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# HOLYOKE the Sun

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## Tax title takings released to public

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The city published information on the tax title takings in the June 28 edition of *The Holyoke Sun*.

This publishing was required by Massachusetts State Law as part of the tax title taking process.

The due date for property owners to pay off their remaining taxes on their properties was July 15.

The tax collector's office worked hard leading up to this due date to try to get information out to as many property owners as possible so that they would not have to have their tax information filed at the registry.

In the middle of June, according to Wilson, there were 230 outstanding properties. By the publication of *The Holyoke Sun*, there were 148 properties and by the official deadline of July 15, there were only 108.

See TAX TITLE, page 5



Mayor Joshua Garcia welcomed attendees to the Colombian flag raising in honor of Colombian Independence Day. Community members of Holyoke gathered outside of City Hall to celebrate Colombian Independence. *Turley photos by Quinn Suomala*

## City commemorates Colombian independence

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – Holyoke celebrated Colombian Independence with a flag raising at City Hall. Colombian Independence Day is on July 20, as on July 20, 1810 Colombian patriots rose up against Spanish rule. The city held their flag raising this

year on the 23.

Many community members in Holyoke gathered at City Hall to celebrate this occasion.

Mayor Joshua Garcia led the ceremony and he was proud to celebrate this important piece of history for so many in the city.

"We always remember what is happening in our countries and we do our best to have that pride, to keep that pride going," Garcia said.

Garcia saw this ceremony as a great way to celebrate the roots of many in the city.

"It's always an honor and a privilege to, when we can, recognize where people come from," Garcia said.

During this ceremony, Garcia read a proclamation honoring this eighth celebration. Within this proclamation, Garcia attributed Holyoke's strength to its diversity and showed his gratitude to the Colombian people

in the city.

"Colombian families that migrated here many years ago have been a thriving presence in our society and a vital part of our community," Garcia said.

After Garcia's presentation, State Representative Patricia Duffy also said a few words to the crowd.

"The reason Holyoke is such a great city is because

See COLOMBIAN, page 3

## The Stupendous Mr. Magichead brings laughter and magic

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The Stupendous Mr. Magichead, also known as John Sullivan, had kids laughing and enjoying his different tricks throughout his performance at Holyoke Public Library.

Throughout his show he performed a variety of different magic tricks while keeping up a stream of comedic acts in order to keep the kids attending the event entertained.

"It's a super high-energy comedy magic show," Sullivan said. "Children stay longer and are more involved when it is funny."

Sullivan had a variety of different magic tricks throughout the show as well as running gags.



Kids sitting in the front row got to high-five The Stupendous Mr. Magichead, also known as John Sullivan, in order to "pay" for their front-row seats. *Turley photos by Quinn Suomala*

One such running gag was where he continually attempted to pull a live rabbit from a hat, but instead pulled out a wide variety of other items, including a rubber chicken, a line of handkerchiefs and flags, a bunny puppet and a

bouquet of fake flowers.

"The highlight is when the bunny finally comes out of the hat because the kids see it before I do," Sullivan said. "I keep trying to make a bunny

See MAGIC, page 12

## HPL's kids karaoke has everyone singing along

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – A karaoke event for kids and their families on Saturday, July 20 at Holyoke Public Library



All of the kids in attendance at the karaoke event sang the song "Golden Hour" by Kacey Musgraves. *Turley photo by Quinn Suomala*

brought all the noise.

Those in attendance sang a variety of songs, including "What Else Can I Do?" from Encanto, "Dandelions" by Ruth B., "Sunflower" by Post Malone and Swae Lee and "Whole New World" from Aladdin.

It was an hour of music and fun for all who attended the event.

The event was run by Marisah Helems, who is also known as DJ PRL. She was excited to bring some music to HPL.

"It's really fun to connect with the youth and have them be able to appreciate music more and give them a voice," Helems said.

Helems has been singing for most of her life and she was glad that she was able to bring music to kids through her karaoke programs.

She has found that many karaoke places are more geared toward adults, so she was pleased that she could

See KARAOKE, page 6

# Two local students receive scholarship from PVPA

HOLYOKE – Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School is pleased to announce the 2nd annual Arts Scholarship Award recipients. The Scholarships were presented at PVPA's 2024 graduation ceremony, held at the Academy of Music in Northampton. Each Arts Department chose one graduating Senior to receive a \$1000 scholarship, based on their commitment, passion, and dedication to their Art. This year's \$1000 awards represent an increase from the inaugural year scholarship awards of \$250 for each department.

Please congratulate the following artistic scholars of Holyoke:

**Carmen Quiñones-Negróni**  
*Dance Department:*

Quiñones-Negróni will be attending the University of Vermont, where she will be focusing on an Exercise Science major with a Dance minor. Felice Santorelli, long time PVPA Dance Instructor described Quiñones-Negróni as “a hard working and talented dancer and an innovative choreogra-

pher, who has demonstrated excellence as a leader and a collaborator in the dance department. “

**Makena Ananda Holesovsky**  
*Visual Arts/Technical Theater Department*

Holesovsky will be attending Smith College, studying creative writing while also exploring the visual arts and technical theater departments. Martin Bridge, Dept Leader of PVPA's Visual Arts and Technical Theatre Dept shared that Makena was intensely involved in all aspects of the VATT department's work. “She has taken almost every course offering we have and excelled in a wide range of Visual Arts Media. She has also been a fixture in supporting PVPA productions, working as a stagehand, costumer, constructing and painting scenery and working on lighting” said Bridge.

Thanks to these amazing students and their families for sharing their talents and heart with the PVPA Community, PVPA wishes them all the best as they go out to share their artistic voice with the world.



Carmen Quiñones-Negróni of Holyoke, received a scholarship from PVPA's dance department.



Makena Ananda Holesovsky of Holyoke received a scholarship from PVPA's theater department.  
*Submitted Photos*

## Watercolor art class scheduled

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Public Library will be one more pop-up art class. On Tuesday, Aug. 13 at 11:30 a.m., there will be a class featuring watercolor flowers. Discover the beauty of watercolor paints. You will learn how to mix colors like a pro and learn

tips and tricks for creating colorful flowers and leaves.

This class is limited to just 15 people. Pre-registration is strongly recommended. You can sign up online at [Holyokelibrary.org](http://Holyokelibrary.org) or call (413) 420-8109.

Read The Holyoke Sun online at [www.sun.turley.com](http://www.sun.turley.com)

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## Hibernians holding annual picnic

HOLYOKE – The Hibernians of Hampden/Hampshire Counties invites the public to attend the Annual Traditional Summer Picnic featuring Jim O'Connor and the Boston Irish-American Blackthorne Band at Hamel's Summit View Pavilion 555 Northampton St Holyoke on Sunday, Aug. 25 from 1 to 5 p.m. The event will be held rain or shine

Tickets are \$35 per person for adults and children ages 16 and up; Kids ages 5-10 are \$10; Kids ages 5-16 are 15.

For reservations by Tuesday Aug.

20, call Joe O'Connor at 413-627-7148 or Fran Hennessey at 413-785-5687 or [aoh-holyoke.com](http://aoh-holyoke.com)

The Maurice A. Donahue Memorial Scholarship will be presented to Kayla Williams of Chicopee.

