

## Storyteller gets creative with fairy houses crafts

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Public Library hosted a fairy take and make craft event, put on by Storyteller MaryJo Maichack.

This event was open for adults to come in and relax while getting creative and making fairy houses.

Maichack came in and provided the materials for the adults to use. The materials included various woodland items, such as rocks, sticks and acorns, as well as some ribbon and sequins.

Maichack enjoyed seeing people come in and get creative with the different materials.

“This is unleashed creativity and letting people just have at it is successful and joyful,” Maichack said. “They absolutely show imagination and creativity.”

One of her favorite parts of the program was seeing what people did with the different materials and how they managed to make everything come together.

See FAIRY, page 11

## Journey to Japan at the library

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The public library hosted Motoko, a professional storyteller, to come in and tell some stories of her own life as well as some Japanese folklore.

This was the first of a series of events that Motoko will run. She will be coming back in July and August to do origami and folklore with children and teens.

Her adult program was complete with stories and song, which kept everyone in attendance enthralled for the entirety of the event. Everyone present loved her work.

“It was an amazing program,” Library Director Maria Pagan said. “She’s amazing, funny and kept it entertaining and lively.”

Motoko worked hard to keep people engaged, teaching event attendees short phrases in Japanese and small hand gestures to go along with her different stories and songs.

She expertly blended her storytelling between personal narratives and different folklore, allowing for a variety of genres that kept people laughing and interested.

Some of the folklore stories she shared were ones she found that she could relate to and wanted to share with those in attendance.

“As a storyteller I consider myself lucky if I can find one or two folktales that I consider about me,” Motoko said.

Motoko told a variety of stories, including the Kang Ding Love Story and the Master Miser and the Mister Stingy story.

The Kang Ding Love Story was a story of star-crossed lovers. The lovers had

grown up together and wanted to marry, but the young woman was to marry another to save her family.

The story continued with the lovers running away and raising a family, before they eventually reunited with their families.

“As a storyteller  
I consider myself lucky  
if I can find  
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that I consider about me,”

- Motoko

See JAPAN, page 12



## SUMMER SUNSET



The beautiful sunset over Mt. Tom on Tuesday night. Submitted photo

## School committee discussed a new assessment format

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – At their meeting on June 10, the school committee received a presentation from Superintendent/Receiver Anthony Soto and from Executive Director of Academics Rebecca Thompson regarding the new assessment program for Holyoke Public Schools.

They will be switching from ANet to Renaissance DnA. This new platform will allow the school more accurate testing and increased flexibility with their assessments.

“A-Net served us well for a couple of years but we certainly could use closer alignment for our students and for our teachers,” Thompson said.

Using Renaissance will allow the district easier access to their assessment data, as it aligns with STAR, which offers the HPS screening and progress monitoring.

Additionally, Renaissance will be custom building assessments for the district based on

the HPS curriculum.

“We’ve given them our scope and sequence documents, rather than trying to adjust our curriculum and how we teach based on an assessment, they are custom building based on our schedule of standards that we’re teaching” Thompson said.

This is a significant change from ANet, which had set assessments that did not always line up with the curriculum of HPS, often causing students to be assessed on content they had yet to touch on in class.

“It doesn’t feel good to sit for an assessment where you maybe haven’t been taught those standards yet or as a teacher feeling like the scores aren’t where you want to see them be because you haven’t taught it yet but your students have to take the assessment,” Thompson said.

Teachers will also have the ability to use the platform in order to create assessments for their students. There are banks

See FORMAT, page 11

## Split city council passes FY2025 budget

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The City Council voted 7-5 to pass the proposed fiscal year 2025 operating budget.

Councilors Israel Rivera, Jenny Rivera, Juan Anderson-Burgos, Patti Divine, Kocayne Givner, Howard Greaney, Meagan Magrath-Smith and Tessa Murphy-Romboletti voted in favor of the budget.

The total proposed general fund for the budget was \$172,301,364.

The budget had a proposed tax levy of \$66,257,585, while the current tax levy (that for FY24) is \$63,073,552.

City Councilor Kevin Jourdain was not in favor of this significant increase in the tax levy for this year.

“I can assure you that taxpayers cannot afford a 5% tax increase in order to support this,” Jourdain said.

See BUDGET, page 11

# Holyoke Community College awarded \$832K

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College has been awarded an \$832,000 grant to help train workers for clean energy sector jobs.

The two-year grant, announced earlier this month, was part of an overall \$3.4 million allocation from the Healey-Driscoll administration to three higher education institutions for climate-related workforce training initiatives.

HCC was the only institution in western Massachusetts to receive funding. Benjamin Franklin Cummings Institute of Technology and Roxbury Community College, both in Boston, also received grant awards of \$1.3 million each.

“This is a great opportunity for the region,” said Kermit Dunkelberg, HCC assistant vice president of adult education and workforce development. “The

state is putting a lot of investment into the clean energy sector, for a lot of reasons. To their credit, the Healey administration is very interested in getting some activity going in the western part of the state.”

Overall, the grants will lead to green industry specific training for an estimated 400 individuals, 150 of them through HCC.

Dunkelberg said HCC and its community and industry partners will spend the next few months developing training programs in five areas: EV charging station installation; energy auditing; solar installation; green industry supervision and management; and green careers job readiness.

“You’re starting to see electric vehicle charging stations more commonly now, but there is still a need to build

a lot more of them, and there need to be people trained to do it,” Dunkelberg said. “And then, car companies will be able to sell more electric vehicles. All these things are connected.”

For instance, he said, auto dealer Gary Rome wrote a letter in support of the grant.

Dunkelberg said there are businesses looking to get into the emerging EV station market, but it’s difficult to start operations without enough trained employees.

Electricians, Dunkelberg said, are critical in this emerging industry.

“In the clean energy sector, one of the biggest choke points, if not the biggest choke point, is the availability of enough training electricians to do the work,” Dunkelberg said. “To work as an EV charging station installer or a solar

installer, you don’t have to be a licensed electrician, but you have to have some experience as an electrician.”

HCC’s partners in the grant include Holyoke Gas & Electric, Springfield Works, and the Coalition for Equitable Economy, an organization that supports businesses owned by persons of color. Holyoke Community College is a federally recognized Hispanic-Serving Institution, which was one of the eligibility requirements for the grant.

Dunkelberg said he expects training to begin in early 2025 if not sooner. “HCC does a lot of work in the healthcare space,” Dunkelberg said. “This grant will enable us to provide opportunities in a totally different sector. There’s a lot to learn here and new relationships to establish - quite a bit of groundwork to be done.”

## COLLEGE NOTES

### Resident inducted into Honor Society

SPRINGFIELD – Elizabeth Winberg of Holyoke has been inducted into the American International College Chapter of Alpha Chi for the Spring 2024 semester. Winberg is studying Physical Therapy.

### AIC spring 2024 Dean’s List

SPRINGFIELD – American International College in Springfield, MA, is proud to announce that 470 students have earned a place on the dean’s list for the spring 2024 semester. These full-time students have attained GPAs ranging from 3.3 to 4.0. AIC applauds the dedication and achievements of these enterprising students. The following students are from Holyoke.

Ariana Alvarado Diaz is majoring in Nursing, Leslie Brazeau is majoring in Communication and Public Relations, Willie Lopez Morales is majoring in Human Biology, Elyse Manzi is majoring in General Business, Jack Narey is majoring in Health Science, Keila Oquendo is majoring in Nursing, Emma Otero is majoring in Nursing, Alanys Perez Rivera is majoring in General Business, Dialis Santiago is majoring in Nursing, Javier Simms is majoring in Exercise Science and Elizabeth Winberg is majoring in Health Science.

