, “Farming and community have been passions of mine for years, which is what drew me originally to this position. I am grateful to have such strong community partners that can continue our dedication to ensuring that everyone in our community has

access to fresh, nutritious produce.”

For over 10 years, the Holyoke Farmers Market has operated under the Greater Holyoke Chamber and has undergone some transformations over the years. Executive Director, Jordan Hart said “With the market as the hub for Holyoke’s local food economy, we have been grateful to bring on strong partners like Holyoke Health Center, Holyoke Medical Center, and new this year, Greenfield Cooperative Bank. It’s through working together as a team to make sure that we are fulfilling our mission to support local agriculture and healthy communities by strengthening and promoting access to fresh, local food for all people. The Chamber is beyond proud of its successes and cannot wait to see it continue to flourish.”

For years, the Farmers Market has struggled with being a self-sustaining program, and we welcome Greenfield Cooperative Bank as our premier Market Day Sponsor. “At Greenfield Cooperative Bank, we’re committed to supporting initiatives that promote healthy living and economic sustainability. The Holyoke Farmers Market provides a vital platform for our local farmers, strengthens our food system, and allows our neigh-

bors access to nutritious, quality produce. We’re proud to offer our support and honored to be a part of its continued success,” said Tony Worden, President & CEO, Greenfield Northampton Cooperative Bank.

Continuing to hold two weekly markets, Tuesday’s downtown in Veterans Park and Wednesday’s at Holyoke Medical Center, adds to our commitment to accessibility, offering a diverse array of products at affordable prices. “Access to healthy food was a need identified in Holyoke Medical Center’s last community health needs assessment,” shared Holyoke Medical Center’s Community Benefits Director, Lisa Wray Schechterle. “By providing a farmers market, we’re increasing access to healthy food to the community in immediate neighborhoods, to patients coming for appointments, and to employees. In addition, the same two free shuttles the hospital provides for patients to get to their appointments can be used to access the market. The shuttles run throughout the city, with stops at Holyoke Health Center, several apartment buildings, the YMCA, and the Holyoke Senior Center. They can be used to access both the Tuesday and Wednesday markets. The

transportation schedule is available at www.holyokehealth.com/ride.”

In addition to providing access to fresh produce, the Holyoke Farmers Market serves as a vibrant community space, where neighbors can gather, share stories, and celebrate local culture. Live music, cooking demonstrations, and educational workshops are just a few of the events that make the market a beloved destination for residents of all ages. “As we celebrate our 45th season, we reflect on the incredible journey that has brought us to this point,” said Diaz Dejesus. “But our work is far from over. We remain committed to fostering a healthier, more vibrant community for generations to come.”

The Holyoke Farmers Market invites residents and visitors alike to join in the festivities as it kicks off its 45th season. The market will be open every Tuesday, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Veterans Park, and Wednesdays, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Holyoke Medical Center, Lot D, offering an abundance of fresh, locally sourced produce and goods.

For more information about the Holyoke Farmers Market, visit holyokechamber.com/elmercado or follow them on social media @holyokeFM.

VOTERS, from page 1

position and the thinking was that this is what was possible,” City Councilor Meagan Magrath-Smith said. “Even though there were some folks who were hesitant about it being elected by council...because other financial appointments are made by the council.”

Eventually the committee put it forward with the recommendation that the position be city council appointed.

Associate Solicitor Michael Bissonnette wrote up the needed legal language for the ballot question, which the council approved of.

“I thought Mike did a great job,” City Councilor David Bartley said. “He’s really on point, it really just hammers home everything...I think Mike covered

all the bases relative to what it is we want to do.”

The only hesitation the council had on approving this question was if the city wanted to put forward the necessary funds for this question to be on the ballot for this year.

“One piece that we’ve been talking about over the last 24 hours is that effectively we’re going to have a really hard time putting this on our own ballot unless we find the funding for it,” Magrath-Smith said.

In order to put this on the ballot, the city would have to send out three different ballots to the residents of Holyoke, two for the federal election and one for the state election.

