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Diplomas now attainable

Students denied diplomas due to MCAS can now apply for one

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – Last year, the voters in Massachusetts chose to do away with the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System test as a graduation requirement.

The ballot question on the 2024 November ballot changed everything for schools in the state. While the vote did not do with the MCAS as a testing and measuring tool for a student's basic knowledge in subjects like mathematics and English/language arts, 10th graders taking the test are no longer required to pass the test in order to receive a high school diploma.

Those who failed the 10th grade exams were usually given opportunities to re-take the test or complete an alternate project in lieu of the test requirement.

With MCAS no longer a requirement, individual school districts, in addition to their course and credit requirements, now have the ability to set their own alternate requirements for graduation. A few school districts, like Frontier Regional, actually voted to keep the MCAS as a graduation requirement.

Receiver/Superintendent Anthony Soto said June 9 at the school committee meeting, that there is now a path for students who did not receive a diploma due to failure of the MCAS test, are now eligible to apply for a diploma according to the following criteria:

See MCAS, page 12

Mont Marie hosts prom event

HOLYOKE – Mont Marie Rehabilitation and Health Care recently held a Senior Prom crowning a king and queen as part of the event. Laura Hicks, Ms. Senior Massachusetts and Madelynn Hardtk, Miss Western Massachusetts, attended the event to announce the King Donald Savard and Queen Yvette Guile.



Mont Marie Rehabilitation and Health Care had a prom event recently.



King Donald Savard and Queen Yvette Guile were honored at the event.

Submitted photos



The event featured appearances by Laura Hicks, Ms. Senior Massachusetts and Madelynn Hardtk, Miss Western Massachusetts.

Councilors seek city's 'label' as sanctuary to be removed

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – At Tuesday's Holyoke City Council meeting, Councilors Kevin Jourdain and Linda Vacon introduced an order that a resolution be adopted and sent to the federal government seeking to remove Holyoke's label as a sanctuary city.

Earlier this year, Mayor Joshua Garcia issued an order instructing the city's law enforcement officials not to work with ICE agents in the event they come to the city to remove illegal immigrants. However, according to Jourdain and Vacon's order, Garcia did not instruct law enforcement to impede

ICE, and he never designated Holyoke as a sanctuary city.

Further, Jourdain and Vacon are proposing that the resolution includes that the City Council declares that Holyoke is not a sanctuary city.

All of this is needed to stop issues with federal funding as some funds

and grants have been taken away from the city due to the federal government classifying Holyoke as a sanctuary city. While there is no confirmation from federal officials, it is possible that Garcia's order contributed to Holyoke's designation by the federal government.

Jourdain and Vacon seek Holyoke's immediate

removal as a sanctuary city, and included the following points as part of their resolution:

"To the extent, Holyoke has been deemed a sanctuary city by the federal government for failing to comply with any federal law or regulation, the Department of

See CITY page 12

Dinosaurs tracking through Wistariahurst

HOLYOKE – This July, Wistariahurst is celebrating all things dinosaur tracks. Come by the museum Sunday, July 13 from 12 to 3 p.m. for our Sensory Friendly Dino Day, perfect for the whole family. Come back the following week to hear dino track expert Sarah Doyle present about the tracks that can be found right here at the museum during Dinosaurs in the Driveway July 20, 1 to 2 p.m.

Dino Day at Sensory Friendly Sunday Funday will entertain you and the little ones with dinosaur-themed activities galore. Wistariahurst Museum has a new, fun dino-themed scavenger hunt to celebrate Dino Day. Follow alongside Patty the Dinosaur and learn all about Massachusetts's state dinosaur, Podokesaurus Holyokensis. Best of all, there is no time limit to this scavenger hunt, so all can enjoy this activity at their own pace. At the end of your hunt, stop by the front desk to show your answers and win a fun prize.

See DINO, page 12

Library set to kick off for exciting summer reading program

By Christina Gioscia
Correspondent

HOLYOKE – School is out and Holyoke Public

Library is getting ready to host fun and educational events for children and teens all summer long. The library's itinerary is packed

with free events for children of all ages to attend. Story time will be held at 11 p.m. on Tuesdays, July 1 through July 29. Craft Hour will be

held at 2 p.m. on Mondays, June 30 through June 28, and registration is required. STEAM Activity will be held at 4 p.m. on Thursdays, July 10 through July 31, and registration is required. Game Days will be held at 11 a.m. on Fridays, July 11 through August 1. Science Heroes will be held at 1 p.m. on Wednesday July 9 where children will get the chance to participate in a fun and educational science experiment. Learn in Motion will take place at 1 p.m. on Saturday July 12. Cardboard Kingdom will take place at 1 p.m. on Saturday July 16, registration for this event is required. The Reptile Nook will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday July 19. Big Joe the Storyteller is an event

being held on Wednesday July 23 at 1 p.m. Local Storyteller Rona Leventhal will be at the library on Wednesday July 30 at 1 p.m.

Each of these weekly and one-time events gives children and teens the opportunity to keep their imaginations and critical thinking skills sharp over the summer. The library has planned these events while keeping in mind what children, teens and their caregivers want to see the library offer. The library provides a safe welcoming environment for families over the summer to learn and have fun.

"Some of the acts are new, and some are returning crowd favorites. We try

See LIBRARY, page 12



There will be many activities for children and adults throughout the summer at Holyoke Public Library. File photo

City reports paving mostly complete

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – While funding is at a premium, the Department of Public Works is reporting the streets included in the FY2025 paving programs are “substantially complete” as of June 5.

The fiscal year, which ends on June 30, including the following projects being com-

- pleted:
- South Street (from Northampton St to High Street)
 - Beech Street (from Northampton Street to Ladd Street) –
 - Linden Street (from Beech Street to Anderson Avenue)
 - Homestead Avenue (from Fairmont Street to Westfield Road)
 - Jackson Street (from High Street to South Race Street)
 - Meadow Street (from Main Street to end)
 - Old Jarvis Avenue (from Jarvis Avenue to Easthampton Road)
 - Bassett Road (from Old Jarvis Avenue to Alma Street)
 - Alma Rd (Bassett Rd to Jarvis Ave)
 - Dupuis Road (from

Apremont Highway to the Southampton town line)

- Holly Meadow Rd (west end)

To complete the work for FY2025, the city will be completing permanent line striping prior to the end of the month.

The details of the FY2026 paving program, which begins on July 1, will be shared with the public.

Preservation Trust announces Garden Tour

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Preservation Trust has announced it will host the Fifth Annual Garden Tour in the city.

This year’s event will feature new gardens, a photography contest, a tree tour with Forester Tom Kass, and a lecture from Bernie Conway, Assistant Gardener at NY Botanical Garden.

The event will be held on Saturday, June 28 and admission is \$20 per person with children 12 and under free of charge.

For more information and to purchase tickets, go to www.holyokepreservationtrust.org

PrideFest set for this weekend



HOLYOKE – The countdown is on. Holyoke PrideFest 2025 is happening this Saturday, June 21, and the heart of downtown Holyoke will come alive with color, joy, and celebration at Veterans Park from 12 to 6 p.m. — rain or shine. Get ready for a full afternoon of food, fun, and fierce performances featuring an incredible lineup of live entertainment, including RuPaul Drag Race star Alyssa Hunter and singer-songwriter Mary Lambert, plus dozens of local performers, DJs, craft vendors, and community organizations. This free, family-friendly event welcomes everyone.

Whether you’re LGBTQIA+, an ally, or simply looking to enjoy a beautiful day in community — you belong here.

The celebration continues into the evening with the Holyoke Pride After Party from 5 to 11 p.m. at 420 Dwight Street. This 21+ event features DJs, dancing, drag, drinks, and pure Pride energy.

Tickets available at the door or online at www.holyokepride.org

We’re especially grateful to our lead sponsor, Holyoke Community College, for their continued support in making these events possible.

Holyoke PrideFest is organized by an all-volunteer committee with support from generous sponsors, community partners, and individuals who believe in the power of visibility and inclusion.

HCC offering free course in artificial intelligence essentials

HOLYOKE – Dive into the world of artificial intelligence with a free, 12-week training course offered by Holyoke Community College in partnership with the non-profit CanCode Communities.

“AI Essentials,” a real-time, instructor-led online training program runs on Tuesdays and Thursdays, June 24 to Sept. 11, from 5:45 to 8:45 p.m. each day.

The class is free to eligible Massachusetts residents.

Over 12 weeks, participants will learn the fundamentals of AI, including prompt engineering, tokeni-

zation, embeddings, model structures, retrieval-augmented generation (RAG), agency, compute, and ethics.

The course emphasizes practical applications, leveraging tools such as Google AI Studio, n8n, and OpenWebUI to explore how AI models are built, trained, and deployed in the real world.

“Along the way, participants will gain valuable professional development experience, enhancing their technical skills and problem-solving abilities,” said Arvard Lingham, HCC executive director of community education and corporate training.

Tuition assistance is available for qualified Massachusetts residents 18 and older. Limited seats are available. Laptops and WiFi hotspots for Internet access will be provided for students who need them.

Funding for the program comes from the Western Mass Alliance for Digital Equity.

To sign up for classes, please send an email to admissions@albanycode.org, or go to cancode.org/apply-now and choose “AI Essentials.”

HCC to host fireworks

HOLYOKE – The City of Holyoke will be hosting the annual Fourth of July fireworks on Friday, June 27 (with a rain-date of June 29). The event will take place on the grounds of Holyoke Community College, at 303 Homestead Avenue.

Vendors interested in taking part in the event should contact the Parks and Recreation Department before June 13, for a permit application at 413-322-5620.

We encourage everyone to come early to enjoy

the music and food from a variety of vendors as well as many children’s activities. The event begins at 6 p.m., with the fireworks display scheduled to start at dusk.

Many of the streets around the college will close early, please plan for alternate routes. We are currently searching for volunteers, please call the Mayor’s Office at 413-561-1600. If you are planning to bring your dog to the fireworks, the dog must be always kept on a leash.

Release party scheduled for community cookbook

HOLYOKE – The City of Holyoke is proud to announce the release of

its community cookbook, *Sláinte & Sabor*, with a launch celebration open to

the public on Wednesday, June 25 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. El Mercado, 413 Main Street, Holyoke, MA 01040.

chance to meet the contributors who helped bring this cultural and historic moment to life.



This special event honors the residents, families, and organizations who contributed recipes, stories, and cultural wisdom to the cookbook, which reflects the rich culinary and cultural heritage of Holyoke’s diverse communities.

The evening will include light refreshments, free raffles, *Sláinte & Sabor* exclusive aprons, music, and a

Community members are encouraged to attend, celebrate, and receive a copy of the cookbook.

Books will be available at the event with a suggested donation of \$10, supporting the Puerto Rican Cultural District and future cultural programming.