There will be Irish-American music; dancing; hot dogs, hamburgers, barbecue chicken, baked beans, potato salad, tossed salad, dessert; coffee. There will also be a cash bar, kid's games, and a giant raffle.

The event will benefit the Maurice A. Donahue Memorial Scholarship.

## Co-ed softball tournament on Aug. 10

LUDLOW – On Saturday, Aug. 10, the third annual co-ed softball tournament will be held at the Ludlow Fish and Game Club located at 200 Sportsman Road, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The tournament is to benefit Forever Young Veterans, a 501c (3) organization out of Tennessee. Forever Young Vets provide trips and wishes for veterans to military sights and locales including Washington and Hawaii.

Four teams representing branches

of the service: Air Force, Army, Navy and the Marines will play a total of five games and the cost to enter is \$20 per person.

Free refreshments and a 50/50 raffle will be available and military members of the community will be on hand for any questions participants may have about the organization.

Any questions about team participation for Forever Young Veterans please call 413-209-2594.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO THE

### Annual Hibernian Traditional Summer Picnic 2024

Sunday, August 25, 2024 1-5pm Rain or Shine  
Hamel's Summit View Pavilion  
555 Northampton Street, Holyoke

Featuring **Jim O'Connor and the Boston Blackthorne Irish-American Band**

A Super BBQ • Hamburgers • Hot Dogs • Barbecued Chicken  
Baked Beans • Potato Salad • Tossed Salad • Dessert • Coffee  
Cash Bar • Kid's Games • Giant Raffle • Dancing

Tickets are \$35 per person for adults and children ages 16 and up  
Kids ages 5-10 = \$10 • Kids ages 11-16 = \$15

For Reservations call by **Tuesday, August 20th**  
call **Fran Hennessey @ 413-785-5687**  
or **Joe O'Connor @ 413-627-7148**  
[Aoh-holyoke.com](http://Aoh-holyoke.com)

Presentation of the The Maurice A. Donahue Memorial Scholarship  
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**PHONE**  
413.283.8393  
Fax: 413.283.7017  
Subscriptions: 413.283.8393

**EMAIL**  
*Advertising Sales*  
Wendy Delcamp  
[wdelcamp@turley.com](mailto:wdelcamp@turley.com)

*Editor*  
Gregory Scibelli  
[thesun@turley.com](mailto:thesun@turley.com)

**WEB**  
[www.sun.turley.com](http://www.sun.turley.com)

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# Mayor releases statement about shooting suspect arrest

HOLYOKE – Thank you to the Holyoke Police Department, the Massachusetts State Police, the Hampden County Sheriff’s Department, and District Attorney Anthony Gulluni for bringing about this arrest. More news is forthcoming.

I also should acknowledge Holyoke’s ShotSpotter technology and

our network of security cameras, which provided instant notification and significant images to the police.

Unfortunately, this good police work and technology do not erase the tragedy Holyoke has experienced. A man has been murdered. Young children have lost their father. Gun violence has shaken our citizens’ sense of security. The tragedy

extends even to the perpetrators of this senseless act, who threw away their own futures with one mindless act of violence.

Everyone in our city should feel safe to drive, walk, visit, play, work, and live in every neighborhood from Ward 1 to Ward 7. Everyone in our city should feel like their government cares about their

safety. I am deeply committed to ensuring our citizens know that their local government indeed cares about their safety. But, please know that I cannot do this alone. I need the citizens of Holyoke to demand accountability from each other. Work together as neighbors to fulfill the expectations you want for your neighborhoods.

## OneHolyoke CDC seeks applicants

HOLYOKE – OneHolyoke CDC is seeking qualified applicants for three Holyoke homes that the organization has for sale, with purchasers being selected through a lottery process with the goal of increasing housing affordability in Holyoke. The homes are each priced at \$225,000, below market rate, and located at 278 Pine St., 291 Walnut St., and 299 Walnut St.

Qualified applicants who meet certain guidelines, such as having a household income not exceeding 80% of the median income level, committing to living in the home for a minimum of 10 years, and completing a first-time homebuyer education course, will receive a lottery number from OneHolyoke, with three applicants being selected at random who will be offered the opportunity to purchase one of the three homes. A completed application and all necessary paperwork is required to receive a lottery number.

Information about the homes for sale, the lottery process and the application can be found at [www.oneholyokey.org/homes-for-sale/](http://www.oneholyokey.org/homes-for-sale/). Through this lottery process, OneHolyoke works to increase housing availability and affordability in the footprint it serves in the city.

OneHolyoke will be hosting a Facebook Live Q&A session on the OneHolyoke CDC Facebook page on Friday, July 26 for those interested in

finding out more information about the lottery process. The English session will be held at 4 p.m. and a session in Spanish will be held at 5 p.m.

All three homes for sale are duplex, two-family homes and two of the homes are newly built (291 Walnut St. and 299 Walnut St.). The 278 Pine St. home is the former Yankee Pedlar restaurant and inn that was moved by OneHolyoke to its current location to save and restore the historic home.

Michael Moriarty, executive director of One Holyoke said “Our mission in serving the Flats, South Holyoke and the Churchill neighborhoods is to provide more affordable housing to more people in these core neighborhoods. The lottery we are holding to identify possible buyers of these homes is a step in that direction. We believe investments in creating affordable housing in these neighborhoods will encourage other needed housing stock investments.”

Founded in 1971, OneHolyoke CDC is a private nonprofit organization dedicated to improving housing for low and moderate-income Holyoke residents. Since its establishment, the organization has created over 160 new homes in the Flats, Churchill and South Holyoke neighborhoods, rehabilitated hundreds of apartments and provided thousands of home improvement grants to homeowners through the Neighborhood Improvement Program.

## ‘Flex Squad’ reports results

HOLYOKE – The city’s Flex Squad, a multi-department collaboration that upholds ordinances prohibiting litter, illegal dumping, graffiti, and other non-compliance issues that exacerbate blight, is closing in on two years of effective enforcement.

“It’s been great,” said Timothy Rivers, director of Board of Health.

Rivers said the Flex Squad, created in the fall of 2022 by Mayor Joshua A. Garcia, has brought about significant improvements to the visual landscape, particularly in the heart of the city.

The Squad is made up of city personnel drawn from the Board of Health, Fire Department, Police Department, and Department of Public Works. The size of the Squad varies, but the usual number of participants is 12.

The Squad is deployed on Saturdays in sectors and neighborhoods where properties have historically been neglected. Squad members make sweeps through the streets and alleys of designated areas. The teams seek to hold property owners accountable for keeping their properties in compliance with city ordinances and state regulations.

It’s not just graffiti and trash. The Flex Squad enforces ordinances that address unmaintained properties, overgrown vegetation, unregistered vehicles, and overflowing dumpsters. This enforcement also highlights and augments enforcement of nuisance properties. These are vacant and blighted properties/buildings that attract trespassers and other

unlawful activities.

When a violation is observed, Squad members post or send a notice. If the notice is not complied with, fines are issued to the property owner or permit holder. The amount of the fine varies, however, most violations written up incur a \$100 fine, per city ordinance. In six weeks during June and July, the Flex Squad notified 246 property owners that they were in violation. The Squad issued fines totaling \$2,000 in June and \$3,300 in July.

“The amount that is collected is generally less than the ticket totals” Rivers said.