### Bryant University Spring Dean’s List

SMITHFIELD, RI – Bryant University is pleased to recognize Acadia Joniec of Holyoke, for demonstrating an unwavering commitment to academic excellence and achievement by being named to the Spring 2024 deans’ list.

### Univ. of Alabama spring Dean’s List

TUSCALOOSA, AL – Daniel Cavanaugh from Holyoke was named to The University of Alabama dean’s List for spring semester 2024.

A total of 13,103 students enrolled during Spring Semester 2024 at The University of Alabama were named to

the dean’s list with an academic record of 3.5 (or above) or the president’s list with an academic record of 4.0. These driven students are making waves across UA’s more than 70 undergraduate programs.

### Salve Regina Dean’s List

NEWPORT, RI – Jade Denucce-Simms of Holyoke was named to the dean’s list during the Spring 2024 academic semester at Salve Regina University. To qualify for the dean’s list, students must earn a semester grade point average of 3.6 for full-time students completing at least 12 graded credits, or a semester grade point average of 3.8 for part-time students completing at least six credits.

### WPI spring 2024 Dean’s List

WORCESTER – A total of 2,226 undergraduate students at Worcester Polytechnic Institute achieved the criteria required for the university’s spring 2024 dean’s list. The criteria for the WPI dean’s list differ from that of most other universities as WPI does not compute a grade point average. Instead, WPI defines the dean’s list by the amount of work completed at the A level in courses and projects.

“WPI’s academic programs are rigorous and require a level of independence beyond what is required in traditional courses. WPI students work on open-ended problems for communities around the world. The problems are important, and the impact is real” said Professor Arthur C. Heinricher. “Some of this nation’s best and brightest students come to WPI to study engineering and science and business and the humanities. Those named to the Dean’s List have excelled in all of their work, and we are exceptionally proud of these outstanding students.”

The following students were named to the Dean’s List for Spring 2024:

Marcel Guzik, of Holyoke, Massachusetts, class of 2025, majoring in Electrical and Computer Engineering.

Maeve Norton, of Holyoke, Massachusetts, class of 2025, majoring in Computer Science.

Ethan Ramoth, of Holyoke, Massachusetts, class of 2027, majoring in Robotics Engineering.

## PrideFest set for June 22

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

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

A full list of Pride Month events, including detailed schedules and additional activities, can be found on the official Holyoke Pride website at [www.holyokepride.org](http://www.holyokepride.org). The website also provides information on how to support Holyoke Pride through event

sponsorships, donations, and volunteer opportunities.

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

Join in making this Pride Month memorable and impactful. Let’s come together to celebrate who we are and support each other in building a more inclusive and loving community. For media inquiries, please contact: Jeff Bianchine at [info@holyokeypride.org](mailto:info@holyokeypride.org), 413-420-8303 ext 3. Stay connected with Holyoke Pride on social media: Facebook: HolyokePride, Twitter: @HolyokePride, Instagram: @HolyokePride.

## Tykes Tuesday is back at mall

HOLYOKE – Tykes Tuesday is back for its fourth year of summertime fun at Holyoke Mall Tuesday mornings from July 9 through Aug. 20.

Tykes Tuesday, sponsored by WWLP, 94.7 WMAS and Valley Opportunity Council, 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 summer series includes STEM activities, Ed Popielarczyk’s Magic Show, Meet & Greet with the Holyoke Fire Department, and more. The kids’ program is free, open to the public, and is best suited for children ages 12 and under.

Tykes Tuesday Schedule:  
July 9: Wildlife on Wheels with

Forest Park Zoo  
July 16: Story Time with the Holyoke Public Library  
July 23: The Teppanyaki Experience at Sumo Japanese Steakhouse  
July 30: Collage and The Art of Eric Carle  
Aug. 6: Discover the Beauty of Magic Wings Butterfly Conservatory  
Aug. 13: Meet & Greet with Holyoke Fire Department  
Aug. 20: Magical Moments with Ed Popielarczyk  
Families are encouraged to pre-register on [Holyokemall.com](http://Holyokemall.com).  
More information about Holyoke Mall stores, restaurants, and entertainment venues, can be found at [Holyokemall.com](http://Holyokemall.com).

## Genealogy consultations available

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke History Room of the Holyoke Public Library is now hosting free Drop-in consultations with professional genealogists twice a month from 2 to 4 p.m. on second and fourth Wednesdays. Anyone with an interest in family history research is welcome to drop by to ask for guided help or share their progress.

Hillary Schau, certified professional genealogist, has more than 20 years of experience in the field and has particular expertise in helping people get organized. Iris Alicea Flores, also a certified professional genealogist, offers general help and brings with her an entire library of reference works on Caribbean and Central and South American genealogical research. Iris

is fully bilingual. Both genealogists, as well as History Room staff, can help visitors navigate online sources and explore the resources at the History Room. Extra computers will be available for patron use.

Hillary, who has been involved in the genealogy lab at the Chicopee Public Library for several years, is excited to be offering her services for free in Holyoke. Iris, who works remotely with clients far and near and is the author of the Descubre Tu Historia blog, is enjoying offering in-person help to local residents. Since winter, the program has attracted more than two dozen drop-in visitors and there is room for more. For more information, call the History Room at (413) 420-8107.



# Gary Rome gives a donation to HCC Foundation

HOLYOKE – Auto dealer Gary Rome presented a \$5,000 donation check to the Holyoke Community College Foundation today to support the college's Thrive Student Resource Center.

The check is the result of funds raised in the foundation's annual "Together HCC: Drive to Change Lives" 24-hour fundraising campaign, which on April 23 raised a total of \$164,313 for student-centered programs and scholarships.

As a campaign promotion this year, Rome, owner of Gary Rome Hyundai in Holyoke and Gary Rome Kia in Enfield, CT, pledged to double all gifts from new donors up to \$5,000.

During the June 18 event, Rome presented an oversized, ceremonial check

to Amanda Sbriscia, vice president of Institutional Advancement and executive director of the HCC Foundation.

"Gary has been such a catalyst for the success of our 'Together HCC' campaign," said Sbriscia. "His passion not only for the campaign, but for supporting our students, inspires others to do the same."

The Thrive Center Student Resource Center manages the college's food pantry and provides services, such as food and housing assistance, that help address students' basic needs.

"It is our pleasure today to make this contribution to such a worthwhile initiative," said Rome "I think it's our responsibility to be a power of example and do all we can to help build a stronger

community, and part of that is letting everyone know about the crown jewel we have right here, Holyoke Community College."

Rome said "My father told me, over and over again, 'What you put between your ears no one can ever take away,' so I want to help make sure that education is available to everyone."

Following the check presentation in the HCC Campus Center, Thrive Center Coordinator Ben Ostiguy led Rome on a tour of the center and HCC food pantry, which recently moved into larger spaces in the Kittredge Center for Business and Workforce Development.

"I can't imagine being a student and trying to go to school without having breakfast or lunch," said Rome. "We

need to make food and housing available to students so that they can thrive and excel with their education."

The "Together HCC" campaign is a partnership between Rome and HCC that began in March 2020 to build community support and raise money for students experiencing financial distress during the pandemic. Since then, the event has become an annual day of giving to raise funds for the college.

"The Thrive Center is such a critical space for our students that helps them remain on a path to earning their college degree," said Sbriscia. "Thanks to Gary's support and gifts from so many of our alumni and friends, Thrive will continue to be a life-changing resource for our students."

## Photographic tour of Holyoke City Hall offered through July

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

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

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

Pierce took on the project of pho-

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

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

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

The Friends of Holyoke City Hall and the Holyoke Preservation Trust are sponsoring Pierce's effort. Those interested can purchase the limited-edition photographs, including those on display at the art exhibit, at [www.holyokepreservationtrust.org](http://www.holyokepreservationtrust.org).