For more information, contact Stephanie Colon scolon@holyoke.org.

Tourism Advisory Committee seeking new members to promote positive change

HOLYOKE – The City of Holyoke is currently seeking enthusiastic and experienced individuals to join its Tourism Advisory Committee (TAC). If you’re a hotelier, restaurant owner, or someone with a strong background in the tourism or hospitality industry — we want to hear from you. Priority will be given to candidates with experience in these areas. We are also looking for a youth mem-

ber who is under 21 years of age, a Holyoke resident and interested in promoting the positive things happening in Holyoke.

The TAC is a dynamic group made up of tourism experts and community representatives, including voices from iconic local institutions like the Wistariahurst Museum and the International Volleyball Hall of Fame. Together, the committee advises the city

on all things tourism — from strategy and events to funding and promotion.

This is your chance to get involved, make a real impact, and yes — help give away money! The TAC helps allocate funding for local events and community projects that make Holyoke a vibrant and welcoming place to visit.

For 2025 TAC utilized funds to support 11 events including;

- Holyoke Pride Festival on June 11
- The Great Holyoke Brink Race on October 11
- Holyoke Paper Fest on June 7
- Paper City Oaks Semi Pro indoor Lacrosse at Fitzpatrick’s Arena - Summer 2025
- Holyoke Historical Society Garden Tour July 12
- LOCULUS Presents The Fourth Annual SIDEWAYS DOOR: A

- Festival of Ecstasies & Escape Routes September 19 to 21
- Imagined Worlds Mural Project with the Holyoke Children’s Museum
- Lemonade & Laughter at the Merry Go Round - fall 2025
- Holyoke Canals and its Mills - fall 2025
- BBJ Spring Spectacular Showing: A free night of musical theater -

fall 2025

More information on all these events can be found at ExploreHolyoke.com

To learn more about TAC, visit <https://www.holyoke.org/departments/tourism-advisory-committee/>.

If you are interested in joining TAC please send cover letter and resume to vegaa@holyoke.org at the Office of Planning and Economic Development

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Therapy dog Maki to visit library

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Public Library will host a visit from Maki the Therapy Dog. He will appear on June 9, 16, 23, July 7, 14, 21, and 28, Aug. 18 and 25 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. on the fourth floor. Call for a 15-minute time slot.

Wistariahurst Museum to offer passport series

HOLYOKE – Take a trip to Wistariahurst Museum this summer for our Summer Passport Series at Sensory Friendly Sunday Fundays. We have an array of themed Sunday Fundays that will delight the whole family visit after visit. Wistariahurst visitors will get their own passport that will be stamped at every event. Guests will get rewarded prizes based on how many stamps they collect by the end of the Summer Passport Series. From toys, to coloring books, to limited Wistariahurst

merch, you don't want to miss earning a prize! Aiming for the biggest prize? Make sure to visit Wistariahurst during each of the following Sunday Funday events:

June 8, June 22, July 13, July 27, Aug. 10, Aug. 24, Sept. 7, and Sept. 21 all from 12 to 3 p.m. Each day features a different event from Celebrate Pride and Juneteenth to Garden Grooves and Dino Days.

Each of these events has unique activities and opportunities for engagement. From

Drag Storytime at Celebrate Pride, to a Dino Dance Party at Dino Days, there's something new every visit. Sunday Fundays are designed for guests of all ages, with our friends with sensory sensitivities in mind. Throughout the first floor, children will be able to interact with fine motor activities, puzzles, and board games to engage with and enjoy. Gross motor activities like hula hoops, hopscotch, and bounce balls will get everyone moving and grooving. Need to take a break from

the energy? A low sensory area will be available to guests as well. Throughout the first floor, guests can also interact with activities such as our Where's Winston scavenger hunt. During your self-guided tour, keep your eyes open for our lethargic, little lion. Take a picture or selfie with him and show your picture to our front desk attendant to get an exclusive Winston sticker.

Our Sensory Friendly Sunday Fundays provide an excellent opportunity for families with sensory sensitivities

to experience our museum in a relaxed environment at their own pace. Wistariahurst is thrilled to host these open hours, allowing families to explore, discover, and connect with our museum. This is why these events will be free and accessible to the public for all to enjoy. The first event of the Sunday Funday Passport Series is right around the corner. Join us Sunday, June 8 for Celebrate Pride. Pack your bags, pick up your passport, and start collecting stamps and memories.

Author Moldover to visit library

HOLYOKE – On Monday, June 23 at 4 p.m. at Holyoke Public Library, a conversation with author Jonathan Moldover will take place.

Thomas Cole climbed Mt. Holyoke in Hadley, Massachusetts, in 1833 and sketched the oxbow curve in the Connecticut River to the southwest. He used the sketch and his field notes three years later when creating his iconic oil painting of the Oxbow. It embodied his artistic techniques and his philosophy of man's role in nature, thereby epitomizing the Hudson River School of Art.

It is hard to imagine when driving across the

Oxbow today on Interstate 91 in Northampton that this is the same landscape. Instead of pastoral farmland, there is a cardboard manufacturing plant, the largest marina on the Connecticut River, and a community of homes, not to mention the highway itself. And the island is now on the Northampton side of the river, not the Hadley side, as in Cole's time.

While exploring how these changes occurred, the author and his wife became involved with an oral history project, interviewing residents of Oxbow. Those interviews served as the impetus for his book,

which interweaves quotes from the interviews with photographs and a well-researched historical narrative. It tells the story of how nature and man changed the island and the remarkable resilience of the Oxbow community.

In this lecture the author Jonathan Moldover will describe how the project developed and some of the challenges involved. He will talk about the community that developed on the Island and show video clips from the interviews of residents who grew up and raised their children there.

For registration, please call 413-420-8101 or email library@holyoke.org

Tykes Tuesday is back

HOLYOKE – Tykes Tuesday is back for free family fun at Holyoke Mall Tuesday mornings from July 8 through Aug. 19.

Tykes Tuesday, sponsored by The Care Center, features seven weeks of free family activities and exclusive discounts on Tuesdays starting at 11 a.m. on the lower level in Macy's Court. The kids' program is free, open to the public, and is best suited for children ages 12 and under. This year's activities include live animal ambassadors, a magic show, free trampoline park admission, and more.

Tykes Tuesday Schedule:
• July 8: Wildlife on Wheels with Forest Park Zoo
• July 15: Adventures at Altitude Trampoline Park (Limited Availability, Registration Full)

• July 22: Celebrate Christmas in July with Mrs. Claus, Face Painting and More

• July 29: Magic Show with Ed Popielarczyk

• August 5: Meet and Greet with the Holyoke Fire Department and Belchertown PD Dog

• August 12: Superhero Training Academy with Face Painting and Balloon Art

• August 19: Fantastic Forces with Mad Science

Families are encouraged to pre-register at www.holyokemall.com/tykes-tuesday-2025/. Plus, families who come to all 7 weeks of Tykes Tuesday will be entered to win a Grand Raffle Prize of a Back-to-School gift pack. Those interested can get a loyalty punch card at the Holyoke Mall registration table on July 8.

COLLEGE NEWS

Gibbons earns degree from Clark University

WORCESTER – Stephen J. Gibbons, of Holyoke, received a degree from Clark University on Monday, May 19. Gibbons graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts.

Clark awarded 468 undergraduate degrees and 1,014 advanced degrees during two ceremonies as part of the University's 121st Commencement exercises, held at the DCU Center in Worcester.

MassDOT updates on High-Maple project

HOLYOKE – A public information meeting will be held by MassDOT on Tuesday, June 24, at 5:30 p.m. at the Holyoke Public Library to discuss the proposed corridor improvements project on High and Maple Streets.

The purpose of this meeting is to provide the public with an update on the project and to solicit input. All views and comments made at the meeting will be reviewed and considered.

The project consists of transportation safety and mobility improvements along the High Street and Maple Street corridors from South Street to Lyman Street in downtown Holyoke. The project is still in the design phase.

At the June 24 meeting, MassDOT and its team will

provide an update on the project status, share preliminary design concepts, and solicit feedback from the community to help to inform the further development of the design. Safe and accessible conditions for all modes of transportation including walking, biking, transit (bus), and driving will be provided in accordance with applicable design guidelines.

This library is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (including but not limited to interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, open or closed captioning for videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats, such as

audio tapes, Braille and large print), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), fax (857-368-

0602), TTD/TTY (857-368-0603) or by email (MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us). Requests should be made as soon as possible prior to the meeting. For more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten business days before the meeting.

In the event of inclement weather, a cancellation announcement will be posted on the internet at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/high-way-division/events>.

Pickleball tournament July 20 to benefit Greater Springfield Habitat

WESTFIELD – Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSHFH) is excited to announce a Pickleball Tournament open to players of all skill levels on Sunday, July 20, at The Picklr 415 E. Main St (The Westfield Shops Retail A-1).

From 12 to 4 p.m., seasoned players and rookies alike, will play a "King of the Court" three-person style play. Tickets are \$40 each, which includes prizes, snacks and refreshments, swag bags, and ridiculous amounts of fun. All are welcome to participate or

spectate. To purchase tickets, visit habitatspringfield.org

"We are excited to be hosting this event. The staff at The Picklr has been educating us on all things pickleball and helping us to ensure a fun and lively event while raising awareness and supporting our construction programs," said Aimee Giroux, GSHFH executive director.

Greater Springfield Habitat is also looking for sponsors for the event. Sponsorships range from \$500 to \$1,500.

For more information,

see attached flyer.

GSHFH is dedicated to strengthening communities by empowering low-income families to change their lives and the lives of future generations through homeownership and home preservation opportunities. Since 1987, Greater Springfield Habitat has built or repaired 129 homes in Hampden County.

For more information, contact Olga Callirgos, Homeowner Programs coordinator, at callirgos@habitatspringfield.org or (413) 739-5503 x1003.

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<p>Friday, June 27th Frank Serafino</p> 	<p>Saturday, June 28th Corner Boys</p> 	<p>Sunday, June 29th Eagle Eyes</p> 

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Guest Column

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor



Can my husband work part time and collect Social Security?

Dear Rusty:

I am writing to you on behalf of my husband. His intentions are to go part time as of Jan. 1, 2026, working 30 hours a week and take Social Security benefits as supplemental income. How can we determine what his Social Security benefit would be with him still working part time? He will be 63 and 7 months old next January and has not yet applied for benefits. We look forward to hearing from someone very soon.

hold his benefits for the remaining months. They will also monitor his annual earnings as reported to the IRS and make any appropriate benefit adjustment afterwards.

If SS benefits are withheld because your husband exceeded the annual earnings limit, when he reaches his full retirement age (67), Social Security will give him time-credit for all month's that benefits were withheld. Essentially, they will advance his actual claim date by the number of months benefits were withheld, which will make his monthly benefit higher at his FRA. The higher amount he receives after reaching his FRA will help him recover some of the money withheld as a result of exceeding the earnings limit before his FRA.