“Our goal is not writing fines. Our goal is compliance. We achieve this by instilling accountability and respect for city ordinances, at all times, not just when someone is watching.”

Rivers said that if the property owner corrects the violations in a timely manner the fines can be voided. Fines that are left unpaid become a lien on the property.

“We tell them, ‘We want to work with you,’” Rivers said.

The Flex Squad does not often enter multi-unit buildings and they never enters single- or two-family homes. Visits to apartments and occupied homes are part of routine “complaint-based enforcement,” which is triggered when a complainant contacts the Board of Health, Building Department, or Fire Department to report violations observed in their dwelling or anywhere else within the city.

## Spots open for summer sports camps

HOLYOKE – Spots remain open for summer sports camps at Holyoke Community College.

Starting Monday, July 29, and running through Friday, Aug. 2, HCC is offering a comprehensive youth soccer clinic led by Rob Galazka, head coach of the HCC women’s soccer team. The clinic, for youth aged 8 to 17, will focus on both basic and advanced soccer skills with plenty of one-on-one instruction from Galazka, with assistance from top players on the HCC women’s team.

Starting Monday, Aug. 5, and running through Friday, Aug. 9, head HCC baseball coach Ryan Magni will lead a baseball clinic for youth aged 8 to 17. This fun-filled, challenging program will emphasize fundamental skills and baseball knowledge while building self-confidence and developing every player’s ability to play more competitively. Both programs run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day on the main HCC campus, 303 Homestead Ave., and cost \$299. To register, please go to: [hcc.edu/summer-youth](http://hcc.edu/summer-youth).

## Mindfulness Yoga free class offered

HOLYOKE – NAMI Western Massachusetts would like to announce Mindfulness Yoga with Kateri’s third anniversary yoga series. This class is designed with beginners in mind. It is easy-paced, helps reduce stress and anxiety. Kateri is a certified yoga instructor and is vice president of our board of directors.

This series will be 4 weeks start-

ing on Monday July 29 and continuing August 5, August 12, and concluding on August 19. Come celebrate Kateri’s Third Anniversary, July 29, with a free yoga class. The remaining three classes are available for just \$30. Partial proceeds go to NAMI-WM. Pre-registration is required. To Register email Kateri at: [mindfulnessyogawithkateri721@gmail.com](mailto:mindfulnessyogawithkateri721@gmail.com)

## BBQ hosted by Swift River Sportsmen

BELCHERTOWN – The Swift River Sportsman’s Club, 350 Cold Spring Road, is hosting a Chicken BBQ on Saturday, Aug. 24, from noon to 6 p.m.

Entertainment will be provided by The Time Trippers from 1 to 5 p.m.

Tickets are just \$20 each which includes a meal consisting of 1/2 chicken, baked potato, corn on the cob and a roll. A cash bar will also be available.

For more information, including tickets, please contact Mike at 413-205-6778 or Ed at 508-981-7249.

## Vehicles needed for Stanley Park’s celebration

WESTFIELD – Stanley Park is celebrating its 75th Anniversary this August with a big day long celebration and are in need of unique vehicles take part in our “Touch a Truck” program. If you have a cool vehicle that the kids will love that you don’t mind them touching we’d love to have you. There is a suggested donation of \$10 per vehicle.

There will also be a classic car show taking place which more cars, trucks and

motorcycles are needed for. There is a \$10 donation per vehicle entered and we ask that you register in advance.

Please call the Development Office at 413-568-9312 x108 or x 112 or email [development@stanleypark.org](mailto:development@stanleypark.org) to register.

For further information on the 75th Anniversary Celebration or to be a sponsor of the event please go to [www.stanleypark.org](http://www.stanleypark.org), our Facebook page or call the park office at 413-568-9312.

## COLOMBIAN, from page 1

we celebrate our diversity,” Duffy said. “I am so proud everytime we raise one of these flags.”

Duffy thanked all the Holyoke residents of Colombian heritage or who have recently immigrated from Colombian for their contributions to the city.

Following this, the Colombian flag was raised while they played the Colombian anthem.

The city then took the time to honor Holyoke residents of Colombian heritage

Gloria Orozco and Humberto Avendano for their contributions to the community.

“For these past eight years we have been celebrating a family that lives in Holyoke, that has set their roots in Holyoke and supported the city,” First Lady of Holyoke Stefany Garcia said. “These families have always shown the values of being Colombian.”

Each year the city uses this ceremony as an opportunity to celebrate the values of the Colombian people.

“We are hardworking people, we are cheerful, happy people, we are people that always look for the positive, we value entrepreneurship, we are not afraid

of starting again, as you can see most of us came to a new world, a new country,” Stefany Garcia said.

Stefany Garcia, who is Colombian herself, honored Orozco and Avendano, who have portrayed these values.

“Glorio and Humberto have dedicated themselves to providing passionate care to vulnerable members of the Holyoke community for many years, improving their quality of life, affirming their dignity and imparting a sense of belonging,” Joshua Garcia said.

Orozco and Avendano were honored to receive this acknowledgement and to celebrate their Colombian heri-

tage with the city.

Stefany Garcia also took the time to acknowledge her own Colombian heritage and share what it meant to her to have this ceremony.

“We started this about eight years ago to let the community know that we are here,” Garcia said. “The idea is to let us step forward and to let our community know that we are part of this community so that our children have that tie to our roots.”

This was a day of celebration and reminder to the community of Holyoke to take pride in the diversity within their city.

Guest Column

**SOCIAL SECURITY Matters**  
By Russell Gloor



## Should I retire at 65 or 67? And what about earnings and taxes?

Dear Rusty:

I'm just trying to figure out how to determine whether to retire at 65 or 67 and, if I retire, approximately how much could I make outside of my Social Security without being overly taxed.

Signed: Thinking About Retiring

Dear Thinking:

Deciding when to retire is serious business, because it affects your future and what your retirement income will be going forward. Thus, it's good you are taking the time to fully understand your options and we're happy to assist you with that. Here are some things which should help you decide whether to retire at 65 or 67.

Social Security benefits are subject to income tax by the IRS if your combined income from all sources, which includes your Adjusted Gross Income on your tax return, plus half of the SS benefits you received during the tax year, exceeds certain thresholds for your income tax filing status. If you file your income tax as "married/jointly" and your combined income from all sources is more than \$32,000, then 50% of your received SS benefits are subject to income tax at your normal IRS tax rate. But if your combined income as a married couple is more than \$44,000, then 85% of the SS benefits you received during the tax year becomes part of your taxable income. FYI, the taxation thresholds are lower for those, who file taxes as an individual, \$25,000 and \$34,000 respectively.

Born in 1960 or later, your Full Retirement Age for Social Security's purposes

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](mailto: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.

When Kids move out to attend college... When Kids move back in after graduation...



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Guest Column

*in my*  
**BACKYARD**  
By Ellenor Downer

Early this week I saw two scarlet tanagers on the ground in my daughter's driveway.



Male scarlet tanager

As I drove in, they flew up. The red of the male was clearly visible. I think the second bird was either a juvenile or a female. It has been years since I have seen a scarlet tanager. The previous sighting was one along the side of the road near my house.

The scarlet tanager is about seven inches long. The male is scarlet red as the name implies with black wings and tails. The female is yellowish below and greenish feathers above with grayish brown wings. The juvenile male has patches of red and yellow with dark brown wings and tail. The juvenile female is like the adult female.