## MiraVista highlights public awareness need for teen mental health

HOLYOKE – MiraVista Behavioral Health Center and the Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts are partnering to highlight young people's emotional wellness in their campaign, "Adolescent Mental Health Doesn't Take A Vacation." A press conference has been scheduled for 10:30 a.m. on June 18, at MiraVista Behavioral Health Center, 1233 Main St.

"We know from both national and state data that poor mental health continues to be on the increase among young people," said Kimberley Lee, MiraVista chief of Creative Strategy and Development. "Being away from school friends and school supports during the extended summer break can be isolating for some teens. Our campaign is designed to remind parents, trusted adult caregivers, community providers, as well as adolescents that help is available when someone is struggling emotionally and to remember they are not alone!"

Lee said weekly social media posts will carry short messaging such as "There's no shame in having feelings or seeking help to deal with them" and "Ask your teen how they are doing and take time to listen without judgment."

"Sometimes an emotional issue can be resolved through good commu-

nication between adult caregivers and child, and sometimes it may require a call to the child's pediatrician or call to a mental health care provider," Lee said. "Various evidence-based treatments are available."

Adults who model taking care of their own mental health can make it easier for a teen in need of such help to seek it. This is also one of the campaign's messages."

When asked to partner, Jessica Collins, executive director of the PHIWM said, "Yes. It is important to blend community prevention and clinical support by partnering with MiraVista Behavioral Health Center on this crucial campaign. Adolescence is a critical time for mental health development, and ensuring young people have access to support during the summer months is particularly important."

Dr. Kathleen Szegda, senior director of Community Research and Evaluation at PHIWM, recently led efforts to develop the Youth Mental Health Roadmap for Western Massachusetts. "This campaign aligns with many of the recommendations outlined in the Roadmap, particularly the focus on prevention," said Szegda. "Promoting positive mental health practices and destigmatizing mental health conditions is key to improving the mental health of our young people."

## State sales tax holiday approved

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Legislature approved Aug. 10 and Aug. 11 as a sales tax holiday weekend for Massachusetts. On those days, the Massachusetts sales tax of 6.25% will be suspended for most items that retail for less than \$2,500.

The holiday welcomes Massachusetts residents to visit retailers and small businesses around the state. A spike in consumer activity routinely boosts indirect tax revenues. According to the Department of Revenue, during the

2023 sales tax holiday, indirect tax revenues due to increased economic activity were approximately \$3.54 million.

"I am glad to see the sales tax holiday be approved in the legislature today, giving our residents a great chance to get outside and embrace their local businesses and community at a little bit of a discount," said Sen. Adam Gomez (D-Springfield). "This annual holiday gives a boost to our small business owners and consumers, and I am proud to support this measure annually."

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Guest Column



## I'm already collecting Social Security how will my WEP be calculated

Dear Rusty

I don't understand exactly how the Windfall Elimination Provision works for my situation. I turned 62 in 2017 and am currently still working in a "non-covered" job, not paying into Social Security, but from which I will get a government pension when I retire. I began collecting Social Security at my full retirement age in 2021 and am now collecting \$1,507 per month thanks to the cost of living adjustments since I started. Will my Social Security benefit be reduced by \$587 if I retire this year?

Signed Confused by WEP

Dear Confused

You're certainly not alone to be confused by WEP and your situation is somewhat special because you started your SS benefits before taking your "non-covered" government pension. And, unfortunately, most tools and charts, which suggest how much WEP will reduce your Social Security benefit don't accommodate that nuance very well.

In your case, when you claimed Social Security at your Full Retirement Age, you were awarded the full benefit you were entitled to, unreduced by WEP because you were not yet collecting your non-covered government pension. You were able to collect your full SS amount and receive each year's full Cost Of Living Adjustments to those higher amounts.

What actually happens is that each person's Primary Insurance Amount is first determined at age 62 and Social Security applies an annually awarded COLA to their PIA

See SECURITY, page 5

## Election letters to the editor welcome

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

For more information, call 413-283-8393.

### Campaign news

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

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



Guest Column

## June companions worthy of admiration



I was chatting with a fellow gardener recently and she made a comment that really struck me. "Aren't the flowers just beautiful this year?" I had to agree.

Everything that is blooming is blooming in abundance, in terms of biennials, perennials and flowering shrubs. Even the \$65 hydrangea bush I got suckered into two years ago on Mother's Day weekend is loaded with flower buds.

I thought it would be fun to give you a few factoids about some of the plants in my yard that are blooming now. Ironically enough, they make a great companion planting. Here goes.

The apothecary's rose (*Rosa gallica officinalis*) is so laden with flowers that I need to get a good support system in place and fast! This rose in particular is an excellent choice for the beginner heirloom rose enthusiast.

Known as the oldest rose in cultivation, it is easy to grow, survives the winter without protection, and blooms effortlessly for about a month each June. Bright crimson flowers have two rows of petals and attractive yellow stamens; rose hips form as the flowers fade providing a bit of winter interest.

Its compatible color and short stature, about three feet, make this bush rose an ideal choice for the perennial border or hedge, keeping in mind though that it sends up new shoots pretty relentlessly, even invading a think mat of bearded iris in my landscape.

Another great spot for the apothecary's rose would be in a garden devoted to herbs. For centuries it has been used medicinally, as well as for a source of food and perfume.

Reportedly, it is also the only rose whose petals, when dried, retain their fragrance – some argue that it even increases! Potpourri anyone?

Another plant booming in abundance is the Pheasant Eye Pink (*Dianthus plumarius*).

*Dianthus* is the genus for a group of plants known as "pinks," not because of their color, which ironically are usually shades of pink, but for the fact that their petals are finely "pinked." Think of the funny scissors known as pinking shears.

Common names for this group of plants include Gilliflower and Sops in Wine, noting the age old use of steeping the clove scented flowers in cheap wine by tavern owners to end up with a drink that tasted far more expensive. The clove fragrance of these flowers is outstanding. Just a few of the two inch flowers will undoubtedly perfume a room.

The silver leaved plant prefers a dry, rock garden type situation in full sun. Soil

must be well-drained and non-puddling over the winter months.

Do not mulch or the crown will rot. Few pests are known to bother it. The plant will stay in bloom up to three weeks. Deadheading spent blooms will help it to stay tidy.

I can honestly not say enough about my foxgloves this year. It's enjoyable just to stare at them in admiration.

Yes, I am serious. The spires are four-to-six feet tall with dozens of individual flowers lining the stems.

I cut one and brought it indoors and just asked my daughter to go count the flowers and buds yet to open; it's no joke when she came back with the amount. Seventy five, and that's just on one stem.

Native to Western Europe, the common foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*) has had a place in North American gardens since its introduction during colonial times. There has always been a secretive side to foxgloves, due in part to an unusual name and the potent medicine that is obtained from the plant.

Legend has it that foxglove was derived from "folk's glove," folks referring to the elves and fairies of country lore. Another legend tells that the fox needed magical gloves to steal a chicken or two.

A less fanciful explanation traces glove to gleow in Old English; a gleow was an ancient musical instrument made of bells suspended from a curved frame. In 1785 William Withering, an English physician, published a decade's worth of studies devoted to the use of foxglove as a heart medicine.

Although far too dangerous to be used by amateur herbalists, the drug digitalis was studied at length in the early years of the 20th century and is still prescribed by doctors today for those suffering with certain types of heart disease. Caution should be taken when growing the plant in the company of young children as all parts are considered poisonous if ingested.

Foxglove are easy to grow in full sun or part shade as long as they are provided with fertile, well-drained soil rich in organic matter. Plant them as you would a hill of squash: with lots and lots of composted manure!