Please note that it is always best to inform Social Security up front if your husband plans to work and earn even part time prior to reaching his FRA. The IRS will provide the SSA with your husband's earnings information and SSA will (if his projected earnings weren't disclosed when he applied) issue an Overpayment Notice if he earns more than allowed. He will then be required to repay SS everything owed or have his benefits withheld until Social Security recovers what he owes.

One final point: by claiming his benefits in January 2026, your husband's monthly amount will be reduced by about 22% from the amount he would get at his FRA of 67. Claiming early before FRA always results in a benefit reduction, whereas waiting longer than FRA to claim always results in a higher monthly amount (maximum benefit is reached at age 70).

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

Signed:
Anxious for Information

Dear Anxious:

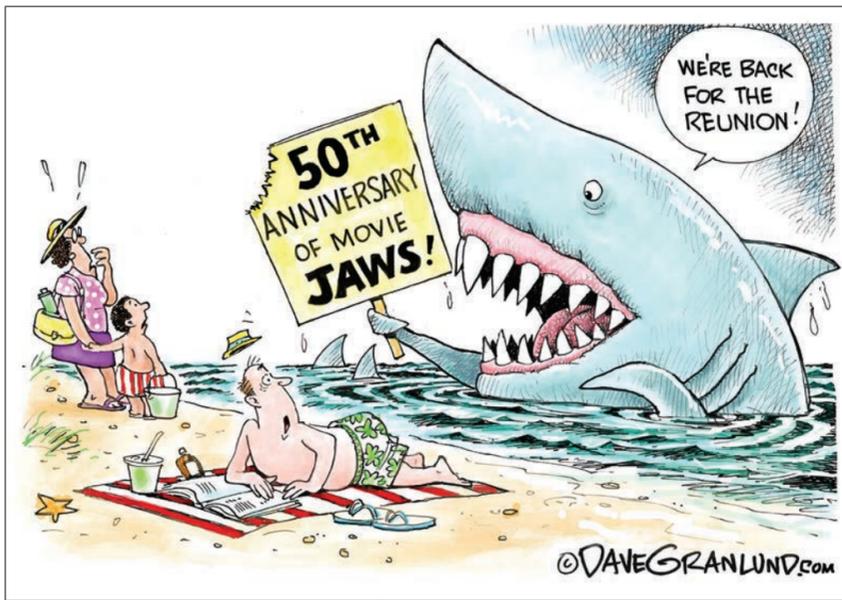
If he claims Social Security at age 63 and 7 months, your husband's benefit will be about 78% of what it would be if he waited until age 67 to claim.

And, since your husband will not yet have reached his SS Full Retirement Age, he will be subject to Social Security's Annual Earning Test, which limits how much he can earn while working and collecting early Social Security retirement benefits. The amount he can earn without paying a penalty changes yearly but, for reference, the earnings limit for 2025 is \$23,400 per year.

If his work earnings exceed the annual limit, Social Security will take away some of his benefits. Using the 2025 limit as an example, if your husband's annual 2025 earnings were \$40,000, then he would owe about \$8,300 (half of the amount he exceeded the limit by). Social Security would withhold his monthly benefits for enough months to recover what he owes for exceeding the earnings limit. How many months they withhold would be determined by his monthly SS benefit amount.

FYI, the earnings test lasts until your husband reaches his Full Retirement Age (his FRA is age 67), but in the year he attains his FRA the penalty for exceeding the limit is less, \$1 for every \$3 over the limit and the limit is much higher. The annual earnings test no longer applies once your husband reaches his FRA.

When your husband applies for his SS retirement benefit, Social Security will ask about his work plans and how much he expects to earn each year. Based upon that information, if he expects to exceed the annual limit they will pay his benefits for some months of the year depending on his projected earnings and with-



Guest Column



By Ellenor Downer



Western bluebird

I received an email in May from a woman, who had a couple of Western bluebirds nest in her backyard birdhouse.

Western bluebirds are small thrushes, who usually perch upright. They are 6 to 7 inches long, larger than a sparrow and smaller than a robin. These bluebirds have thin, straight bills and short tails. The male Western bluebird is shiny blue above with rust orange on the breast and back. The throat is blue in males and the lower belly is whitish. Females are gray-buff with pale orange on the breast. Their throat is gray-buff. They have a blue tint on the wings and tail.

They inhabit open woodlands, both coniferous and deciduous and burned areas. They commonly use bird baths. The female lays two to eight pale to bluish white eggs per clutch. They pounce on the ground when looking for worms and berries. They also catch insects. Their primary diet is insects and berries and will come to feeders for mealworms.

Compared to the Eastern bluebird, the male Western bluebird has a blue rather than the bright white belly like the Eastern bluebird. The orange also extends to the shoulders. Western bluebirds are not typically found in Massachusetts.

Eastern bluebirds
A Barre resident puts out mealworms for the Eastern bluebirds. He has a pair coming to feast on the mealworms.

Mute swans and cranes
A Barre woman reported seeing a pair of mute swans on Long Pond in Rutland. I saw one of the swans this week on the same pond. She also reported seeing a sandhill crane. An Oakham resident thinks a pair of sandhill cranes have nested. He now only sees one in his field or flying overhead between

See BIRDS, page 5

What not do this last week of spring

By avoiding these common mistakes you'll be well on your way to a wonderful landscape this summer.



smart gardeners to buy plants that don't fit their particular situation. Heed the advice provided on the plant's tag.

If it requires shade, plant it in a shady location. If it demands a well-drained soil and yours is clayey, amend the soil first! Etc. etc.

Sowing grass seed at the wrong time

Did you know that the end of August/ beginning of September is the best time to get a new lawn off to a good start? It is, first and foremost because crab grass (the arch enemy of real grass!) can't gain a foot hold late in the growing season. Slightly cooler temperatures and adequate rainfall prevalent during that time of year help too.

Scalping the lawn

Healthy turf isn't mown as low, or as often as you might think. Mowing to a height of about three inches will encourage a strong stand of deep-rooted grass that is capable of shading out developing weeds and sustaining itself during periods of drought.

Removing grass clippings

Take the bagger attach-

ment off of your mower and let the clippings fall back onto the lawn! Grass clippings are a valuable source of nitrogen, the nutrient responsible for giving grass its green color. It's silly to remove it, only then to provide it in the form of granular fertilizer.

Watering during the heat of the day

Most gardeners know that early in the day is the optimal time for watering the lawn as well as other plants. Less water is lost to evaporation, and fungal diseases are kept to a minimum since foliage has a chance to dry before darkness sets in.

Choosing the wrong plant for the location

Almost everyone has fallen victim to the "I've got to have that plant syndrome." This condition causes even

Applying mulch too thinly
Topdressing our shrub beds with a layer of mulch each season can be an expensive endeavor. Frugal gardeners may skip in order to save money. Do so and you may be sorry, as weeds will no doubt pop through less than adequate coverage.

Make sure that bark mulch is three to four inches thick; hay or straw used in veggie gardens should be even thicker, to the tune of eight to 12 inches.

Mulching too close to the base of a tree

Never mound up bark mulch against the base of a tree. It can result in bark decay. This condition can bring about a disruption of the translocation process of food from the leaves of the

See GARDEN, page 5

the HOLYOKE 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.



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The Holyoke Sun welcomes election letters to the editor

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 newspa-

per 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*.

HCC celebrates graduates of alternative high school program

HOLYOKE – Marjorie Pagan Robles describes her experience in public high school as “complicated.” She liked learning, she says, but not how or what she was being taught.

“Schools often have curriculums that don’t reflect or engage the students they serve yet expect a positive response,” she said. “They fail to promote critical thinking and individuality and fall short in their support of students’ social and emotional well-being. Instead, they lean on punitive action rather than addressing their own faults or shortcomings.”

She was labeled “bad” or “good,” she says, depending on the context – “good” for her grades, but “bad” for talking back, questioning adults’ actions, and standing up for herself.

“They’d probably tell you I had behavior issues,”

she said.

Like many students who struggle in traditional high school settings, Pagan Robles experienced “push-out,” and left after her junior year. Instead, she enrolled in Gateway to College, an alternative high school program at Holyoke Community College.

Through Gateway, she earned her high school diploma – by taking college classes. She graduated June 6 with a final college GPA of 4.0.

“I truly mean when I say being part of this program has healed the way I look at school,” she said from the stage of the Leslie Phillips Theater as one of the keynote speakers during the Gateway graduation ceremony. “Now, rather than just surviving I aim to thrive, because I was put in an environment where I could do just that. I always knew where I was going. Now I have the tools to get there.”

Pagan Robles was one of 47 students from nine area school districts who graduated from Gateway this spring. Collectively, they arrived at HCC with an average high school GPA of 1.57. They finished Gateway with an average GPA of 3.1 and collected 398 college credits. Thirty-five of them will continue on in college, most of them at HCC.

“With this class, Gateway to College now has 660 high school graduates,” said HCC Gateway to College Director Vivian Ostrowski. “Those graduates have earned over 100 college degrees, with many more in progress. One Springfield grad just finished at Mount Holyoke College, and another earned a master’s degree from UMass. We have three RNs. Gateway grads are indeed impressive.”

HCC’s Gateway program started in 2008 and belongs to the national Gateway

to College network. The Gateway modus operandi is to take students who have dropped out of high school or are at risk for dropping out and put them into college classes, where they can secure their high school diplomas while also earning transferable college credits.

“Gateway has always served students for whom traditional high school is not a good fit,” Ostrowski said. “With Covid, traditional high school was not a good fit for anyone. These students experienced profound anxiety and depression, lost family and friends, dealt with addiction and eating disorders and court involvement, were alienated from family, worked crazy hours, had car accidents. It’s been a rough go.”

Still, she added, “these same students kept showing up. These are some exceptional human beings – strong and

resilient, kind and decent.”

Pagan Robles, a criminal justice major from Holyoke, earned 15 college credits through Gateway and made Dean’s List during her last semester. She will transfer into Western New England University’s 3 + 3 law degree program in September. Her career goal is to be an immigration lawyer.

“I wholeheartedly believe there are no ‘bad’ kids,” said Pagan Robles, the first person in her family to go to college. “I do believe that young people have inherent power and that this generation will be the one to push our world forward. The kid that was told they talk too much will be defending you in court one day; the one doodling in class will design the clothes you wear; the one who talked back will be debating your politicians, and so on. These are the kids that will make the most difference not

only because they know what it’s like to struggle but because they are unafraid to challenge authority, and that alone is a powerful thing.”

Each year, Gateway National recognizes individual students for their academic performance. Fifteen HCC Gateway students received the Linda Huddle Award, which honors graduating students who earned a minimum GPA of 3.0. Seven received the President’s Award, presented to students with a minimum GPA of 3.7.