They feed on the ground where I spotted these two and in foliage. They eat insects and wild berries. The female lays two to five pale blue green eggs with brown dots in a nest of twigs, grasses and rootlets placed in a tree from five to 75 feet above the ground.

Scarlet tanagers inhabit mature, deciduous forests. Tanagers are often heard rather than seen despite the males bright red when in the forest canopy. They make a two part whistle "zureet zeeeyer zeeroo." Their call is a metallic "chip."

### Other birds

This past weekend while traveling on Route 122 in Barre, I saw three great blue heron fly over. I often see a lone wild turkey on New Braintree Road in Oakham.

### Whippoorwills

I received two more comments about whippoorwills since the last column. A Pelham resident sent an email. He said, "I live in Pelham and hear an eastern whippoor-



Male scarlet tanager

will most nights around 8:30. It's a beautiful call." A Brimfield resident, who regularly sends emails about birds in his area, also had a comment about the whippoorwill. He said, "I saw you most recent column where you wrote about a woman reporting whippoorwills. We built our house in Brimfield in 1981 and during the summer of 1984 we heard whippoorwills calling behind the house all summer. Unfortunately they have never returned."

### Brimfield birds

In the most recent email from the Brimfield resident, he said, "In the yard I have started to see young birds recently out of their nests. Three juvenile Baltimore orioles were following an adult male

around the yard, also juvenile cardinal (dark bill), male hairy woodpecker (red on top of it head), blue jays (young begging with quivering wings) and towhee have been seen recently. House wren and great crested flycatcher used nesting boxes in the yard and the young have fledged."

### Birds near water

The Brimfield resident frequently checks local ponds. He reported the common grackle nesting in a tree cavity, kingbird, chickadee and tree swallow with nests he watched at a pond in Warren all fledged their young.

He also keeps track of four great blue heron nests and said the first nesting herons to start incubating fledged their young a week ago. The other three nests still have young herons in them. He also watches an osprey nest, which has three chicks. He said, "About a week ago on a very hot and sunny day I saw that the adult on the nest was spreading its wings to provide shade for the chicks. I watched the nest for over an hour and the adult kept its wings spread the entire time trying to provide shade for the young birds." He said the young stay around the pond for awhile after fledging, sometimes until late August.

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

HOLYOKE  
the Sun  
TEAM



EDITOR/SPORTS  
Greg Scibelli  
[thesun@turley.com](mailto:thesun@turley.com)



ADVERTISING SALES  
Wendy Delcamp  
[wdelcamp@turley.com](mailto:wdelcamp@turley.com)

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@ The Holyoke Sun



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PATRICK H. TURLEY  
CEO

KEITH TURLEY  
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DEANNA SLOAT  
Graphics Manager



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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](mailto:thesun@turley.com). Mailed letters can be sent to The Sun, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

**SECURITY**, from page 4

is 67. If you claim SS benefits before your FRA, not only will your monthly amount be permanently reduced, but you'll also be subject to Social Security's "earnings test," which limits how much you can earn before they take away some of your benefits. The earnings limit changes annually, but for 2024 it is \$22,320, future year's limits will be a bit higher each year.

If your work earnings exceed the annual limit, Social Security will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit. They take away by withholding future benefits for as many months as necessary for them to recover what you owe for exceeding the annual

limit. FYI, the limit goes up during the year you attain FRA, and the earnings test no longer applies after you reach your full retirement age.

If you claim SS before your FRA, your monthly amount will be permanently reduced. If you claim at age 65, you will get about 87% of the amount you would get by waiting until age 67 to claim. If you claim at age 66, your monthly amount would be about 93% of your FRA entitlement and, by claiming at 67 you'll get 100% of the benefit you've earned from a lifetime of working.

The reductions for early claiming are permanent reductions except for the Annual Cost of Living Adjustments. Note that you can also delay longer than your FRA to get an even larger benefit

amount; you can delay up to age 70 when your maximum benefit is reached. Just remember, the earnings test, as described above, will apply if you claim SS before your FRA and you are still working.

If your plan is to continue to work full time, be aware that if you claim early SS and significantly exceed the annual earnings limit, you may even be temporarily ineligible to collect SS benefits. If your work income is high enough that the penalty for exceeding the earnings limit is more than SS can recover through withheld benefits in one year, they will tell you that you're unable to collect benefits at this time, until you either earn less or reach your FRA. So, deciding whether to claim Social Security at 65 or 67 is your per-

sonal choice and, hopefully, the above provides the information you need to make an informed decision.

*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](https://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org). Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.*

**TAX TITLE**, from page 1

Wilson noted that there were not any significant properties in the 108 that still had taxes past the deadline. She also reminded people that there can be a variety of reasons why a property may not have paid off their taxes.

"A lot of things happen that bring properties to this state," Tax Collector Laura Wilson said. "In a lot of instances people are selling and they're waiting to get the money from the sale to pay it off, things of that nature."

The 108 remaining properties have been filed with the Registry of Deeds, as required by state law. Now those property owners can speak with the treasurer's office to pay off their taxes or to set up a payment plan.

Prior to any information on properties being published in the paper, the tax collector's office sends out letters to people to inform them that they are delinquent on their taxes.

This letter is only sent if a person is delinquent on their taxes after a demand notice was sent.

Wilson was pleased with this year's work in the tax title takings. In previous years, due to the collector's office being closed during COVID-19, Wilson had had to do a lot of "catch-up" work to make up for tasks that were unable to be completed during the pandemic.

This year Wilson found that the office advertised less properties than the previous two years, something she was glad of.

"We had less people in the paper and less people having formal tax titles recorded," Wilson said.

Wilson also noted that this year during the tax title season the collector's office was understaffed.

"Our office went from fully staffed at four people down to two during this process," Wilson said.

The tax titles create a lot of work for the office, as they truly want people

to pay on time, so they contact people in any way possible to try to communicate about the approaching deadlines.

"We want people to pay on time, we don't want to send these letters out, we don't want to do this tax title process," Wilson said. "We really try in every way to reach out to people. We use social media, we Facebook message people's grandkids, any connection we can find."

Wilson was grateful for all of her assistant tax collector's work throughout this time period.

Wilson advised that people who pay their property tax bills through their personal banks try to pay their bills a week or two in advance as there is a delay between when the bank receives their request for a check and when the bank sends it to the collector's office.

"They have their own bank cut a check on a certain date but then the funds are pulled, they have to produce a check and then they have to mail it," Wilson said. "So a lot of times those checks get

to us late...so we don't get them anywhere from 10 to 20 days late."

When the bills arrive at the collector's office late, the office has to charge people interest for the delay in payment, which can result in confusion and further delays as the office tries to communicate with the property owners about the issue.

The collector's office does offer online banking, which can be found on their website at <https://www.holyoke.org/departments/tax-collector/>.

When people use this banking system, the tax collector's office will receive their payment the day after they put the funds into the site. People can also set up automatic payments through this system.

"There is no lag, there's no delay, there is no chance of it getting lost in the mail, anything like that," Wilson said.

If people have further questions, they are welcome to contact the collector's office during their hours from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 a.m. Monday through Friday.