Most species tend to be biennials or short-lived perennials. In my garden all types self-sow; leave a few seed heads to ripen if you appreciate volunteers as much as I do.

These three beauties are in the same border planting and what a show! Pay off for all of the "work" it is to garden. If you call it work at all. Enjoy your own flowers in abundance this June.

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

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## Letters to the Editor Policy

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

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

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

Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

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



Bobolink

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

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

Bobolinks feed on the ground, eating insects, weed and grass seeds. They inhabit hayfields and grasslands. There

population declined due to loss of grass-land breeding habitat and hunting during the last century to protect rice crops.

The female lays four to six cinnamon colored eggs with brown blotches in a nest of coarse grass and sedge lined with finer material on the ground. Urban development, reforestation and loss of dairy farms resulted in loss of their breeding habitat. Early cutting of hayfields can kill more than 80% of

unfledged young. Their song is a long bubbling sound given by the male in flight. The call is a "pink."

**Hummingbirds**

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

**Dusting turkey**

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

**Bear**

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

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

**SECURITY, from page 4**

even if they're not yet receiving benefits. You received your full PIA including COLA, because you claimed at your Full Retirement Age. But when you start collecting your pension from your non-covered government job, the Windfall Elimination Provision will kick in and reduce your Social Security benefit.

The amount of WEP reduction depends on how many years you had contributed to Social Security from "substantial" earnings but, with 20 or fewer years, the maximum WEP reduction is determined by the year you turn 62 and doesn't change. Since you turned 62 in 2017, your maximum WEP reduction, according to Social Security's process, is

\$442.50, lower than the \$587 you suspect.

Nevertheless, due to the way Social Security calculates the WEP reduction, the reduction from your current amount will seem larger than the WEP maximum. And that's because of the way Social Security applies the WEP reduction to your benefit. They start by first removing all COLA increases since you were 62 from your PIA. They will then take your PIA (sans COLA) and subtract \$442.50 (if you have more than 20 years of substantial SS-covered earnings they will subtract less and then they will reapply all the cost-of-living increases since you were 62 to the WEP-reduced PIA.

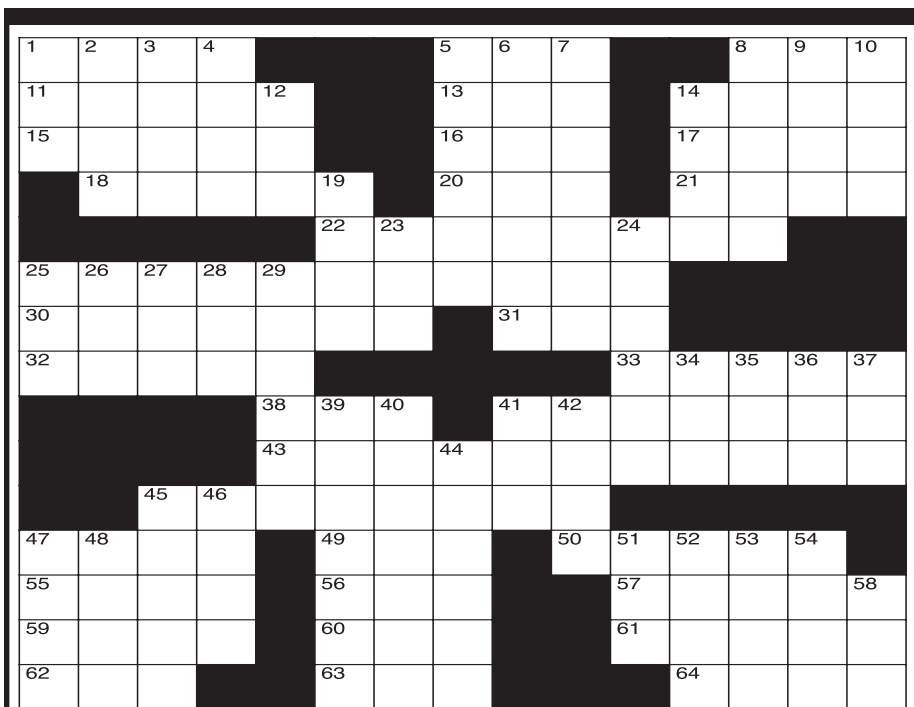
What just happened, in effect, is that your previous, pre-WEP, COLA increases were removed from your PIA and those same COLA percentages were

reapplied to your smaller WEP-reduced PIA to arrive at your new monthly benefit amount under the Windfall Elimination Provision. And that new amount will be lower than your previous SS benefit amount by more than the published maximum WEP reduction for the year you turned 62.

A word of caution: Timely notification to Social Security of your non-covered pension is very important. As soon as you receive your non-covered pension award letter, deliver it to your local Social Security office and request a WEP recalculation of your SS retirement benefit. The WEP recalculation will likely take months to process, during which time you will continue to receive your higher non-WEP SS benefit. That means you will be overpaid for the period between when

your non-covered pension started and the month your new WEP SS payment began and that overpayment must be refunded to Social Security.

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



**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Breezed through
- 5. Supervises interstate commerce
- 8. Unruly group
- 11. Backs away from
- 13. Expression of understanding
- 14. Have concern for
- 15. Monetary units
- 16. Congressman (abbr.)
- 17. Iranian city
- 18. Eating houses
- 20. 2,000 lbs.
- 21. Grandmother
- 22. They include North, South and Central
- 25. In an early way
- 30. Foes
- 31. Shattered British entertainment magazine
- 32. One who unloads cages
- 33. Another term for sesame
- 38. Formally forbid

- 41. Make clear
- 43. Inaccessible
- 45. Get through
- 47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- 49. Decameter
- 50. Type of sword
- 55. Actor Idris
- 56. Affirmative (slang)
- 57. Afflicted
- 59. One point north of northeast
- 60. Born of
- 61. Arabic name
- 62. Traditional Hong Kong street food: \_\_\_ pai dong
- 63. Termination point
- 64. Email function

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Sign language
- 2. In style
- 3. Helsinki neighborhood
- 4. Unable to hear
- 5. More rapid

- 6. An idea accepted as a demonstrable truth
- 7. In a cagy way
- 8. Kate and Rooney are two
- 9. Algerian port
- 10. Community in Ladakh
- 12. Midway between south and southeast
- 14. Town in Galilee
- 19. Satisfy
- 23. Italian impressionist painter
- 24. Brass instrument
- 25. Chest muscle (slang)
- 26. Transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm
- 27. Records electric currents generated by the brain
- 28. Woman (French)
- 29. Aircraft designed to carry lots of passengers
- 34. Baseball stat
- 35. Pointed end of a pen
- 36. Popular sports league
- 37. Body part
- 39. Unlikely to provoke dissent
- 40. Yellowish cotton cloth
- 41. Domesticated house pet
- 42. Untruths
- 44. Set out to attract
- 45. Spiritual leader
- 46. Abba \_\_\_, Israeli politician
- 47. Repair
- 48. Genus of flowering plants
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Prejudice
- 53. River in central Europe
- 54. Harness
- 58. Father

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 9

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 Wedding Location: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Habitat for Humanity welcomes newest co-op employee

**By Brandice J. O'Brien**  
Marketing and Communications Manager,  
Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity

WEST SPRINGFIELD - David Gelmudinov is gaining real-life experience while making a difference in his community.

The 18-year-old junior at Roger L Putnam Vocational Technical Academy in Springfield is participating in a cooperative education program with Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSHFH).

Beginning in April and lasting until the end of the school year, David comes to GSHFH and works a one-week-on/one-week-off schedule. In his off-week, David is at school.

In his on-week, David is at Habitat 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily working with the construction crew.