“Graduates,” Ostrowski said during her closing remarks, “you are Gateway for Life. That means we will help you with financial aid, scholarships, job references – forever. We will connect you with all the right people at HCC – forever. We will brainstorm with you about your future – forever. Relentless kindness – forever. We love you.”

BIRDS, from page 1

Adams Pond and the Wolf Swamp area of Oakham. The last time I saw a sandhill crane in my hayfield, there was only one. Earlier this spring I saw a two cranes in the field, which is near Wolf Swamp.

Titmouse and robin

An Oakham resident reported, “There was a lot of commotion at the robin nest and I went to the window to see what was going on. A titmouse was gathering the soft fuzzy from under the three eggs. Dad robin came along and drove the titmouse off.” She said, “I put out lots of nesting materials, but as always, someone else’s looks better.”

Loon fact

The Loon Preservation Committee offer loon facts in their newsletter. The newsletter said, “Generally, loons will remain on the ocean until they reach adulthood at age three. This is not always the case, each year here in New Hampshire, the committee volunteers observe the presence of five to ten

immature loons on the lakes during the breeding season. Upon their return as adults, these loons begin to look for a breeding territory of their own.”

They will acquire their first territory in one of three ways: by passively replacing a territory owner that has died or is otherwise missing, by establishing a new territory on a lake that is not currently occupied by loons or by fighting and evicting another loon from its territory and taking its place.

One of the ways a loon can acquire a breeding territory is to intrude upon an already-occupied territory and engage in territorial battles with the member of the pair that is the same sex. If the intruder wins, it will evict the resident loon and take its place as a pair member on that territory.

The article said, “Research has shown that while selecting their first breeding territory, loons tend to look for lakes and ponds that are similar, at least in terms of size and pH, to the lake they hatched on. This may be a result of increased chance of survival due to familiarity, if, as a chick, a

loon learned to forage and evade predators on a lake with certain characteristics, it makes sense that it would seek out those same characteristics, to which their skills are well suited, to breed on.”

Another factor that has been shown to influence territory selection is previous chick production. Territorial intrusions tend to increase following successful hatches, indicating that loons without a territory of their own may use the production of chicks as an indicator of territory quality and target those successful territories for takeover.

Because they stay on the ocean for the first years of their lives and then must spend time, sometimes many years, acquiring a breeding territory of their own, most loons will not hatch chicks of their own until they are six-seven years old.

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.

GARDEN, from page 4

tree to its roots, weakening it severely. The tree will also become more vulnerable to attacks by insects and fungi.

Not moistening peat moss before use

Most experts recommend adding peat moss to the planting hole when installing trees, roses or other shrubs. Rich in organic matter, it will get your plants off to a great start, but only if incorporated correctly.

Peat moss must be moistened before use, otherwise it will wick water away from the plant it is intending to help. Once thoroughly

wet, peat moss will aid in moisture retention!

Forgetting to “butterfly” root balls at planting time

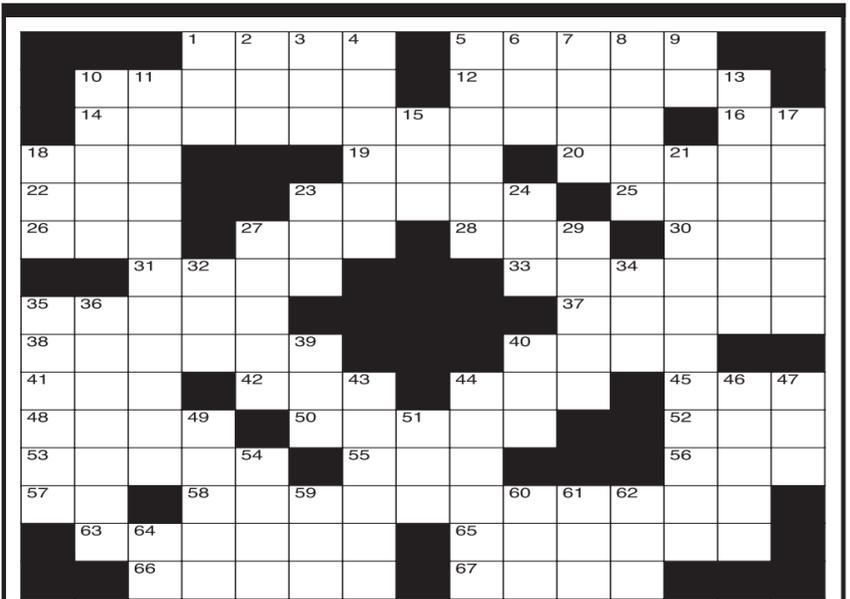
Did you ever purchase a tree or shrub, perennial or annual whose root ball was so thick with roots you could barely see the soil in which it was planted? Plants that match this description are “root bound.”

If this situation isn’t remedied at planting time the roots may never know they have room to sprawl; ultimately, growth may be affected! Let the roots run free by taking both hands and splitting open or “butterflying” the root ball. Root balls of larger specimens can be scored in several places with a knife.

Pruning summer blooming shrubs now

Don’t prune your Rose of Sharon or Hydrangea now or you’ll take the flowers with your clippings. On the flip side, you have until July 1 to prune your lilacs. Rhododendrons and Azaleas can be deadheaded now for even more flowers next spring.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 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.



CLUES ACROSS

- Type of bread
- Range of mountains
- Ended
- Musical forms with a recurring theme
- On the nature of being
- Law enforcement agency
- Australian flightless bird
- Subway rodent
- More dried-up
- A beaver might build one
- Suggestive of the supernatural
- Art __, around 1920
- American rocker Snider
- Not or
- Earliest human: __Magnon Man
- Firearm
- Tough outer skin of fruit

CLUES DOWN

- Alternative form of a gene
- Low shrub some call “fat pork”
- Plants in the chamomile tribe
- Revolutionary War era spy
- Portion of a book
- Hoover’s office
- Title of respect
- Tax collector
- Cool!
- Real estate
- Boy’s name
- Airborne (abbr.)
- Strongly recommends
- Hit lightly
- Bar bill
- Atomic #54
- Devotes again
- Fish sauce
- French stock market
- Things that consist of two elements or parts

CLUES DOWN

- Retired game show host Sajak
- Equal (prefix)
- Israeli city __ Aviv
- Loved
- A type of analyst
- Ad __
- Gasteyer and de Armas are two
- Ran without moving
- Opposite of yes
- Diffuse clouds of gas
- Mentioning one by one
- Instruments used to dilate
- Freshwater fish
- Remotely-manned flying objects
- Doctor of Education
- Renews
- Not the start
- Pitching stat

- Small water buffaloes
- Ceramic jars
- I (German)
- Something to toss on a fire
- The process of flowing in
- A series of acts at a night club
- Egg of a louse
- Inquire too closely
- Travelers
- Drink
- Behave in a way that degrades
- Electronic music style
- Northern Ireland city
- Upset
- Stiff structure resembling a hair
- Father
- North Atlantic fish
- 8th month (abbr.)
- Make an effort
- Commercial

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 8

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SPORTS

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Aldenville Post 337 falls to Monson

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

CHICOPEE – During the past several years, all the District 3 Legion baseball teams qualified for the playoffs. That won't be the case this summer. Only the top six teams in the standings will qualify for the Legion playoffs.

Two days after having their season opener at North Adams Post 125 postponed due to rain, Monson Post 241 defeated Aldenville Post 337, 4-2, at Snot Park in Chicopee, last Wednesday night.

"There isn't going to be a Western Mass. playoff this year," said Monson manager Steve Tripp. "The top six teams will qualify for the State tournament. Every game that you play during the regular season is very important."

The first-place team in the District 3 standings will be hosting one of the pods

in the preliminary round of the double elimination state tournament. There are going to be a total of seven pods with four teams each. The winner of each pod, along with Quincy Morrisette

Post 294, will advance to the Final Eight Team Department Championship Tournament, which will be held at Adams Field in Quincy from July 26-30.

The Northeast Region

One Tournament will be held at Holy Cross College in Worcester.

Brayden Mega, who graduated from Pathfinder

See POST, page 7



Ryan Netkovick gets the throw to second.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Brandon Carillon grabs the bounding ball.



Justin Moskal delivers a pitch home.



Memphis Huertas gets ready to receive a pitch.



Alex Savlick goes after a grounder.

Pioneers battle to draw with Black Rock

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW – While the Western Mass. Pioneers haven't lost a home match this season, their faithful supporters have celebrated just one victory at historic Lusitano Stadium.

The only meeting of the regular season between Black Rock FC and the Pioneers ended in a 1-1 draw before a large crowd, last Friday night.

"We do have a lot of quality players, and we always try to strive for excellence," said Pioneers defender Aidan Kelly, who's also the team's first year captain. "It's always disappointing whenever we drop points, especially at home. Hopefully, we can get a result in our next match at Vermont. We just need to keep working hard."

The soccer teams in the USL League Two earn three points for a victory and one point for a tie.

The Pioneers (5-0-2) had a total of 17 points after their first seven matches. They're battling Vermont Green FC (5-0-1, 16 points) for first place in the Northeast Division standings.

The first meeting of the 2025 regular season between the two rivals was scheduled to take place at Virtue Field in Burlington, Vermont on Tuesday night.

The Western Mass. squad will be hosting Vermont in their final match of the regular season on July 11.

The Pioneers also played a 1-1 tie in the home opener on May 23 against Seacoast United Phantoms, who are the defending USL League Two champions. Their only home win came against New England FC, 4-1, on June 6.

"We dominated tonight's game, but we couldn't put away our chances," said Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari. "Sometimes you can score a goal on four or five shots. Sometimes you take many shots and don't score any goals. It's just part of the game."

Black Rock hasn't celebrated a victory at Lusitano Stadium since the 2018 regular season. The two squads did play a scoreless draw at the old stadium in 2023.

Kelly, who joined the Pioneers a year ago, is from Belfast, Northern Ireland. He'll be a senior on the UMass men's soccer team in the fall. The Minutemen men's soccer coach is Fran O'Leary, who's a native of Dublin, Ireland.

"My college coach is from Ireland," Kelly said. "He's the main reason why I decided to play soccer at UMass. It has been a great

See BATTLE, page 7

Mutiny gets shutout of Racing Power FC

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW – Sole possession of first place in the U.S. East Conference standings was at stake entering the first ever meeting on the soccer pitch between Racing Power FC USA and the New England Mutiny.

After a scoreless opening half, the Mutiny scored three second half goals en route to a 3-0 shutout victory at Lusitano Stadium, last Saturday night.

"We played very well for the entire game," said Mutiny head coach Federico Molinari. "We finally scored a few goals in the second half."

The Mutiny had a perfect 5-0-0 record following their third shutout win of the season. They only allowed two goals in their first five regular season matches.