“I’m pretty sure we’re going to have to send the two ballots for the federal

election in one envelope and the ballot for the special election in another envelope, which would cause double the postage and we only get reimbursed for the federal election,” City Clerk Brenna McGee said.

Each ballot that goes out costs about a dollar or a dollar fifty, and the city anticipates sending out about 5,000 ballots. Therefore, it would be a fairly substantial cost to send out the special election ballot.

One councilor brought up the question if they would be sending out an additional ballot anyway due to the CPA ballot question. However, McGee clarified that a question on the CPA is one of the few municipal questions that can be added to a federal election.

City Councilor Kevin Jourdain

pointed out that if they waited to put this question on the ballot, then it would force those interested in being treasurer for 2026 to run a full campaign for the November 2025 election, as if the question was voted down, there would need to be a treasurer elected.

“I really would rather see it done this year than waiting for next year because to put the treasurer and quite frankly the city in limbo for yet another year if this is going to pass or not,” Jourdain said. “To make him [Rory Casey] wait until November of 2025 to know what the results are going to be, I’m not sure if it’s really fair.”

With this input in mind, the council voted unanimously to approve this ballot question for this year’s November election.

Classifieds

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In observance of July 4th, the Classifieds have an **EARLY AD DEADLINE.**

To advertise, place your ad no later than **NOON Thursday, June 27**

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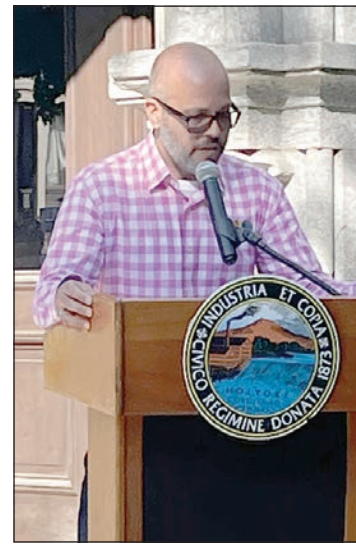
Colleen Court Member Natalie Morris shared the importance of love and support during Pride Month.



Jose Maldonado Velez welcomed everyone to the pride flag raising.



Mayor Joshua Garcia emphasized the importance of standing up for LGBTQ+ rights.



City Councilor Juan Anderson-Burgos shared some of his story as a member of the LGBTQ+ community.



Speaker from the House of Colors Decay shared their story of coming to terms with their gender and sexuality.

PRIDE, from page 1

that while there has been great progress made for LGBTQ+ rights, there has also been pushback against that progress.

“Progress was announced and then reversed, a steady drumbeat of unprecedented and dangerous legislative assaults on the LGBTQ community swept through state houses and continues to this day,” Garcia said. “We have to remain vigilant, we’re not out of the woods yet.”

While Holyoke, and the Commonwealth, are accepting of LGBTQ+ people, there are many states that are not.

Many students in schools face discrimination from their classmates and from staff in their schools.

Speaker from the House of Colors Decay shared some of their own experiences with discrimination within their community.

“My good friends experienced the cruelty of these people, and in watching them get hurt, it hurt me,” they said. “So many people practically shun the community for seemingly no reason. Because of such public backlash, it felt extremely hard to be open about gender

and sexuality exploration.”

That is what makes celebrations like Pride Month all the more important, it allows people in the community to take pride in themselves.

“We are all in the same place now, so let’s celebrate being ourselves free-

ly and without judgment,” Decay said. “We share love and acceptance with one another because we know how hard it is to be here each day. Today we won’t hide, we’re here to shine brighter than the sun.”

Pride celebrations allow the LGBTQ+ community to come together to celebrate who they are, despite those in the world who would try to push them down.

“This is family, this is friendship, this is community, this is love,” Anderson-Burgos said.

Overall, all present emphasized that what the community wants is to love, and to be accepted for how they love.

“To me, to be a lesbian is to love,” Morris said. “And there is nothing I love more than love.”

There will be more events held in Holyoke throughout the month of June in order to celebrate pride.

To learn more about these upcoming pride events, go to <https://www.holyokepride.org/>.



Different pride merchandise was provided by the Print Shop.

Turley photos by Quinn Suomala



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