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**CLUES ACROSS**

1. Average damage per system (abbr.)	40. Employees	7. Boil at low temperature	warm
5. Lustful woodland gods (Greek mythology)	43. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid	5. Lapps of northern Scandinavia	35. One who scrapes
11. Colombian Town	44. Component of hemoglobin	6. Poisonous plant	36. Tear into two or more pieces
12. Sour	45. Quick and skillful in movement	7. Atomic #22	37. Supervises flying
16. A way to stuff	49. Passing trend	8. 36 inches	38. Flying arm of the U.S. military (abbr.)
17. Former AL MVP Vaughn	50. Part of the eye	9. Monetary unit of Russia	40. District in Peru
18. Carried or transported	51. One who acclaims	10. Type of gin	41. One died leaving a will
19. Cannot even fathom	53. Deadly amount (abbr.)	13. An alternative	42. Morning
24. Hammer is one	54. Taste property	14. Alone	44. The world of the dead
25. A way to separate	56. Genus of mosquitoes	15. A way to ooze	45. Widen
26. Not moving	58. Blood type	20. Publicity	46. Drink containing medicine
27. Women's service organization (abbr.)	59. A group of countries in special alliance	21. American firm	47. Celebrating
28. German river	60. Institute legal proceedings against	22. Jewish calendar month	48. Secret encounters
29. Quantitative fact	63. Shade of a color	23. Popular sandwich	50. A type of tag
30. A person's head	64. Spoke	27. Comedian Cook	51. Halfback
31. Process that produces ammonia	65. Work units	29. The NFL's big game (abbr.)	52. Modern tech
33. French modernist painter		30. Political action committee	54. Monetary unit
34. Too much noise		31. Make a low, steady sound	55. Resigned to one's sleeping chamber
38. Agree to a demand		32. Legendary sportscaster Michaels	57. Execute or perform
39. One a line at right angles to a ship's		33. One thousand cubic feet (abbr.)	61. "The Golden State" (abbr.)
		34. Designed to keep ears	62. "The Beehive State" (abbr.)

**CLUES DOWN**

1. Charge with a crime	2. Mended with yarn	3. North Atlantic flatfish
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CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 9

# In The News



The attendees of karaoke enjoyed watching all of the different performances.



Marisah Helems, who is also known as DJ PRL, sang the song "Happy" by Pharrell Williams. *Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com*



Mark Rennow and Amanda Delgado sang a duet.

## KARAOKE, from page 1

have a space for kids to step out of their comfort zone and sing along to some of their favorite songs.

"There's not a lot of opportunities for kids to really just get out there and have a voice," Helems said.

She enjoys watching kids get up and enjoy the different songs they want to sing.

"They're just fun, they're not very judgmental, I feel like they are less held back than adults," Helems said. "Kids

just do whatever they want, whatever makes them happy, and I just love that."

Children's Librarian René Pellissier had proposed that HPL do a karaoke event for kids.

The library had done karaoke in the past and it had been a success, with many library regulars interested in having a repeat event in the future.

Pellissier thought it would be a great event to have for one of their summer programs.

"We had a lot of people express interest in coming once they heard we

had had one," Pellissier said. "Karaoke fits a wide range of ages and interests."

With all of that in mind, Pellissier reached out and invited Helems to do karaoke at the library.

"René recommended me for this kind of event and I just jumped on it," Helems said.

This was Helems' first time doing a library event, and she was thrilled that she had been invited to give it a try.

Helems was especially pleased that she was invited to come to Holyoke, as it is her own community.

"I live in Holyoke currently, so it is really nice to give back to the community that I am a part of currently," Helems said.

Helems does a lot of different karaoke events and dance parties around the western part of the state. She also sounds

and coordinates drag events and she just started doing weddings.

She has been doing these kinds of events for three years now, and she enjoys all of them greatly.

To learn more about Helems, go to her website at <https://prls.place/>. She can also be reached at her email [mhelems94@gmail.com](mailto:mhelems94@gmail.com).

Holyoke Public Library has many more events planned for the summer. One such event is a reptile nook that is scheduled for 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, July 31.

At this event kids will be able to come in and learn more about some different reptiles, and even have the opportunity to pet some of them.

To keep updated on the events at HPL, go to their website at <https://www.holyokelibrary.org/>.

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# SPORTS

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Michelle Carney socks a clearing kick.



Donna Viel looks to make a save.



Alyssa Szymczyk heads up the field.



Sara McMurray eyes a teammate up the field.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

## Celtic United looking to make playoffs

HOLYOKE – Last week, Celtic United FC, a women’s soccer team in the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League based in Holyoke, scored an important scoreless draw with Monson Mustangs. They are currently holding onto sixth place with a 4-4-2 record in the women’s league. The top eight reach the playoffs, scheduled to start next week.



The New England Mutiny has won its conference championship.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

## Mutiny wins in double OT to capture title

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW – The New England Mutiny lost a heart-breaker to the Lancaster Inferno FC, 2-1, in the 2019 United Women’s Soccer East Conference championship match. The 2019 season was also the Mutiny’s first year playing home matches at Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow.

Five years later, the top-seeded Mutiny faced second-seeded Sporting CT in the East Conference finals at Lusitano July 14.

It took 120 minutes to get the job done, but the Mutiny players celebrated a 1-0 overtime victory on a very hot afternoon, last Sunday.

“We went undefeated during the regular season, and

it just feels awesome to finally win a championship title,” said Agawam’s Hope Santaniello, who’s the only remaining Mutiny player from the 2019 squad. This has been our number one goal since the start of the regular season.”

In the second game of the 2024 regular season, the Mutiny (10-0-0) defeated Sporting CT, 4-1, at Lusitano Stadium. Cat Barry, who only played in a couple of matches for the Mutiny, recorded a hat-trick.

It wound up being the only regular loss for Sporting CT (8-2-0), who captured the East Conference championship trophy a year ago.

The Mutiny will be playing in the National Semifinals for the first time since joining the U.W.S. in 2016.

“It’s a very nice feeling

winning a championship game, especially since this is my first season coaching a women’s soccer team,” said first-year Mutiny head coach Federico Molinari. “We now have one more weekend to go. I’m very happy for these players.”

The U.W.S. National semifinals and finals are scheduled to be held at All-High Stadium in Buffalo, New York on Friday and Saturday night.

The other three teams who’ll be trying to take home the National championship trophy, which is very similar to the Stanley Cup, are the Michigan Jaguars, the Santa Clarita Blue Heat, and FC Buffalo, who earned an automatic bid to the championship weekend because they’re the host team.

See MUTINY, page 8



Ronja Haag changes directions with a quick deke.

## Blue Sox pull off big win over Bristol

HOLYOKE – The Valley Blue Sox walked into Saturday night’s game on a two game losing streak, 3.5 games behind the Bristol Blues for the division lead, and fell out of the playoff picture. It was a must-win situation against the division leader themselves, the Bristol Blues, in a possible season-changing win. Win and hope to make the playoffs increases monumentally, lose and the chances plummet.

Before the game even began, the weather decided to make its own imprint on today’s game. A late storm before gametime pushed the first pitch back in a 30-minute delay. Regardless, it was just a prelude for the storm that

was about to take place on the field.

Tonight’s game was a thriller, plain and simple. From the opening pitch, to the final strike, it was eye-gluing baseball and a battle of both pitching and hitting. Both teams went out the depth of their bullpen to the test, with the Blue Sox using four pitchers, and the Blues seven.