The Mutiny are hoping to finish in first place for the fourth time since 2019. They lost to the Santa Clarita Blue Heat in the United Women's Soccer Championship match a year ago in a shootout. It was their only loss of 2024.

Racing Power FC (4-1-0) outscored their first four opponents, 19-0. They only had four subs for the road match, including the back-up goalie.

Cat Perez, who was born in Bogotá, Colombia, was the Mutiny's starting goalie for the first time this season. She was also a member of her country's



Avery Klingensmith, of Belchertown, navigates through traffic.

soccer team which competed in the 2024 Summer Olympics games in Paris, France. She has also played for Team Boca Blast of the WPSL.

Chloe Laizer, who recently graduated from West Springfield High School, replaced Perez 15 minutes into the second half.

The duo didn't have to make very many saves against Racing Power, who's an affiliate of the Portugal's Pro women's team.

The Mutiny starting defenders were Rachel Marchini, Aida Name, Anna Carson, and Laci Lewis,

who's the team captain.

Name, who graduated from Belchertown High School, will be a junior on the University of Rhode Island women's soccer team this fall.

Another defender listed on the Mutiny roster is Kylie Ray. She played soccer at Minnechaug Regional for legendary head coach Nundi Goncalves. Ray is currently a member of the women's soccer team at Seton Hall University.

Tennessee Murphy, who lives in Monson, scored her first goal in a Mutiny home match during the 63rd minute.

The scoring play began

when Lewis launched a crossing pass into the box from the right touchline. After the ball took a high bounce, Murphy headed it into the back of the net past goalie Riley Melendez.

"We knew that tonight's opponent was a very good team," said Murphy, who scored her first two goals of the season on the road. "It was a perfect cross from Laci. When I saw the ball go over the defender, I was a little bit nervous because I didn't want to miss a scoring chance. After I headed the ball into the net, it was a very good feeling."

Three minutes later, the Mutiny were given a penalty kick following a foul in the box.

Chioma Okafor, who's a member of the UConn women's soccer team, blasted a shot into the lower left corner of the net giving the home team a 2-0 advantage.

Murphy, who's a first-year member of the Mutiny, assisted on the third goal in the 79th minute.

After dribbling around a couple of defenders, Murphy made a short pass to Avery Klingensmith, who finished off the play by putting a shot into the right corner.

"I used to play against Avery when we played in the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League," Murphy said. "It's been a lot of fun being teammates with her on this soccer team. She's

See MUTINY, page 7

POST, from page 6

Tech, was the winning pitcher for Monson against Aldenville. The righthander went the distance allowing two runs on just three base hits. He issued two walks and recorded six strikeouts.

"We received an outstanding pitching performance from Brayden Mega," Tripp said. "This is the third year that he's been playing for us, and he has improved each year. We do have several other very good pitchers on this year's team."

Monson's other pitchers are Austin Meacham (Monson High School), Nate Kaczuwka (Ware High

School), and Liam McGrath (Quaboag Regional), who's a first-year member of the Legion team.

Mega, who won five games for the Pioneers this past spring, will be playing college baseball at Monroe University, which is in New York City. Their baseball team competes at the NJCAA Division I level.

Mega can also play for the Legion team again next summer.

"I just wanted us to win our season opener," Mega said. "I was feeling very good out on the mound, especially after my teammates gave me an early 4-0 lead."

Aldenville (2-1) began

the Legion season with a 9-1 road win against the Wilbraham Falcons.

A year ago, Aldenville lost to Belchertown in the District 3 championship game.

Righthander Justin Moskal, who was the ace of the South Hadley High School pitching staff this past spring, didn't receive very much support from his defense against Monson.

The majority of the Aldenville players are from South Hadley.

Monson second baseman Miguel Velasquez led off the second inning with an infield hit. Then Kaczuwka, who started at third base, bounced

into a 6-4 fielder's choice play and catcher Shane Szado drew a walk.

After stealing third base, Kaczuwka scored the game's first run following a throwing error by the catcher.

"Nate is a fantastic base runner," Tripp said. "He has very good baseball instincts. You can always count on him to do the right thing."

With one-out in the fourth, Kaczuwka reached first base following a fielding error. Szado and right fielder Jarett Skowrya followed with walks, which loaded the bases. Then McGrath hit a foul pop-up which was caught by first baseman Matt Drobiak. He threw the ball

to catcher Memphis Huertas, but the runner at first base broke towards second on the play. Kaczuwka crossed the plate following a run down. An infield hit by center fielder Jason Mumper scored Monson's third run. Another run scored on a throwing error, which gave the visiting team a 4-0 lead.

Aldenville cut the deficit in half with a two-out rally in the bottom of the fifth inning.

Shortstop Brandon Carillon was hit-by-a-pitch, and third baseman Alex Savlick walked. One run scored on a double by centerfielder Noah Carillon. Drobiak also drove home a run with a

single into center field.

Mega would then retire the final seven Aldenville batters of the game, which gave Monson its first win of the Legion season.

"We just made several costly mistakes in tonight's game," said Aldenville manager Mason Scott. "We did battle back after following behind 4-0. We're now looking forward to playing Westfield."

Aldenville squeaked out an 8-7 win at Westfield Post 124 last Friday night

On the same night, Monson suffered an 11-3 loss to East Springfield Post 420 in their first home game at Legion Field in Palmer.



Aida Name of Chicopee gets in action for the Mutiny last weekend.



Anna Carson sends a kick home.



Laci Lewis dribbles toward the goal.



Bella Meadows traps the ball on defense. Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

MUTINY, from page 6

an outstanding player."

Klingensmith, who's from Belchertown, will be a senior on the American University women's soccer team.

During her outstanding high school career, Klingensmith was selected to the All-American team by the United Soccer Coaches.

Murphy, who transferred to the Loomis-Chaffee School four years ago, received the same honor last fall.

"My older sister, Brooke, was also an All-American and it was a very special honor for me. I really didn't expect it, but it was a lot of fun celebrating the accomplishment with my family," said Murphy, who's entering her senior year at Loomis. "I've also committed to play soccer at Bucknell University. It's a small school and I really like the soccer team. I think it's a very good fit for me."

The Mutiny are scheduled to play a road match against the Maine Footy on Saturday night before facing the NJ Alliance in the regular season home finale at 5pm on June 29.

BATTLE, from page 6

three years there and I have one more left. I'm really looking forward to it."

Kelly replaced Nicholas Oberrauch as the Pioneers captain.

"I learned a lot from Nicholas last year," Kelly added. "I was honored when Federico told me that I was going to be the captain of this year's team. I'm very glad to be leading this group of players."

Kelly is also a starting

defender, along with Jared Smith, Jaiden Willems, and Juan Hermoso.

Kelly and Smith combined to score what turned out to be the only Pioneers goal against Black Rock following a corner kick two minutes into the opening half.

Israel Neto booted the ball into the box from the left corner. Kelly tapped the ball over to Smith, who fired a wide open shot into the back of the net for his first career goal with the Pioneers.

"We've been working on set pieces at practice," Kelly said. "I got my foot on the ball and luckily Jared was there to take a shot. I'm very glad that he scored his first career goal in tonight's match."

Black Rock scored the equalizer on a header by Koki Hamada in the 10th minute.

Western Mass. goalie Cam Hall didn't have to make very many saves during the final 80 minutes of the match.

At the other end of

the field, the Pioneers had seven more corner kicks during the final 35 minutes of the opening half, but they were unable to score.

With 15 minutes remaining in the half, Mamadi Jiana, who's a former member of the Chicopee High School boys' varsity soccer team, stole the ball away from a Black Rock player. He then took a shot from inside the box, which sailed high over the crossbar.

The score was deadlocked 1-1 at halftime.

The Pioneers had several more scoring chances in the second half, but they could not put the ball into the net past goalie Benjamin Diffley.

With less than two minutes remaining in the contest, Kelly made a sliding tackle breaking up a breakout opportunity for Black Rock.

The visiting team didn't have any other shots on goal, and the score was still tied when referee Fabio Cardoso blew his whistle for the final time.

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Local resident wins Miss Senior Massachusetts

By Emily-Rose Pappas
epappas@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN – Finding your thing can be as simple as discovering you like art, music, or science, but for others, its loved ones that show you how much you shine.

For Laura Hicks, who has always loved performing and singing, it was her four daughters who inspired her ultimately to participate and compete for Miss Senior America.

The Miss Senior American Pageant is designed and meant to honor women in the “Age of Elegance,” sharing and representing the dignity, maturity, and inner beauty of senior American women over sixty.

Hicks’ daughters first learned about the pageant after seeing a float in the St. Patrick’s Day Parade, and immediately called their mom, telling her she’d be the perfect candidate.

“I sing for seniors and I perform, and they knew I already liked performing and being on stage,” said Hicks. “Having them recognize that showed me that they knew I had the poise and the talent to be a contender.”

Hicks has always enjoyed singing, even while as a young child, and today uses that love to help others and sings at mens and womens prisons, to seniors, and at long-term care, rehabs, and memory care centers.

“The power of music to touch peoples’ lives is truly

magical,” said Hicks. “And even if I didn’t perform, I truly love singing.”

The competition involved being interviewed by a panel of judges, and you can perform a talent, any talent at all, for the competition as part of the pageant.

“You don’t know what talents you’ll see,” said Hicks. “A lot of senior women don’t see their talents right away, but its about what you are good at.”

Hicks’ talent was a montage of six different Broadway songs she performed as a mashup, including “No Business Like Show Business,” “Don’t Cry for Me, Argentina,” “Spoonful of Sugar,” “Cabaret,” “I Dreamed a Dream,” and “The Impossible Dream.”

“The reason I did six instead of one is because most of the contestants are singers, and I wanted to be different, to perform something to set myself apart,” said Hicks.

But just winning the pageant isn’t all there is; it’s also being a part of the community, bringing smiles to people’s faces, and being present at local events and for charities.

From showing up at events to standing on floats during the St. Patrick’s Day Parade, and going to hospitals, the job of the Miss Senior pageant is to bring smiles to the community.

“For one thing, I really enjoy performing, and being able to offer music makes me happy,” said Hicks.

“Music touches hearts; it transports people to places they remember. It’s truly magical.”

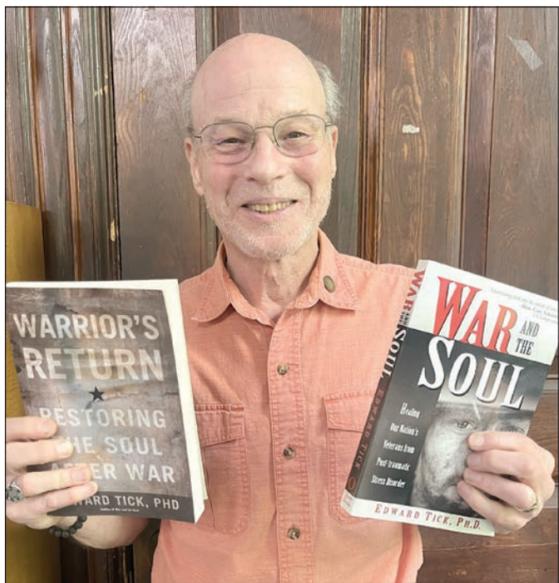
Hicks will be going to Nationals in October at a casino in Atlantic City, where winners from participating states will compete with their talents.