"He's got a lot to learn, but he's young," said Joe Schebel, GSHFH interim construction manager. "We haven't done a lot, but he's slowly learning. He cleans a job site up well, follows orders well, and he has a good handle on how to use tools."

The co-op program is funded by a grant from the Massachusetts Center for Clean Energy, through the Technical Trades Work and Learning Program. The program aims to enhance the talent pipeline for clean energy companies within the state by placing skilled labor from vocational high schools.

The program also reimburses the company for wages paid to interns.

Victor Santos, Putnam Cooperative Education director, said the co-op curriculum aims to expose students to technical and fundamental skills, tools, and a variety of tasks within the same project. Students should understand how to use a variety of tools and the settings in which they're appropriate.

They should also have training in installing windows, doors, baseboard trim, kitchen countertops, and other jobs necessary to building a home. Additionally, the opportunity to should

allow the young carpenters to develop their character and learn to work as a team.

"We want them to hone skills to become better carpenters and gain the skills that allow them to stay employable," Victor said.

Since he's been with Habitat, David has done random tasks and helped build a ramp for a home preservation project. The work entailed laying out floor decking, building framing for the ramp, installing posts and supports, adding handicap rails, and trim for the rails.

"I like the work that's being done at an effective/efficient pace," David said.

Greater Springfield Habitat's next project, a home in Springfield, is expected to break ground later this month.

To learn more about Youth Workforce Development Initiative, visit [habitatspringfield.org/workforce-development](http://habitatspringfield.org/workforce-development).



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Funded by a grant from the  
Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care

## Annual fireworks schedule set

HOLYOKE – The City of Holyoke will be hosting the annual 4th of July fireworks on Friday, June 28 (with a rain-date of June 30). The event will take place on the grounds of Holyoke Community College, at 303 Homestead Ave.

Vendors interested in taking part in the event should contact the Parks and Recreation Department before June 16,

for a permit application at 413-322-5620.

Everyone is encouraged to come early to enjoy the music and food from a variety of vendors as well as many children's activities. The event begins at 6 p.m. with the fireworks display scheduled to start at dusk. For any questions, please call the Mayor's Office at 413-561-1600.

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## Aldenville Post 337 gets win over Wilbraham

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

WILBRAHAM – Right-hander Matt Drobiak is one of the pitchers listed on the Aldenville Post 337 Senior Legion baseball team roster.

Drobiak, who graduated from South Hadley High School a couple of weeks ago, allowed just two base hits in leading Aldenville to a 2-0 shutout victory over the Wilbraham Falcons at Michael J. Farrell Memorial Field at Spec Pond, last Wednesday night. Post 337 includes players from Chicopee, Holyoke, and South Hadley this season.

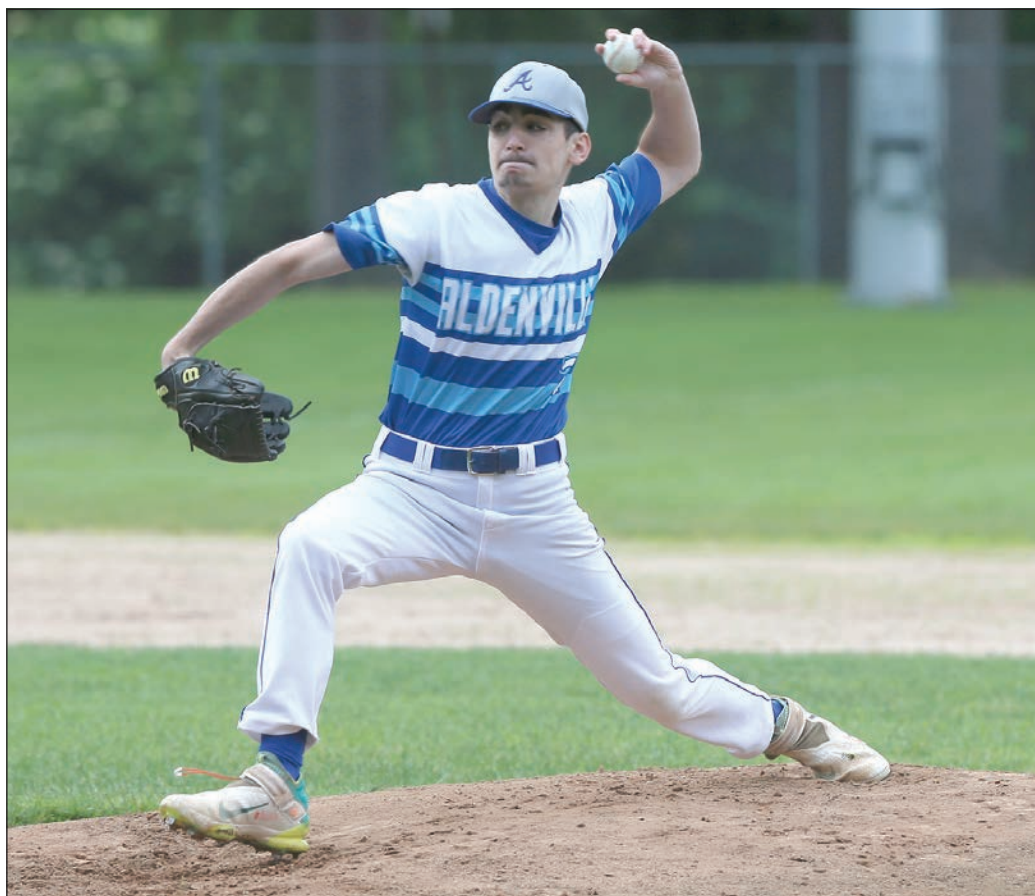
“I tell my guys all of the time that we’re going to win games this season with our pitching and defense,” said Aldenville manager Mason Scott. “We do have several outstanding pitchers on this year’s team and we’re going to ride them all season long.”

Aldenville, who had a 1-1 record after the first week of the Legion baseball season, suffered a one run extra inning loss to Northampton Post 28 in the sea-

See ALDENVILLE, page 8

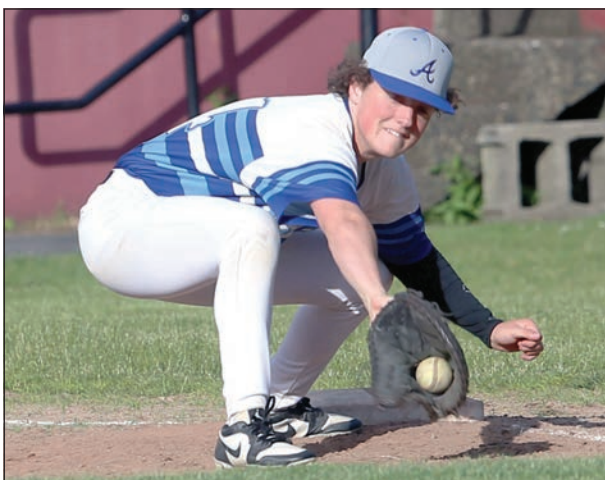


Nate Carillon makes a throw to first.



Brady Burnett pitches for Aldenville Post 337 during the first week of action.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Burke Belsky gets low to catch an out at first.



Jaylen Gonzalez sends a throw back to the infield.



Zach Oldenburg picks up an easy grounder.

## Final year of current alignments set to take place

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

The new state tournament format has brought with it a lot of complications, criticisms, and changes for teams, especially many of those in Western Massachusetts who never voted in favor of the tournament changing.

The format was widely pushed by the Eastern half of the state while Western Mass. teams lost their beloved sectional tournaments as they knew them.

But like any tournament or formula, it has its flaws and it is constantly evolving.

Western Massachusetts, which uses the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Conference to make its local leagues and now host a small Western Mass. tournament in

most sports, is heading into its final school year of a four-year alignment agreement.