From the opening pitch however, it was clear tonight’s game would not be a pitcher’s paradise. Off an early Jay Bant single in the bottom of the first inning, the Blue Sox brought Logan Hugo home early to take a 1-0 lead. Minutes later, in the

See BLUE SOX, page 9

# Pioneers start championship hunt with win

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW – Joao Bernardo has been the public address announcer at historic Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow for many years.

Bernardo made his usual announcements during last Tuesday night's USL-League 2 qualifying playoff match between FC Motown STA and the Western Mass. Pioneers. He didn't make his famous goal call for the home squad until the 83rd minute.

The Pioneers tied the score at 1-1 with a penalty kick goal before taking the lead for the first time in the 104th minute. They also added an empty net goal in the final seconds of extra time giving them a 3-1 victory.

"We had a lot of opportunities during the first half, but we just couldn't score a goal," said West Mass Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari. "We were able to score three goals in the second half, which was nice to see."

The Pioneers, who finished the regular season in second place in the Northeast Division with an 11-2-1 record, faced FC Motown for the first time. It was also the Pioneers first playoff victory since they defeated Manhattan SC in the 2022 quarterfinals at Lusitano Stadium.

FC Motown, who are from Morristown, New Jersey, also finished in second place in the Metropolitan Division with an 8-1-3 mark. They joined USL-League 2 in 2021 and qualified for the playoffs for the first time.

The Pioneers had three corner kicks during the first ten minutes of the opening half.

Two of them were headers by Kerman Sukia, who's a member of the Bryant University men's soccer team. Both of Sukia's headers sailed high over the crossbar.

FC Motown took a 1-0 lead during



Alec Hughes takes a shot on goal.

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

the 12th minute following an unassisted goal by Jason Bouregy.

The Pioneers had five more corner kicks during the first 45 minutes of the contest, but the visitors from New Jersey held a 1-0 halftime advantage.

The Pioneers also outshot FC Motown, 12-4, during the first half.

In the 61st minute, Laurie Goddard, who'll be a member of the Hofstra men's soccer team in the fall, fired a low shot from the top of the box, but FC Motown goalie Ryan Friedberg made a diving save keeping the score at 1-0 for a little while longer.

Friedberg made another save on a shot attempt by Jared Smith in the 75th minute.

The Pioneers were given a penalty

kick seven minutes later by referee Dan Aloï following a foul in the box. Alec Hughes, who's the USL-2 Golden Boot winner with 16 regular season goals, fired a low shot into the left corner of the net tying the score at 1-1.

"We had a lot of chances to score the entire game," said Hughes, who'll be playing one more season of college soccer at UMass Amherst. "Before I took the PK, I tried not to think about it very much. I was relieved when I saw the ball go into the net. I knew we would be able to take control of the game after that."

With less than five minutes remaining in regulation, FC Motown's Bryce LeBel received his second yellow card resulting in a red card.

The Pioneers held a man advan-

tage until the 101st minute of extra time when Aidan Kelly received a straight red from the referee.

The home team took the lead for the first time on a goal from Ali Taleb three minutes later.

Goddard was credited with the assist on the go-ahead goal.

"Laurie made an amazing pass to me, and I just finished off the play with a goal," said Taleb, who's a first-year Pioneers player. "It just felt amazing, especially doing it in a home playoff match. This place has a lot of history."

Taleb, who's from Glastonbury, Connecticut, entered the match for the first time during the 93rd minute. Taleb and Hughes attended the same high school, but they weren't teammates on the same soccer team.

"Alec is from my hometown, and I grew up watching him play soccer," said Taleb, who scored four goals for the Pioneers this summer. "He broke a lot of records for the high school soccer team, but I played for the Oakwood Soccer Club. It's nice to finally be teammates with him."

Taleb began his collegiate soccer career at AIC before transferring to Northern Kentucky University.

The head coach of the NKU men's soccer team is Tom Poitras, who was previously the head coach of the men's soccer team at the University of Hartford.

The Pioneers sealed the home playoff victory with an empty net goal by Mamadi Jiana in the final seconds of extra time.

Jiana, who played high school soccer at Chicopee High School, scored another goal in last Friday night's round of 32 contest against Lionsbridge FC giving the Pioneers a 1-0 halftime lead. Lionsbridge FC, who hosted the round of 32 playoffs, netted a pair of second half goals which ended the Pioneers outstanding season.

## Springfield Thunderbirds announce promotions of staff members

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds announced multiple promotions and hires in the team's hockey operations department.

First, the club has announced that Steve Passineau, formerly the Thunderbirds Head Equipment Manager, has accepted a promotion to join the St. Louis Blues as an Assistant Equipment Manager.

In addition, Abe Edson, formerly the Thunderbirds' Strength and Conditioning Coach, will join the NHL's Minnesota Wild as an Assistant Strength

and Conditioning Coach.

Casey Barile has been promoted to Head Equipment Manager with the Thunderbirds after serving as an assistant for the last three seasons. A graduate of Kent State University and a native of St. Louis, MO, Barile previously has experience in the ECHL with the Orlando Solar Bears as an Assistant Equipment Manager during the 2020-21 season.

The Thunderbirds will also welcome two new members to the hockey operations staff for the 2024-25 season.

Phil Currier will join the organization as a Strength and Conditioning Coach. A Haverhill, N.H. native, Currier most recently served as the Director of Hockey Performance at the University of Vermont last season. His prior experience also includes stints at the University of Maine and his alma mater, Plymouth State University, where he graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Exercise and Sport Physiology and a Master's degree in Applied Exercise Physiology and Human Performance.

Lastly, Steven Smith will join the

Thunderbirds as Assistant Equipment Manager. The McAllen, Texas native most recently served as the Head Equipment Manager for the United States Hockey League's Youngstown Phantoms from 2022-24, where he was a member of Youngstown's Clark Cup championship in 2023. He has served in the same capacity for six organizations, including the ECHL's Wichita Thunder and the North American Hockey League's Rio Grande Valley Killer Bees, Amarillo Bulls, Jamestown Rebels, and New Jersey Titans.

### MUTINY, from page 7

The Jaguars are the U.W.S. defending National champions,

Another local player listed on the Mutiny roster is Avery Klingensmith, who graduated from Belchertown High School. She was one of the starters in the final home match of the season.

"This is the farthest we've gone in the three years that I've been a member of this soccer team," said Klingensmith, who's also a member of the women's soccer team at American University. "Winning a championship with this team is very special. We have a couple of local players on this year's team, along with several other players who live a little bit farther away. It's really cool that we can all come together and win a championship."

The other local Mutiny players who were starters in the East Conference finals are Maddy Theriault (Palmer) and Alex Legowski

(South Hadley).

Several of the Mutiny players are current or former players members of the UConn women's soccer team.

Two of the current UConn players are Chioma Okafor and Maddie Fried, who played a key role in last Sunday's match

The contest was scoreless until the duo hooked up five minutes into the second 15-minute overtime session.

Okafor, who's a first-year player for the Mutiny, sent a crossing pass from the left side of the penalty box to the far post where Fried put a shot into the back of the net past Sporting CT goalie Abby McCarthy.

"It just feels amazing to score what turned out to be the game winning goal," said Fried, who transferred to UConn from Villanova. "Chioma sent me an incredible pass and I just didn't want to miss that shot. We really wanted to win today's game."