“It’s a wonderful organization of women who help and encourage you,” said Hicks. “You do have a talent, and we can think we don’t have one, but you do. You just have to cultivate it.”

As Nationals approaches, Laura Hicks is getting ready, and has loved every minute of it, getting the opportunity to work alongside other women and share her love of performance and music with the world.



Submitted photo
Laura Hicks dressed up as the winner of Miss Senior Massachusetts America.



Turley photo by Emily-Rose Pappas

Author Ed Tick holding two of his books on healing the mind of a warrior.

Author works to bring mental healing to veterans

By Emily-Rose Pappas
epappas@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN – Veterans are essential members of our society, and remembering their sacrifice and take care of them when they return.

Author Ed Tick has made it his life’s goal for the past 45 years to work with veterans, and has worked with them since the Vietnam War.

Tick turned 18 during the height of the Vietnam War, but was a conscientious objector, having no desire to participate in the war, but was willing to be drafted medic if need be.

“I was protesting the war, I was never against the troops, I was against the

war,” said Tick. “I wanted to give an alternative service, but not in a war, and not killing people. I felt a moral injury from not serving, because I wanted to give service to the country.”

Tick got his Master’s degree in psychology, then moved to the Chatham area where he worked as a therapist, and came into the practice of working closely with Vietnam veterans in 1976 and 1977, just before the diagnosis of PTSD was discovered in 1980.

Even though there was little research on how to help, Tick had found his way to help and serve: to serve and care the the soldiers who came home.

“They tried to serve the nation, and they deserved

help,” said Tick.

Tick began working with the veterans who came home, using humanistic, spiritual, and psycho-spiritual practices to inform how he worked with them, finding a way to be a medic for their minds.

“The number of veterans I was able to serve thanked me for not going because I was able to be a help to them when they got home,” said Tick. “I wasn’t a medic in the war, but veterans are coming to me after the war, and now I can be a medic for the invisible wounds.”

Through his work with veterans, Tick also took trips to Vietnam to talk to veterans on both sides, some fighting in the same battles, and organized a way for them to talk to one another and find

healing through their conversations.

“I feel in solidarity with people around the world that don’t want war, so we have to join together in a global effort to heal from those horrors,” said Tick. “I feel honored that I am working in my little way to help people expose and heal from war trauma, and that we can all be in this together.”

At the age of 15, Tick made a vow that he would write, and he kept that vow, releasing the book “Warrior’s Return: Restoring the Soul After War”, which he published ten years ago and in English, and six months ago it was published in Russian, and two weeks

See AUTHOR, page 9



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Sheriff's Office celebrates new program

LUDLOW – The Hampden County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) recently hosted a celebration of the Emerge Career tech-driven Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Training Program at HCSO's All-Inclusive Support Services (AISS) facility in Springfield. The event honored the accomplishments of justice-involved individuals who transformed their lives through their CDL training.

The Emerge Career CDL Program, made possible through funding from Governor Maura Healey's Commonwealth Corporation, is one of the few in the nation that provides incarcerated individuals with the opportunity to receive fully accredited commercial driving instruction while still in custody, allowing them to step directly into careers upon release. Due to the high demand for licensed CDL drivers in logistics, delivery, and construction industries,

participants in the program often secure high-paying employment offers with starting salaries ranging from \$65,000 to \$85,000 annually.

Since its establishment, the Emerge Career CDL Training Program has graduated more than 200 individuals across several states, and over 94% have gained employment within 90 days of completion. The program's public-private partnership reduces recidivism, strengthens families, and fills critical labor shortages.

"The Emerge Career tech-based CDL Program is proof that when you invest in people and believe in second chances, the results are transformative, not just for the individuals, but for our entire community. These graduates are leaving with more than a license – they're leaving with purpose, opportunity, and a path to long-term success," said Sheriff Nick Cocchi.

Sheriff Cocchi, Emerge Career co-founders Uzoma

"Zo" Orchingwa and Gabriel "Gabe" Saruhashi, as well as Massachusetts State Representatives Shirley Arriaga, Brian Ashe, and Carlos González attended the event, all commenting on the life-changing opportunities the program provides.

"The Emerge model demonstrates how AI- and software-powered vocational training, paired with supportive coaching, transparent processes, and direct job placements, can transform lives and build sustainable careers at scale," said Orchingwa.

Honored at the event were two graduates who spoke about their experiences with the Emerge CDL program. The graduates spoke of their ability to take care of themselves and their families as a result of the program, emphasizing the crucial opportunity for redemption. One of the graduates, who arrived in a tractor-trailer, shared how the program had

transformed his life.

"When someone walks out of our care and custody with the skills and certification to earn a solid, honest living – often upwards of \$70,000 a year – it fundamentally changes the trajectory of their life. It breaks the cycle of incarceration by replacing desperation with stability and pride. That's how you reduce recidivism. That's how you build safer, stronger communities," said Sheriff Cocchi.

The Sheriff's Office's partnership with Emerge Career demonstrates the ongoing commitment to providing innovative reentry and vocational training opportunities that provide justice-involved individuals the skills necessary for successful reintegration.

For more information about the Emerge Career CDL Training Program at HCSO, visit <https://hcsoma.org/emerge-career-cdl-training-program-at-hcsol/>.

Disc golf is coming to Buttery Brook Park

By Kim Prough
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY – Don't use the "f-word", it's not frisbee golf, it's disc golf, as any avid disc golfer will tell you.

The sport of disc golf is experiencing rapid growth and increasing popularity, thanks to the development of more disc golf courses, as well as its accessibility and affordability.

UDisc, the app for disc golfers, showed over 20 million rounds tracked in 2024.

The sport is seeing an average of over five new courses being opened daily.

South Hadley is well-positioned to capitalize on this fast-growing sport with the addition of the Buttery Brook Disc Golf, a nine-hole course that weaves throughout the unused woods of the Park.

The course is free to play. The addition of this course is part of the Buttery Brook Park Improvement Project, funded collectively through a PARC grant, the town of South Hadley, and individual donations.

Disc golf is largely driven by its passionate community, with players often taking the initiative to build and maintain courses. Avid disc golfer Maddy Venancio, who has played in 14 states and at 160 courses, has led a group of volunteers to help get the course ready.

He's been instrumental in helping shape some of the interesting design elements of the course, including the island green on the 9th hole.

"Helping to bring disc golf to Buttery Brook Park has been a lot of fun. I've always wanted to build my own course, and this may be the closest I get to it", commented Venancio.

"It's not your average nine-hole course. Although beginner-friendly, it will challenge even an experienced disc golfer. You can't help but love the 657-foot par five on hole 8."

The course designer, Chris Barden, one of the owners of the New England Disc Golf Center, says,



A group of friends enjoying the new course.

Photos submitted by Kim Prough

"Designing the course was a great experience. I anticipate this course to be well-received by the community and that it will see a lot of use."

"Chris's experience and vision have really helped to shape this into an incredible 9-hole course", said Venancio. "People will be lining up ready to play as soon as it opens."

Disc golf is played in over 80 countries, with the United States, Finland, and Canada having the most courses.

Additional factors contributing to the sport's popularity are that it's an affordable option for people as disc golf equipment is significantly cheaper than traditional golf equipment; the sport is relatively easy to learn and accessible to people of all ages and athletic abilities; and it's a great way to enjoy the outdoors, exercise and spend time with friends and family.

While the initial construction of the Buttery Brook Disc Golf Course was part of the Park Improvement Project, the turf on the tee pads, signage, benches, information kiosk, and ongoing maintenance are being funded by sponsors and donations.

Kirsten Therrein and her local business, SVG Athletics, were the first sponsors to sign up to support the course.

"SVG Athletics is a gym built around its members and the community they create



The basket on hole #9.

within. It is something we take great pride in. When the opportunity came for us to support the community outside the gym with another healthy, fitness-related activity, we threw ourselves at the chance. This was the easiest "disc-ussion" we have had as owners! We have several members who are avid disc golfers, and they can't wait to play the new course", said Therrein.

The official grand opening celebration for the course will be on Friday, July 18, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. The inaugural "first toss" will occur at the practice basket by the playground at 5:30 p.m. to officially open the course.

There will be food, music, raffles, volunteers to help teach the sport, equipment to try out, vendors, and more. All are welcome to attend this free event.

To find out more about the course, when it will be open for play, or to become one of the limited number of inaugural business sponsors, please email butterybrook-discgolf@gmail.com.

Additionally, on Saturday, July 19, the course will be hosting a Flex Tournament. Email or visit the Buttery Brook Disc Golf page on Facebook to find out more information, and be sure to check out the UDisc app for specifics on the course.

anyone's said to help us while we are in the war, and how we can get help while we are here," said Tick.

Tick has found healing in working alongside Russia and Ukraine, as his paternal grandmother was a Russian Jew, and his grandfather a Polish Jew. The village they were from was a part of the Russian Empire, and is now a part of Ukraine. His family ties made the two countries welcome him.

"Since I've been doing this work, I see her smiling at

me and thanking me, saying thank you for reconciling and bringing together a broken people," said Tick.

Tam Tien, a Viet Cong veteran, shared this message to American veterans: "From now on and forever more, American and Vietnam veterans need to be the lips and the tongues of the same mouth telling the world the same story."

"That's my philosophy that former enemies need to get together and share stories and realize everyone is suf-

fering together, to then heal together," said Tick. "I'm really proud to say that I am working with both sides, and as a healer and a doctor, my obligation is to help heal everyone that comes into my practice."

Through Tick's hard work and dedication to being a medic for the minds of veterans, he is working towards the wars of today, moving to open up a new world of healing, and making a way for veterans to not just find security, but true healing.

AUTHOR, from page 8

ago in Ukrainian.

"For this focus, I've been working with Ukraine since the beginning of the war, and they reached out to me and found my book," said Tick.

He began to work with combat stress and sometimes on the front lines, meeting with people over the phone to talk about reducing or avoiding combat trauma in the middle of it.