After this year, teams will be re-aligned, and power rankings could be a bigger factor in how leagues are created going forward.

Previously, leagues are typically compiled using previous years records as a measure, and teams are placed in leagues based on competition, often intermingling teams from different divisions.

This can help or hurt teams. Smaller schools benefit from playing larger schools in their league because the larger schools help the power rankings of small schools.

The opposite is often the result for larger schools, which sometimes need every point possible to qualify for the state tournament as part of the top

32 teams in its respective sports and division. While a .500 record will get you into the state tournament, if you are below .500, you will get a low seed and possibly a trip across the state depending on where you draw.

There have already been some interesting changes happening in some league since the last alignment. Among them, Longmeadow no longer competes in the PVIAC for boys and girls lacrosse. Longmeadow has been sectional champion almost every year for the past 25 years. Now, the Lancers play a completely independent schedule designed more for its competition level and to benefit its power rankings for the state tournament.

In football, there has been a

See ALIGNMENTS, page 8

## Bristol scores late to beat Blue Sox

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

eighth inning and won 8-7 on Sunday night.

BRISTOL – With two outs and a runner on second base in the bottom of the seventh inning with John Kwiatkowski pitching to Bristol hitter Dean Ferrara, the Blue Sox had the chance to end the inning with the lead on a groundball to second base.

Second baseman Andre Vidal made a wild throw to first base that first baseman Justin Butler couldn’t grab and allowed Bristol Blues’ Jordan Peyton to score and tie the game 7-7. Bristol scored one run in the bottom of the

**Blue Sox 11, Westerners 8**

It was an offensive affair throughout the game between the Valley Blue Sox (5-3) and the Danbury Westerners (2-6) last Friday.

The Westerners jumped out to an early 4-1 lead going into the third inning, but Jonathon Hogart for the Blue Sox had other plans as he hit a three run shot deep to left-field to tie the game up at 4-4.

Moving on to the top of the 8th inning, the Blue Sox found themselves down by one with Hogart again at the

See BLUE SOX, page 8

# Pioneers score big shutout over AC Connecticut

LUDLOW — Last Tuesday evening, the Western Mass. Pioneers defeated AC Connecticut, a longtime rival, 5-0. The match brought the Pioneers record to 5-1-1 on the season. The Pioneers will have one more meeting later this season with AC Connecticut. The Pioneers also battled to a scoreless draw against Vermont Green FC last Saturday evening in Vermont. Coming up, the Pioneers will host Boston City FC for the first time this season on Friday, June 21 at 7 p.m.



Gianluca Cersosimo sends a long free kick away.



Kerman Sukia gets ready to clear the ball.



Lawrence Goddard winds up for a shot on goal.

Turley photos by David Henry [www.sweetdogphotos.com](http://www.sweetdogphotos.com)



Austine Boadi starts a move up the field.



Leonel watches his kick away.

## BLUE SOX, from page 7

plate. With Conor Larson on third base, Westerner's pitcher at the time Tyler Muscar threw a wild pitch that brought Larson home to tie the game once again. This score remained tied as the ninth inning expired, to lead the Blue Sox to their third straight game going into extra innings.

However, this game was different than the previous two, as the Blue Sox led off the inning as they were the road team. With the help of a couple errors and walks from Westerner pitcher Zeph Arnold and Paul Glenchur, the Blue Sox opened up an 11-7 lead going into the bottom of the inning, and if that wasn't enough Zachary Laird's superb relief pitching from the past two innings con-

tinued as his only run given up was in the bottom of the 10th to close the deal.

Laird finished with five strikeouts over three innings pitched while only giving up one earned run.

The Valley Blue Sox tie with the Bristol Blues for first place in the western division with this win, both teams with a record of 5-3. The two teams have not squared off yet due to the rain delay, but they will be facing off in the next couple days.

As for the early season struggles, the Blue Sox hitting has been unbelievable over these last four games. Hitting multiple home runs, but more importantly hitting the ball when it matters most. They are undefeated in games that go to extra innings so far, and it is a testament to their grit and toughness as Justin Butler alluded to earlier this season.

## ALIGNMENTS, from page 7

push to see the same happen to Central football, which has dominated schools like Minnechaug, Agawam, Holyoke, and Chicopee Comprehensive for the past decade. However, the challenge with an independent schedule for the Golden Eagles is that almost all teams

in the state play a conference schedule in Week's 4 through 8, making it difficult to find games. Most football teams play independent games in Weeks 1 through 3.

Realignment work will start taking place following the fall season when committees begin meeting, and will continue following each season during the next school year.

### How to contact The Holyoke Sun's Sports Editor

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

## ALDENVILLE, from page 7

son opener at Sztot Park two days earlier.

They were also scheduled to host Pittsfield last Friday. That contest was postponed because the Pittsfield High School varsity baseball team played in Division 4 state finals at Polar Park in Worcester.

Wilbraham (0-2) also suffered a one run loss in extra innings to Belchertown Post 239 in their season opener.

"This is only our second game of the season, and we still have a lot of games left to play," said Wilbraham manager John Breton. "The players are still jelling together, but I think we'll be a very good baseball team this year."

Drobiak, who's a third-year member of the Aldenville Legion team, had a 2-0 lead to protect before walking out to the mound for the first time in the bottom of the first inning.

"It's always important to take the lead

in every game," Drobiak said. "It takes the pressure off you. I just kept throwing strikes."

Drobiak's batterymate in last Wednesday's game was Memphis Huertas, who's also the starting catcher for the South Hadley varsity baseball team.

With one-out in the top half of the opening frame, Aldenville shortstop Nate Carillon, who graduated from South Hadley High School last year, lined a single into center field off Wilbraham righty Liam Shea. Then third baseman Topher Reardon, who lives in Holyoke, blasted a double to deep left field, which scored Carillon from first base. Drobiak followed with a single into right and right fielder Burke Belsky was hit-by-a pitch loading the bases. After the next batter struck out, first baseman Brady Burnett drew a walk bringing home another run.

Shea, who was a member of the baseball team at Wilbraham & Monson

Academy this past spring, left the bases loaded, as he recorded another strikeout.

Shea, who'll be joining the Colby College baseball team in the fall, pitched very well during the final six innings of the game, which took less than two hours to complete. He allowed two runs on five hits with three walks and nine strikeouts.

The home team had an opportunity to tie the score in their first at-bats against Drobiak, who walked only one and recorded five K's.

Wilbraham centerfielder Ryan Keating hit a single to right leading off the frame and Shea was hit by a pitch. That threat ended quickly, as Drobiak set down the next three batters on a pop-up, flyout, and a strikeout. He then retired the next 15 Wilbraham batters that he faced.

With one-out in the top of the second, Aldenville centerfielder Brady Balint hit a flyball single to left.

Then Carillon, who was a freshman on the Westfield State University baseball

team this past spring, drew a walk. Post 337 couldn't add onto their lead as Shea retired the next two batters.

Wilbraham shortstop Sawyer Lisowski began the bottom of the seventh inning by hitting a single into center field. He advanced to second on a perfect sacrifice bunt by third baseman Ryan Akin.

Lisowski didn't stay at second base for very long because he was picked off by Drobiak.

Wilbraham catcher Vince Chiarizio walked which kept his team's comeback hopes alive a little bit longer.

Drobiak then ended his outstanding performance by retiring the next batter on a pop-up caught by Carillon.

"My teammates made all of the plays behind me in tonight's game," Drobiak said. "I also got into a groove in the middle innings."

The two Senior Legion baseball teams are scheduled to face each other again at Sztot Park in Chicopee on July 17.



# Williams takes win in Nutmeg State 50 at Thompson Speedway

THOMPSON, CT – Finally, fantastic weather greeted fans, teams and officials at Thompson Speedway last Thursday night for the rebirth of Thursday Night Thunder at the Big-T with the Nutmeg State 50 presented by Twisted Tea.