Fried, who has scored three goals this season, has been playing for the

Mutiny for the past four seasons. She's from Monroe Connecticut and was an All-American high school soccer player at St. Joseph High School, in Trumbull, Conn.

The other UConn players listed on the Mutiny roster are Anna Carson, Laci Lewis, Jess Mazo, Abbey Jones, and Rachel Marchini, who's the Mutiny captain.

Joe Ferrera, who's the Mutiny's owner and general manager, has built a very good relationship with UConn women's soccer coach Margaret Rodriguez.

"We wanted to win this championship title for Joe, and I hope he's happy," Fried said. "He's like a dad to us. He treats us like his own kids."

Okafor would like to see a few more UConn soccer players play for the Mutiny during the next couple of years.

"It's very special having some of my UConn teammates on the field with me. We know each other very well,"

Okafor said. "I hope more UConn players come play for this team in the future. It's a great atmosphere here."

When Okafor was a freshman at UConn, the Huskies lost to St. John's in a penalty shootout in the quarterfinals of the Big East tournament. She really didn't want to see the East Conference championship game end in another shootout.

"I was really hoping that we could score an overtime goal because any team could win the penalty shootout regardless of who the better team is. I don't like that aspect of soccer," Okafor added. "When I passed the ball to Maddie, I knew that she was going to put the ball into the back of the net."

Mutiny goalie Natalie Mutscheler made a couple saves during the next ten minutes before the celebration began.

The Mutiny players are looking forward to making a six hour bus ride to Buffalo this weekend.

Win or lose, the 2024 season has been a memorable one for them.



**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The Holyoke Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, August 13, 2024 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 Dimensional Reg in a DR District (Section 8.8.4), submitted by OneHolyoke CDC, for 150-152 East Dwight St, (035-02-002).

APPLICANT: Michael Moriarty  
PLANNING BOARD: Mimi Panitch  
07/19, 07/26/2024

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The Holyoke Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, August 13, 2024 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), submitted by OneHolyoke CDC, for 150-152 East Dwight St, (035-02-002).

APPLICANT: Michael Moriarty  
PLANNING BOARD: Mimi Panitch  
07/19, 07/26/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD24C0228CA In the matter of: Ashley Catherine Aliengena CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME**

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Ashley Catherine Aliengena of Holyoke, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

**Ash C Aliengena IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 08/20/2024.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

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

Date: July 23, 2024  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
07/26/2024

**City of Holyoke PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The Holyoke Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, August 13, 2024, 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 Site Plan Review petition (Sec 10) located at parcels (029-09-011, -012, -013, -014, -015, -016, -017, -018 & -019), Special Permit for a Parking Reduction (Sec 6.1.7) Special Permit for Dimensional Reg in a DR District (Sec 8.8.4) and a Special Permit for Exceed Fence Height (Sec 4.6.3.2) submitted by Holyoke Housing Authority, located at 662, 666, 674, 680, and 702 South East Street (029-09-011, -012, -013, -014, -015, -016, -017, -018, -019)

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  
07/26, 08/02/2024

**MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE**

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by VIRGINIA R. MCGINTY to POLISH NATIONAL CREDIT UNION, dated December 7, 2020 and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 23593, Page 347, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 11:00 a.m. on the 28th day of August, 2024, on the mortgaged premises believed to be known as 196 Walnut Street, Holyoke, Hampden County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit:

"That certain piece or parcel of land, and the buildings and improvements thereon, known as: 196 Walnut Street, Located in the Town/City of Holyoke and State of Massachusetts and being more particularly described in a deed recorded in Book 3525, Page 156 and/or as Certificate No. , and Document No., of the Hampden County Land Records."

The premises will be sold subject to any and all restrictions, easements, improvements, covenants, outstanding tax titles, municipal or other

public taxes, assessments, liens or claims in the nature of liens, and existing encumbrances of record superior to the Mortgage, if any. Said premises will also be sold subject to all leases and tenancies having priority over said Mortgage, to tenancies or occupation by persons on the premises now and at the time of said auction which tenancies or occupation are subject to said Mortgage, to rights or claims in personal property installed by tenants or former tenants now located on the premises, also to all laws and ordinances including, but not limited to, all building and zoning laws and ordinances. It shall be the purchaser's sole responsibility to ascertain all items described in this paragraph and no representations are made concerning compliance with applicable zoning, building, sanitary or other state and/or municipal regulations.

TERMS OF SALE: FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 (\$5,000.00) DOLLARS will be required to be paid in cash, or by certified or bank cashier's check by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance of the purchase price on the sale shall be paid in cash, or by certified or bank cashier's check within thirty (30) days thereafter and the Deed transferred contemporaneously therewith. A buyer's premium equal to five percent (5%) of the successful bid will be paid by the successful bidder and incorporated within the purchase price. The successful bidder at the sale shall be required to sign a Memorandum of terms of sale containing the above terms at the Auction sale. The purchaser will be responsible for all closing costs, Massachusetts deed excise stamps and all recording fees.

The sale may be postponed or adjourned from time to time, if necessary, by the attorney for the mortgagee at the scheduled time and place of sale. The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

Other terms, if any, will be announced at the sale.

Polish National Credit Union, Present Holder of said Mortgage

By: /s/  
Jonathan C. Sapirstein  
SAPIRSTEIN & SAPIRSTEIN, P.C.  
1500 Main Street, Suite 2504  
P.O. Box 15408  
Springfield, MA 01115-5408  
Tel.: (413) 827-7500  
Its Attorneys

Date: June 27, 2024  
07/19, 07/26, 08/02/2024

**City Of Holyoke Notice of Public Hearing**

The DGR Committee of the Holyoke City Council will hold a public hearing to hear a special permit application of Open Square Realty at 2 Open Square Way (022-01-003) to redevelop mill building into multifamily 84 apartment dwelling. Hearing will take place on **Monday, August 5, 2024 at 6:30 pm** at Holyoke City Hall 536 Dwight St and can be accessed remotely via [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) Meeting ID 844 1001 7183 Meeting Passcode 744383 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 with same Meeting ID and Passcode. For a copy of the application or to provide comments, please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at [Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org](mailto:Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org) or by phone 413-322-5525.

DGR Chair  
Kocayne Givner  
07/19, 07/26/2024

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**BLUE SOX, from page 7**

top of the second, the Blues tied it up thanks to a Thomas Rollaver RBI single.

In the bottom of the third and fourth inning, the Blue Sox began growing their lead, scoring six unanswered runs of their own to take their lead to 7-2 going into the fifth. Ethan Lyke started on the mound for the Blue Sox, pitching four innings total while giving up two earned runs off five hits, tacking-in two strikeouts of his own.

Moving to the sixth inning, the Blues closed the distance, scoring two runs in the top of the inning to cut the lead to three. However, Jonathan Hogart and Derek Williams had other plans. In a two punch combo, Hogart hit a double first to bring Logan Hugo home first. Minutes after, on a 0-1 count with two outs and Hogart now stranded at third base, Williams hit a massive shot deep out of the park to center field to give the Blue Sox a 10-4 advantage. Williams now leads the Blue Sox with the most home-runs hit so far this year with four.

The Blues ended up making things interesting by cutting the lead to 10-8, but the pitching of Chris Torres over the last two innings sealed the door for a comeback.