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is now accepting applications for a **FULL-TIME police officer.** Review of applications begins immediately. Visit www.hampdenpolice.com for more information. EOE

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FOR RENT



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FOR RENT



All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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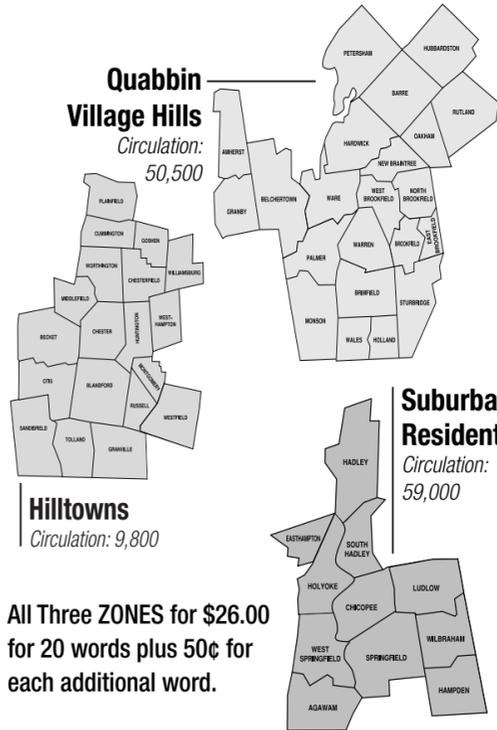
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5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price \$26.00
21 Base Price \$26.50	22 Base Price \$27.00	23 Base Price \$27.50	24 Base Price \$28.00
25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00

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**City of Holyoke
Notice of Public Hearing**

The Holyoke Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, July 8, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.com**; ID: 83639398493; CALL IN 1 646 558 8656 to hear, pursuant to the Holyoke Zoning Ordinance, a Special Permit for a Parking Reduction (Sec 6.1.7) and a Special Permit to vary Dimensional Regulations (Sec 8.8.4), submitted by Vila Nova Properties, located at 718 Dwight Street (006-06-009).

Applicant: Tiago Martins
Planning Board: Mimi Panitch
6/20, 06/27/2025

**City of Holyoke
Notice of Public Hearing**

The Holyoke Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, July 8, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.com**; ID: 83639398493; CALL IN 1 646 558 8656 to hear, pursuant to the Holyoke Zoning Ordinance, a Special Permit for a Parking Reduction (Sec 6.1.7) and a Special Permit to vary Dimensional Regulations (Sec 8.8.4), submitted by Vila Nova Properties, located at 736 Dwight Street (006-09-001 & -002)

Applicant: Tiago Martins
Planning Board: Mimi Panitch
6/20, 06/27/2025

**City of Holyoke
Office of Purchasing**

536 Dwight Street, Room 3
Holyoke, MA 01040
**REQUEST FOR QUOTES
BEDROOM RESTORATION**

The City of Holyoke is seeking quotes from qualified businesses to provide the conservation treatment of one bedroom on the second floor featuring 19th-century English pattern block printed wallpaper and ceiling affected by water damage from a leaking chimney at Wistariahurst Museum, 238 Cabot St., Holyoke, MA 01040 including all materials and labor necessary to complete the work. Quote is to include all labor and material needed to complete the work, prevailing wage must be used.

Stabilization and Surface Cleaning. Consolidate flaking design elements, Remediate mold & surface clean, Set down lifting tear edges & borders, Infill losses & tone, spackle and paint plaster losses. Address damage at top trim and ceiling and in paint abrasions Past water damage resulted in wallpaper to be removed and painting over the repaired wall with matching colors and effects. Any wallpaper that can be saved, properly cleaned, and reinstalled following protocols outlined in Wallpapers in Historic Preservation, NPS HPS 1997. Documents are available starting 6/18/25 at 10AM, by electronically requesting from morrowj@holyoke.org.

Quotes are due by 7/8/25 at 1PM. Electronic submissions WILL be accepted. The city reserves the right to reject any and all quotes. Federal dollars may be used to support this project. Applicants will be screened for eligibility to receive these funds.
06/20/2025

**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.
HD03P50427TP2
In the matter of:
Dwight H Ives
Date of Death: 11/05/1924
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR ALLOWANCE OF
ACCOUNT**

To all interested persons:
A Petition has been filed by:

**Bank of America, NA of
PROVIDENCE, RI**

requesting allowance of the 82nd through 88th account(s) as Trustee and any other relief as requested in the Petition.

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 07/15/2025.

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: June 09, 2025

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
06/20/2025

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No.
HD2P1154EA
Estate of:
David J. Moore
Date of Death:
February 25, 2025
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Carolyn T. Moore of Holyoke, MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.
Carolyn T. Moore of Holyoke, MA

has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.
The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
06/20/2025

**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.
HD25P1246EA
Estate of:
Richard D Olender
Also known as:
Richard Olender
Date of Death: 12/27/2024
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR FORMAL
ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Edward Olender, Jr. of Longmeadow, 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: **Edward Olender, Jr. of Longmeadow, 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 07/09/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION
UNDER THE
MASSACHUSETTS
UNIFORM PROBATE
CODE (MUPC)**

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: June 11, 2025

Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
06/20/2025

**City of Holyoke
Office of Procurement
536 Dwight Street, Room 3
Holyoke, MA 01040
REQUEST FOR
PROPOSALS
RFP 2025-44DPW
ENGINEERING SERVICES
PARKING DECK**

Starting on 6/16/2025 at 10AM The City of Holyoke is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified professional engineering and design consulting firms to provide comprehensive services related to the demolition of the City Hall Parking Deck and redevelopment of the site into a landscaped green space or public park. This project will implement "Alternative 3" as identified in the Conditions Assessment Report prepared by Tighe & Bond in February 2025 (Attachment A).

The selected firm will deliver services spanning site evaluation, schematic design, final design, permitting, cost estimating, bidding, hazardous materials coordination, and construction supervision. This is a fee-based contract, and proposals will be evaluated based on qualifications, project approach, and cost. A non-mandatory highly encouraged site visit will take place at City Hall Parking Deck located at 536 Dwight Street, Holyoke MA 01040 on June 25, 2025 starting at 10AM. Respondents shall submit three (3) original hard copies and one electronic copy (PDF on flash drive) in a sealed envelope clearly labeled: Technical Proposals in one envelope and Price Proposals in another both envelopes clearly marked "Technical Proposal" & "Price Proposal" "RFP #2025-44DPW - Green Space Redevelopment at

City Hall Parking Deck"

To: Jaime Morrow
Chief Procurement Officer
City Hall, Room 3
536 Dwight Street
Holyoke, MA 01040

Deadline: July 22, 2025, at 2:00 PM documents can be requested electronically from morrowj@holyoke.org or for free in person from the purchasing office. Documents are available starting on 6/16/2025 @10AM. The city reserves the right to reject any and all bids if in the best interest of the public. The city also reserves the right to use Federal Funds to fund this project. Respondents will be screened for eligibility to receive Federal Funds. **No Electronic Submissions will be allowed.**
06/20/2025

**City of Holyoke
Office of Procurement
536 Dwight Street, Room 3
Holyoke, MA 01040
INVITATION TO BID
2025-45DPW
PAVEMENT MARKINGS
FY26-FY28**

Sealed bids for **FY26-FY28 Pavement Markings, Holyoke, MA** will be received on **July 10, 2025** at the City of Holyoke Office of Procurement, 536 Dwight Street, Room 3, Holyoke, Massachusetts 01040, Attn: Jaime Morrow, Chief Procurement Officer **until 3 PM prevailing time**, at which said Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. All bids shall be submitted within a sealed envelope addressed to the "City of Holyoke Office of Procurement, 536 Dwight Street, Room 3, Holyoke, Massachusetts 01040, Attn: Jaime Morrow, Chief Procurement Officer" and titled "**FY26-FY28 Pavement Markings, Bid#2025-45DPW**". The work under this contract shall include furnishing the necessary labor, transportation, tools, equipment, materials, and appurtenances to install pavement markings as required by the City. The locations for the pavement markings will be as directed by the City. Bidding procedures shall be in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 30, Section 39 M as amended. Documents are available as of 06/18/2025 @ 10AM by requesting electronically from morrowj@holyoke.org or for free in Person from the Purchasing Office.

The estimated value of this contract, including all bid alternates, is \$37,500.00. Subject to the receipt of additional funding, the City reserves the right to extend the contract for two (2) additional 12-month options. Valuation for purposes of MassDOT Prequalification is based on first year times three (3) to arrive at an estimated total value of all bid items. The estimated value provided in this Invitation to Bid is for one year. Vendors are expected to be able to provide their services over three (3) years at three (3) times the initial estimated value.

The bidder Contractor shall also be MassDOT, Highways Division, Prequalified in the class of work "PAVEMENT MARKINGS". An award will not be made to a Contractor who is not pre-qualified with the MassDOT Highway Division prior to the opening of proposals.

The city reserves the right to reject any and all bids if in the best interest of the public. The city also reserves the right to use Federal Funds to fund this project. Respondents will be screened for eligibility to receive Federal Funds. **No Electronic Submissions will be allowed.**
06/20/2025

City of Holyoke
Office of Procurement
536 Dwight Street, Room 3

**Holyoke, MA 01040
INVITATION TO BID
2025-43DPW
PAVING & MILLING**

Sealed bids for **FY26-FY28 Hot Mix Asphalt Paving and Related Work, Holyoke, MA** will be received on **July 10, 2025** at the City of Holyoke Office of Procurement, 536 Dwight Street, Room 3, Holyoke, Massachusetts 01040, Attn: Jaime Morrow, Chief Procurement Officer **until 2 PM prevailing time**, at which said Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. All bids shall be submitted within a sealed envelope addressed to the "City of Holyoke Office of Procurement, 536 Dwight Street, Room 3, Holyoke, Massachusetts 01040, Attn: Jaime Morrow, Chief Procurement Officer" and titled "**FY26-FY28 Hot Mix Asphalt Paving and Related Work, Bid#2025-43DPW**". Documents are available starting on 6/18/2025 at 10PM electronically from morrowj@holyoke.org or for free in person from the Purchasing Office. Work will consist of the milling and paving of various locations throughout the City. Bidding procedures shall be in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 30, Section 39 M as amended.

The estimated value of this contract, including all bid alternates, is \$752,640.00. Subject to the receipt of additional funding, the City reserves the right to extend the contract for two (2) additional 12-month options. Valuation for purposes of MassDOT Prequalification is based on first year times three (3) to arrive at an estimated total value of all bid items. The estimated value provided in this Invitation to Bid is for one year. Vendors are expected to be able to provide their services over three (3) years at three (3) times the initial estimated value.

The bidder Contractor shall also be MassDOT, Highways Division, Prequalified in the class of work "HIGHWAYS-CONSTRUCTION". An award will not be made to a Contractor who is not pre-qualified with the MassDOT Highway Division prior to the opening of proposals.

The city reserves the right to reject any and all bids if in the best interest of the public. The city also reserves the right to use Federal Funds to fund this project. Respondents will be screened for eligibility to receive Federal Funds. **No Electronic Submissions will be allowed.**
06/20/2025

**CITY OF HOLYOKE
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The Holyoke Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, July 8, 2025, 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 for Peck Middle School, located at 1916 Northampton Street (Parcel 110-00-028), submitted by Holyoke Public Schools.