The Street Stocks led the evening's activities, 16 strong on Thursday. While Mike Viens showed the way under the initial green flag, familiar faces quickly flooded the top of the field. From a ninth-place start, Ryan Waterman powered up through the top-ten to take the top spot with a rear-view mirror full of 'Leadfoot' Larry Barnett. They would cross the line 1,2 in the 20-lap green-to-checkers feature followed by a competitive Jason Chicolas in third with Aaron Plemons and Icebreaker winner Al Stone III rounding out the top-five.

The AZ Roofing SK Light Modifieds were not so lean and green, throwing two cautions in the first three laps, the last of which saw Danny Gamache hooked off after racing hard with Nick Hovey in the opening circuits.

Driving up through from an eighth-place start, Ellington's Tyler Chapman claimed the Twisted Tea Thursday night victory to bolster his AZ Roofing SK Light Modified point lead followed by Hovey and Daltin McCarthy on the podium.

A slow start to the Mini Stock race quickly worked itself out with Icebreaker winner Jared Roy claiming his second win of the season followed by Ryan Pomposelli and Kevin Moore across the line. The Sunoco 604 Modifieds put on a thrilling show with the thirty-lap feature event dominated by a side-by-side fight for the lead between Keith Rocco and Danny Cates. The two swapped the lead, and paint, dive-bombing into the corners with Rocco coming out on top to take his first 604 Modified victory over Cates and Icebreaker winner Jon Puleo. Isaiah Newcomb battled from the last row up to fourth with Chase Cook rounding out the top-five.

Fourteen Late Models rolled into the pits for Twisted Tea Thursday Night action. A competitive start turned sour

on lap 23 with Ryan Lineham leading the pack. Facing hefty pressure from Matt Lowinski-Loh, both lead cars slammed into the turn one wall bringing out the night's lone red flag for clean-up and safety check from Thompson's medical team. Both drivers walked away unscathed, their machines were not so lucky. More drama unfolded on Kulwicki Driver Development Program (KDDP) finalist Derek Gluchacki with a growing smoke screen from a leaking rear end forced officials to send the 03MA pit side for the remainder of the event. Coming through it all, defending champion Nick Johnson nabbed the checkers followed by Icebreaker victor Ryan Morgan and fellow former champ Brian Tagg.

The green-to-checker 50 lap sprint for the Outlaw Open Modifieds went start to finish in just over 16 minutes. The Nutmeg State 50 presented by Twisted Tea, and it's \$5,000 prize, were taken by Ellington's Ronnie Williams over a hard-charging Matt Swanson and young-gun Jacob Perry.

Thursday Night Thunder is back at Thompson Speedway in just two weeks on Thursday, June 27 headlined by the 3rd Dash for Cash \$5,000-to-win, 50-lapper for the Outlaw Open Modifieds! All five divisions of track championship action including the Sunoco 604 Modifieds, Late Models, AZ Roofing SK Light Modifieds, Street Stocks and Mini Stocks are back in action on Thursday, June 27 with a 6:00pm Post Time!

For more information about the American-Canadian Tour, contact the ACT offices at (802) 244-6963, media@acttour.com, or visit www.acttour.com. You can also get updates on Facebook and Twitter at @ACTTour.

For technical information concerning all PASS divisions, and for media or marketing questions, please contact passracing@roadrunner.com or visit www.proallstarseries.com. Don't forget to "Like" the Pro All Stars Series on Facebook or follow on Twitter @PASSML14 to keep up with breaking news as it happens.

## Public Notices

**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. HD24P1292EA Estate of: Wayne M Bilger Also known as: Wayne Mark Bilger Date of Death: 07/09/2022 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 **Maryann Laflam of Williamsburg, 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: **Maryann Laflam of Williamsburg, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **With Personal 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 07/10/2024.**

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

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

A **Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the admin-**

**istration 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 13, 2024  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
06/21/2024

**CITY OF HOLYOKE PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The Holyoke Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom**; com; ID: 836 3939 8493; CALL IN 1 646 558 8656 to hear, pursuant to the Holyoke Zoning Ordinance, a Special Permit for Dimensional Regulations in a DR District (Section 8.8.4), submitted by Holyoke Housing Authority (2024-14), for 702 & 710 South East Street, 1 lot without address (029-09-009, -010, -011).

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

APPLICANT:  
Holyoke Housing Authority  
PLANNING BOARD:  
Mimi Panitch  
06/21, 06/28/2024

**CITY OF HOLYOKE PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The Holyoke Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom**. com ID: 836 3939 8493; Call in \*67 646 558 8656 to hear a Special Permit to exceed fence height (Sec 4.6.3.2) for a temporary fence for construction purposes around all lots and 6.0' permanent fencing in the areas as indicated in the plans as received for 702 & 710 South East Street, and 1 lot without address (029-09-009, -010, -011), submitted by Holyoke Housing Authority (2024-15).

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

APPLICANT:  
Holyoke Housing Authority  
PLANNING BOARD:  
Mimi Panitch  
06/21, 06/28/2024

**City of Holyoke PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The Holyoke Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom**. com ID: 836 3939 8493; CALL IN \*67 646 558 8656 to reopen the public hearing in order to extend the time, pursuant to the Holyoke Zoning Ordinance, a Special Permit for a Parking Reduction (Sec 6.1.7) at 106-120 High Street (Parcel 013-01 -006), submitted by Womeldorf & Associates, LLC.

A complete copy of the application and site plan may be viewed in the Holyoke Planning Dept, 20 Korean Veterans Plaza, Rm 406, M-F, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

APPLICANT: Womeldorf & Associates, LLC  
PLANNING BOARD:  
Mimi Panitch  
06/21, 06/28/2024

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS SUPERIOR COURT HAMPDEN, SS.**

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

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

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

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

It is ORDERED, and Adjudged that an order of notice issue to said defendant by publishing an attested copy of this notice once a week for three consecutive weeks in The Republican and The Sun, newspapers of general circulation in Hampden County and in the Town of Holyoke with the first publication in each newspaper to be on or before June 14, 2024.

You are hereby notified that a complaint has been filed by the above-named Plaintiff with the Hampden County Superior Court (the "Court") in which you are named as a Defendant. The address of the Court is Hall of Justice, 50 State Street, P.O. Box 559, Springfield, MA 01102-0559. This complaint concerns a certain parcel of land in Holyoke, Hampden County, Massachusetts, being known as and numbered 344 Maple Street a/k/a 336-344 Maple Street, Unit

No. 344 of the Library Park Condominium. In the complaint, Plaintiff prays for a judgment declaring that (a) Plaintiff is a party entitled to enforce the terms of a certain Loan Modification Agreement dated July 19, 2019 (the "Modification") between Willie Willis and the Plaintiff through Plaintiff's loan servicer, PHH Mortgage Corporation; (b) Plaintiff is the owner and/or party otherwise entitled to enforce the terms and conditions of the Modification; and (c) Plaintiff, as the owner and/or party otherwise entitled to enforce the terms of the Modification, is also the holder of the Mortgage dated June 7, 2006 given by Willie Willis to Saxon Mortgage, Inc. DBA Saxon Home Mortgage recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 15962, Page 453 and entitled to exercise the default remedies provided for therein, including exercise of the statutory power of sale.

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

If you intend to make any defense, you are hereby required to file your answer or other responsive pleading with the Court AND to serve a copy of your answer or other responsive pleading upon the Plaintiff's attor-

ney, John S. McNicholas, Esq., Korde & Associates, P.C. whose address is 900 Chelmsford Street, Suite 3102, Lowell, MA 01851 on or before (insert date) July 18, 2024 which date is no less than twenty (20) days after the last publication of this notice.