This Blue Sox win now puts them just 2.5 games behind the Blues for the division lead with two meetings to go, both split at Muzzy and Mackenzie fields. This game also puts the Blue Sox back in the playoff picture as they hold the series lead tiebreaker over the Upper Valley Nighthawks, with no meetings left between the two. With eight games to go on the season, the Blue Sox are once again in full control of their destiny, and their eyes on the Blue's division lead.

SEPTEMBER 2024 magazine

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*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 \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

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

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- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

*Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.*

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## ESTATE SALE

**FINAL ESTATE SALE. 1/2 OFF** - Everything must go. **213 River St., Thorndike. July 27 Sat.** only 8am-4pm

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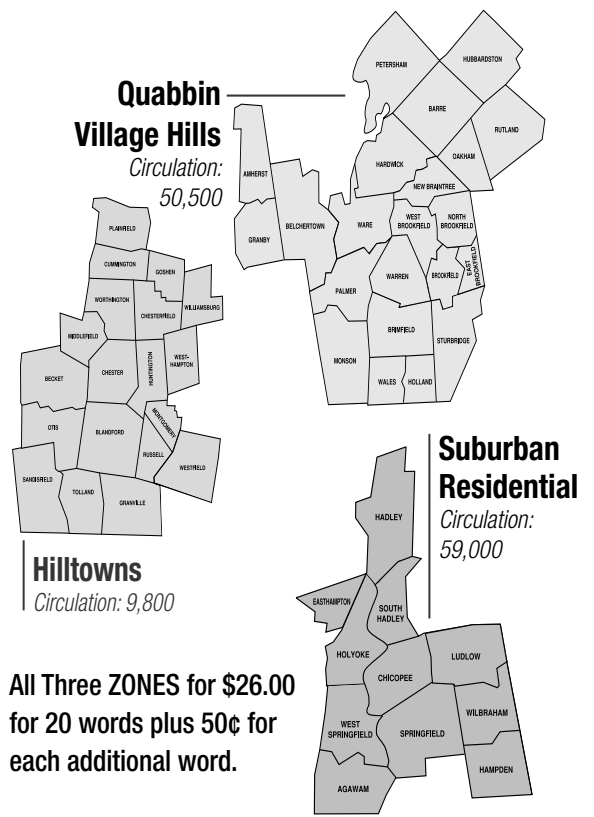
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## AUTO

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**First Congregational Church of Chester** is looking for a Church Organist or Pianist. Paid position, it takes about one hour each Sunday. If interested, please call **413-685-5074.**



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## REAL ESTATE

### FOR RENT



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**ALL REAL ESTATE** advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

**HARDWICK:** Two bedroom, one bath duplex, off street parking. No smoking, utilities, pets. \$1400 month. **774-200-4534.** Taking applications.

## REAL ESTATE

### 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 (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, 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.

Find archives of this local newspaper at [www.newspapers.turley.com](http://www.newspapers.turley.com)



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24 Water St., Palmer • 80 Main St., Ware

# Send Us Your Autumn Event Information

Turley Publications will print your Autumn event **FREE OF CHARGE** in our **Autumn Fest Supplement** which will be published **September 11, 2024.**

Total circulation of 85,000 reaching over 200,000 readers in the Pioneer Valley.

**Deadline for Calendar submissions is August 12.**

# Community Autumn Events

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](mailto:jamie@turley.com)

\*Be sure to indicate "Autumn Event" in the subject line of your email.



The kids all laughed as The Stupendous Mr. Magichead sang and made other funny noises.

Turley photos by Quinn Suomala



The Stupendous Mr. Magichead made a box open using his magic.

## MAGIC, from page 1

appear out of a hat and it never works the way it is supposed to and then, finally, at the end the bunny sticks its head out and they all see it before I do.”

At one point during the show Sullivan began to sing, then hum, then whistle and, after promising not to do any of those noises again, he made his own silly sound that had all of the kids laughing.

Sullivan also allowed different kids to volunteer and become part of the show itself. He pulled coins from their ears and noses, surprising the kids and making them laugh.

This kind of energy continued throughout the show, with the kids and adults in the room throughoutly enjoying Sullivan’s performance.

“All the kids are sitting there laughing their heads off for close to an hour,” Sullivan said.

Sullivan enjoys doing these shows

so he can see all of the audience laughing along as he performs.

“I look forward to seeing all of their smiling faces,” Sullivan said. “It is an unbelievable job.”

Sullivan has been doing magic professionally for 40 years. He began by doing close-up magic at a restaurant, mostly working for adults.

Eventually, he was asked enough about whether or not he does children’s shows and he decided to put together a show.

From there, he was hooked and now he solely performs for kids, and he enjoys each part of it.

“Every day it’s something different,” Sullivan said. “They’re great audiences. If you take the time to understand what they want and need in a show, they’re very demonstrative in their applause and their laughter.”

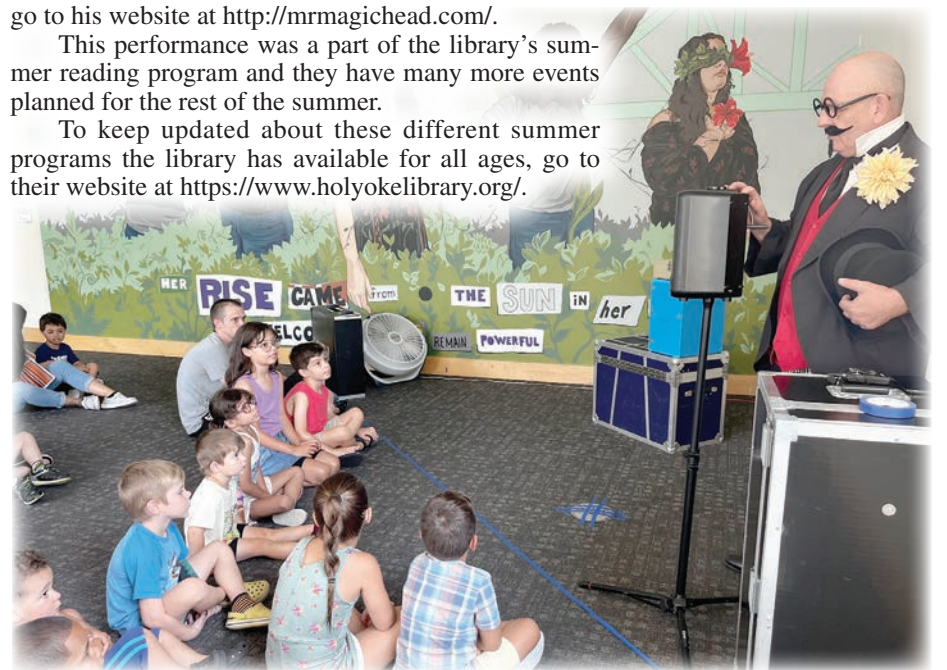
Sullivan performs at libraries, parties, schools and more, all for kids ages four through nine.

To learn more about Sullivan’s work,

go to his website at <http://mrmagichead.com/>.

This performance was a part of the library’s summer reading program and they have many more events planned for the rest of the summer.

To keep updated about these different summer programs the library has available for all ages, go to their website at <https://www.holyokelibrary.org/>.



Kids gathered eagerly in order to watch The Stupendous Mr. Magichead, also known as John Sullivan, perform at the library.

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