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

Applicant:
City of Holyoke
Holyoke Public Schools
Planning Board:
Mimi Panitch
06/20, 06/27/2025

**City of Holyoke
Planning Board
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The Holyoke Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, July 8, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.com** ID: 836-3939-8493; Call in *67 646 558 8656 to hear applications submitted by MIFA Victory Theatre, for the property located at 81-89

Suffolk St (012-06-006-007) pursuant to the Holyoke Zoning Ordinance, Section 10.0, a Major Site Plan Review (File #169); pursuant to Section 6.4.6.4, a Special Permit for an **Increase In Sign Size and Multiple Signs** (2025-22); and pursuant to Section 6.1.7, a Special Permit for the Reduction of Parking Requirements (2025-23).

The proposed **Victory Theatre** renovations include a 5,935 s.f./18,755 gsf square foot building additions for offices, performance area, and loading dock and other associated site improvements.

For a complete copy of the application and site plan, contact the Planning Department at (413) 322-5575.

APPLICANT:
SLR International Corp.
c/o John Hammer;
MIFA Victory Theatre
c/o Donald Sanders
PLANNING BOARD:
Mimi Panitch, Chairperson
06/20, 06/27/2025

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No.
HD25P1245EA
Estate of:**

**Maureen June Wilson
Also Known As:
Maureen J. Wilson
Date of Death: March 22, 2025
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Daniel L. Wilson of Springfield, MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Daniel L. Wilson of Springfield, MA

has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
6/20/2025

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

The Holyoke Sun
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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



EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of July 4th,
PUBLIC NOTICES
EARLY AD DEADLINE
Place your public notice
no later than NOON
Thursday, July 3
- Thank you!

In The News

DINO, from page 1

Get ready to stomp, chomp, and groove as you break out in your favorite dino-dance moves during our Dinosaur Dance Off. Dress like your favorite dinosaur and meet us in the Music Room to boogie like a brontosaurus to win a special, prehistoric-themed prize. Guests can see the dinosaur tracks leading up to the museum and explore the gardens, too.

Our Sensory Friendly Sunday Fundays provide an excellent opportunity for families with sensory sensitivities to experience our museum in a relaxed environment at their own pace. Attendees to Sunday Fundays like this one will receive a stamp in their Sunday Funday summer passport. The more stamps you collect, the bigger prize you can earn at the end of the season.

Dino Day at Sensory Friendly Sunday Funday is part of Dino Trail Week, a series of dinosaur events across the valley, July 5 to 13. See more Dino Trail Week events at ptco.org/dino.

Come back to the museum to experience Dinosaurs in the Driveway with Sarah Doyle. Doyle dives into the history of the dinosaur tracks leading up to Wistariahurst, originally laid in 1927. Learn about these tracks at the museum, and the dinosaur tracks that were found all around towns in our area. You'll get a slice of local history as you learn how the discovery of dinosaur footprints in the Connecticut River Valley brought our local small towns to the attention of scientists overseas.

Sarah Doyle has investigated the history of the discovery of dinosaur footprints since 1990. She was the lead writer for the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial

Association's Impressions from a Lost World website and, since 2010, has directed Jurassic Roadshow, a pop-up exhibit of local fossils that includes amateur fossil collectors, academic paleontologists and geologists, histor-

ical re-enactors, and learning activities. Jurassic Roadshow was the impetus for the creation of DinoFest, held annually in Greenfield since 2017, often in collaboration with Jonathan Mirin's Piti Theatre group for children. She has

written papers on the mostly unknown figures in the story of the discovery, including three in collaboration with the late Robert Herbert.

Registration for these events is encouraged. Visit Wistariahurst Museum's

Eventbrite page to register.

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

PREHISTORIC PLAYTIME



A free and fun activity for the kids is to outline the dinosaur tracks in chalk located on Rt. 5. For more information on the dinosaur tracks located in Holyoke visit thetrustees.org/place/dinosaur-footprints/.

File photos

LIBRARY, from page 1

to do a mix. Everything we offer is free and is sure to put a smile on everyone's faces. They will be fun and educational. I hope attendees have a great time at the Holyoke Public Library and look forward to coming back for future events. We hope to prevent 'Summer Slide' with our Independent Reading Program. Children who don't read during the summer can lose up to two months of learning by the time they return to school in the fall. Between weekly events and our reading programs, the Children's Room is the place to be. It's going to be awesome!" says Children's Librarian Nathan Hayes.

"We want patrons to have fun at the library and to come back all year. We offer a beautiful space for families to enjoy, and best of all we are completely free. The number of children, and their caregivers who are available to come to our programs is much larger in the summer, this allows us to book a wide range of different events, and hopefully we introduce families to new interests that they can carry with them," says Children's Librarian Rene Pellissier.

"Every year the Summer Reading Program has a theme. This year it is 'Level Up'. We always have a mix of programming types every year. Teens can expect to be able to relax

and enjoy activities in the Teen Room all summer long. I hope to be able to help teens keep their reading and social skills sharp over the summer. There is something for everyone, and always something to do at the HPL. Please come down to the Kick-off Party on June 26 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. for free ice cream from the ice cream truck, face painting, yard games, balloon animals, magic and more," says Teen's Librarian Robin Siniaho.

For more information about Holyoke Public Library's summer events, summer reading program and for registration stop by the library or visit <https://www.holyokelibrary.org/> or call 413-420-8105.

CITY, from page 1

Homeland Security should notify the Holyoke City Council and Mayor of its specific violation and what steps are needed to remedy.

The City of Holyoke and all of its employees and agents hereby agree to fully comply with all federal laws and regulations. To the extent the city, its employees or agents have or are violating any federal law or regulation, they shall immediately cease and fully comply.

The City of Holyoke requests removal from any identification of our city as a sanctuary city by any federal department or agency."

The order was introduced to the entire council at the June 17 meeting, but it was quickly referred to the Development and Government Relations Committee, which is chaired by Councilor Kocayne Givner. Givner will need to schedule a meeting and place the item on the agenda where the committee will discuss the matter and make a recommendation to the full council. With the summer schedule coming soon, it is unclear how long it will take the resolution to make it back to the full council.

Garcia made his order on Jan. 24, stating that, "that the Holyoke Police Department

will neither honor nor enforce a civil immigration detainer requested from the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or the United States Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) when such order seeks the excessive and/or unnecessary detention of an individual in department custody at the Holyoke Police Department beyond the point at which he or she would otherwise be released."

While this order states the police will not assist ICE in any way, it does not designate Holyoke a sanctuary city or prevents ICE agents themselves from executing their duties.

MCAS, from page 1

"The new competency determination criteria includes a passing grade for both grade 9 and 10 English courses, a passing grade for both the algebra 1 and geometry courses and a passing grade in biology.

Course equivalents can be determined by the school principal and approved by the superintendent."

Soto said if a student or former student believes tran-

script meets this criteria and would like to request a diploma to replace your certificate of attainment, they can visit hps.holyoke.ma.us under the "Records Request" tab.

After filling out the request, the superintendent is notified and the request is sent to Holyoke High's North or Dean campus, depending on where the student attended.

Since opening up the eligibility, 14 students have had their requests approved, and

more requests are awaiting reviews, Soto said.

With news of this eligibility, it could change the recently reported graduation rates, which have improved year-over-year for the past few years.

The Holyoke Public Schools are in the process of preparing to be returned to local control at the beginning of July. The state is supposed to put an end to the receivership the school district has been in since 2015.

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Holyoke Pizza

213 South Street, Holyoke

GIFT CARDS AVAILABLE! 413.532.6666

<p>#1 Two Large Pizzas, 1 Topping Each & 2 Liter Soda \$32.50 +Tax</p>	<p>#11 Ten Wings w/French Fries \$16.99 +Tax</p>
<p>#2 One Large 1 Topping Pizza, 10 Buffalo Wings & 2 Liter Soda \$31.99 +Tax</p>	<p>#13 Two 16" Grinders with Bag of Chips & Can of Soda \$24.99 +Tax</p>
<p>#4 One Party Size Cheese Pizza, 20 Buffalo Wings & 2 Liter Soda \$43.50 +Tax</p>	<p>#16 Large 1 Topping Pizza, Small Cheese Calzone, 2 Liter Soda & 10 Wings \$42.50 +Tax</p> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold; text-align: right;">FAMILY SPECIAL</p>

Clipless Coupons – Order By Number

DAILY SPECIALS
(Especiales Del Dia)

Mini Calzone Each Topping (same as Pizza Toppings) Additional \$1.75 \$8.50

Any Wrap with Small Bag of Chips and Can of Soda \$10.99

Any Wrap with French Fries and Can of Soda \$12.50

Any 8" Grinder with a Bag of Chips & a Can of Soda \$11.50

Any 8" Grinder with French Fries & a Can of Soda \$11.99

Any Pita Pocket with a Bag of Chips & a Can of Soda \$11.50

Any Pita Pocket with French Fries & a Can of Soda \$11.99

Any 16" Grinder with a Bag of Chips & a Can of Soda \$13.99

Any 16" Grinder with French Fries & a Can of Soda \$13.99

10" Cheese Pizza \$8.25 Each Topping \$1.50

4 Chicken Tenders with French Fries & a Can of Soda \$10.99

Cheeseburger with French Fries & a Can of Soda \$10.50

<p>#5 8" Grinder or Pita Pocket with Fries & FREE Can of Soda \$13.25+Tax</p>	<p>#6 One Large 2 Topping Pizza, & FREE 2 Liter Soda \$22.99 +Tax</p>
<p>#10 One Large 1 Topping Pizza, 20 Wings & FREE 2 Liter Soda \$39.99 +Tax</p>	<p>#14 One Medium 1 Topping Pizza, 10 Wings & FREE 2 Liter Soda \$29.99 +Tax</p>

EXPRESS DELIVERY: Holyoke, Chicopee, South Hadley & West Springfield

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE COUPONS & TO ORDER ONLINE

www.holyokepizza.com

Send Us Your Community Autumn Events

Turley Publications will print your Autumn event **FREE OF CHARGE** in our **Autumn Fest Supplement** which will be published September 10, 2025. Total circulation of 85,000 which reaches over 200,000 readers in the Pioneer Valley. **Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public**

FREE Calendar Listings Reaching over 200,000 Readers in the Pioneer Valley

Event Name _____

Date/Time _____

Location _____

Description _____

Cost _____

Contact name & phone number for more information _____

MAIL YOUR LISTING INFORMATION TO:

Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn,
24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069
or email* them to: jamie@turley.com
*Be sure to indicate "Autumn Event" in the subject line of your email.

Deadline for Calendar submissions is August 11.