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

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

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

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# EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of July 4th,  
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Place your public notice  
no later than **NOON**

## Thursday, June 27

- Thank you!

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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
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## FORMAT, from page 1

of thousands of questions on the platform that teachers can pull from for tests.

Additionally, teachers can take an assessment from illustrative math and other programs and upload right into Renaissance so students can take them there.

"Students can take it there, having enhanced features such as drag and drop, like they will see on MCAS, more exposure to those features where typically we don't have that ability," Thompson said.

This new platform is fiscally responsible as well. The ANet contract was high for the district. Now, with Renaissance they will be able to save.

Renaissance will have an initial upfront cost to upload their data and design assessments, one that is still less expensive than ANet, and following the upload the district will own the content.

Therefore, the district can use and even alter the assessments to fit their needs without an added cost.

Renaissance is also purported to be

more user-friendly for the teachers, which had been one of the chief complaints from staff about ANet.

Interventionists will be able to upload their data to Renaissance, which teachers will be able to see and use.

"It really is making for a more comprehensive, streamlined ease of use," Thompson said.

The school committee was also grateful that Renaissance seemed to put more faith in the teachers' abilities to teach.

"ANet was a lot like we are the golden standard, these are the things you should do to allow your students to get where they need to be," School Committee Member Yadilette Rivera Colón said. "The Renaissance DnA felt like they trust the teachers more in what they should be assessing and they're just providing the tools to get you to do that faster."

Overall, the committee was excited about this new program and they looked forward to seeing how it benefited the school system in the next year.

## FAIRY, from page 1

"It employs design skills," Maichack said. "How are you going to get two sticks, an acorn cap and some cloth to be anything? But also people don't care, they just make what they want to make, and I've seen amazing creations."

Maichack has done the fairhouse program several times before, as she came up with the original idea during COVID.

"Because fairy houses are so popular I thought I should explore it and it really filled up rooms," Maichack said.

The program quickly grew and Maichack enjoyed seeing people love the idea so much. She had expected to need to guide people through the craft, but instead people were eager to give their ideas a try.

"I found people just plunged right in with gusto, it was wonderful to see," Maichack said.

This was her first time doing the program as something completely adult-centered, which she was excited to try.

"Initially it was for families, for kids," Maichack said. "A lot of times the adults said, 'gee, I'd like to do this for adults'...so this is for adults today."

She felt that offering this program for

adults was important as it allowed them a chance to play and unwind.

"Adults need to play and be reminded of how good it feels to be creative in a playful way," Maichack said.

Maichack has been coming to the library for her programs for years, and the library appreciates all the programs she has done.

They find her to be engaging and creative, with people always leaving her events feeling much lighter than before.

The library is happy to have her returning for this event.

"She is funny and a great storyteller," Library Director Maria Pagan said.

Maichack's return to the library was made possible by the Holyoke Cultural Council, which helped to provide the grant funding for this program.

Maichack was excited to be returning to the library.

"I look forward to being back in Holyoke," she said. "I love the place, it's a wonderful city that is full of character and lovely people."

In order to explore Maichack's work more, go to her website at <https://www.singingstories.info/>.

To learn more about upcoming events at HPL, go to their website at <https://www.holyokelibrary.org/>.

## BUDGET, from page 1

Jourdain hoped to be able to make multiple cuts to the proposed budget to try to get the proposed levy limit down.

"We've got to get the rate increases down," he said. "We cannot be hitting people 5% like we did last year and now hit them again."

Other councilors felt that the increase was needed in order to fund the needed departments and programs in the city.

"I think the mayor did a great job and all the department heads did a great job keeping their budgets at a certain level," Divine said. "We had every department in, they were wonderful, they talked about the different things in their departments and I just can't see any cuts being made that are not a nickel and dime kind of thing."

By the end of the budget hearing there were three amendments made to the proposed budget.

One amendment was to reduce the amount of funding for the council's in-state travel from \$5,000 to \$2,500.

Jourdain had initially proposed to cut the item out of the budget completely, but the council voted that proposal down. Councilor David Bartley came back with the proposal of \$2,500.

Both councilors wanted to decrease the amount invested to in-state travel as they did not see it as a needed fund.

"If we're going to do some in-state travel and that's needed for this city council, I think I could put on one hand the amount of money I've spent in 30 years on in-state travel as a city councilor," Jourdain said. "To think that we need \$5,000 I think there should be a specific thing, if there's something that comes up we can request the mayor at that time."

With this in mind, the cut from \$5,000 to \$2,500 was approved by the council 7-6.

Additionally, the set up for contract negotiations was reduced completely, going from \$27,790 to \$0. This amendment was proposed by Jourdain, who did not want to put money in as a placeholder when it may be unneeded.

"In speaking with the mayor at the budget hearing he said that this is a

placeholder to put four pay raises that could be coming, I would much prefer that when they actually have the negotiation and its complete, bring in the agreement, bring in the proposal and the council will vote on it on its own merits," Jourdain said.

City Councilor Linda Vacon also felt the amendment was wise as she felt having a set amount of money set aside for contract negotiations put the city in a weakened position during negotiations.

The amendment passed 7-6.

Jourdain also proposed a reduction of \$32,000 in the section of software license and usage fees

"I'm proposing level funding here," Jourdain said. "The FY24 budget was \$330,000 and we only spent \$230,000 out of this line...so therefore if we reduce this from \$360,000 back to \$330,000, it's level funding it and we haven't even spent the \$330,000."

Several other councilors agreed that this proposal made sense and so the amendment passed 8-5.

There were many other amendments proposed to the budget, mainly made by Jourdain, however none of the other amendments passed as the vote did not gain the needed majority of councilors approving it.

"You cannot tax and spend as a government your way into prosperity," Vacon said. "What we're doing is taxing and spending our citizens into poverty after working their entire lives to invest, usually, in their primary home."

Of the five councilors who voted down the budget, they felt it remained too high and were wary of increasing taxes significantly on the residents and property owners of Holyoke.

However, the majority of councilors felt that the increases in the budget were needed in order to fund policies and programs in the city.

"This is what happens when you put policies and you put certain things into practice," Rivera said. "These are the results of 12 to 15 years ago and now, hopefully, we're able to rectify certain situations and circumstances and 15 to 20 years down the road, when my daughters are 24 and 22, they have a better Holyoke to live in."

To learn more about the specifics of the budget, go to <https://www.holyoke.org/mayors-proposed-fy25-city-budget/>.

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## Thursday, June 27

Thank you!

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## In The News

### JAPAN, from page 1

The Master Miser and the Mister Stingy story was a humorous story where Master Miser taught Mister Stingy how to be more miserly.

Additionally, Motoko sang some different songs and taught the gathered audience some lyrics so they could join in on the songs and even add to the stories they were a part of.

Motoko also told stories of her own life, including some conversations she had with her father and some stories from her son's childhood.

Motoko has been a professional storyteller for over 30 years, and she greatly enjoys the profession.

Motoko is from Osaka, Japan and she moved to the United States when she

was 20. She has enjoyed spreading her culture and stories throughout her career.

The library hopes to be able to have Motoko back again in the future where she can perhaps do an origami with adults event, as was requested by many.

Her program was funded by the Friends of Holyoke Public Library as well as the Holyoke Local Cultural Council.

The library has many other events going on throughout the summer, including their summer reading program.

The program had an official kickoff on June 27, and anyone is welcome to sign up for the hope to win prizes.

In order to learn more about the upcoming events at the library, go to their website at <https://www.holyokelibrary.org/>.



Lawrence Goddard winds up for a shot on goal.

Turley photos by David Henry [www.sweetdogphotos.com](http://www.sweetdogphotos.com)

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