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Mayor nominates finance officer

Timothy Plante's appointment waits for council confirmation

By Gregory A. Scibelli
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HOLYOKE – Monday morning, the office of Mayor Joshua Garcia announced the mayor had chosen Timothy Plante, a Springfield resident, to be the first Chief Administrative and Financial Officer (CAFO).

Plante's appointment, according to the legislation passed by the city council, is now pending confirmation by the council, as well as the availability of appropriated funding.

According to the press release from Garcia's office, the position represents a significant milestone in the Garcia Administration's ongoing effort to modernize Holyoke's financial operations, strengthen internal controls, improve long-term planning, and ensure taxpayers receive accountable and transparent government.

Plante's agreed-upon salary is \$187,500 annually, representing the midpoint of the approved salary range for the position.

"From the very beginning of my administration, we've made it clear that improving our financial systems needs to be the number one priority if we want to overcome our community challenges. We will accomplish this by building an organization that earns the public's trust every single day," Garcia said. "Creating a Chief Administrative & Financial Officer position has been one of the most important structural reforms we've pursued because strong financial leadership is essential to every service we provide our residents."

Since taking office, Garcia has prioritized strengthening Holyoke's financial management by advancing municipal finance modernization initiatives, improving oversight and accountability, investing in stronger financial systems, implementing robust internal controls, addressing long-standing audit recommendations, and building a more resilient financial organization capable of meeting the City's long-term needs.

The creation of the CAFO position is designed to provide executive leadership over the City's financial operations while improving coordination among finance-related departments. The position will oversee strategic financial planning, budgeting, treasury and collection operations, procurement and purchasing, financial reporting, capital planning, and organizational performance while helping ensure consistent fiscal management across City Hall.

Mayor Garcia emphasized that the appointment followed a thoughtful and collaborative selection process.

The mayor's office said a selection committee conducted the initial review of

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More graduates celebrated at HHS

HOLYOKE – For six Holyoke High School seniors, Thursday July 23 marked a new milestone in their educational careers: They are now high school graduates after completing their remaining coursework this summer.

According to a press release from the Holyoke Public Schools, these newest members of Holyoke's graduating Class of 2026 include:

- Kenet Cortes Mercado
- Maddox Davis
- Kendrick Guerra
- Soniels Marrero Ramos
- Joerick Morales Ramos
- Jayvon Villegas



Graduates completing coursework this summer were honored last week.

Submitted photo

"The road to graduation doesn't look the same for everyone," said Principal Lori McKenna during the summer graduation ceremony. "What matters isn't that your path was different; what matters is that you didn't give up. You kept showing up, kept working, and today you crossed the finish line. That is something to be incredibly proud of."

Superintendent Jacqueline Glasheen followed Principal McKenna

at the podium, echoing her message.

"You have shown that success is not defined by how quickly you reach the finish line, but by your ability to persevere, solve problems, grow from setbacks, and remain focused on your purpose," Superintendent Glasheen said. "Those are the qualities that will serve you long after today. As you leave Holyoke Public Schools, remem-

ber this: Your diploma represents more than academic achievement. It represents grit. It represents character. It represents a promise you made to yourself that you would not give up."

As the second guest speaker, School Committee Vice Chair Devin Sheehan reminded the new graduates that although completing high school was the goal, achieving the goal is about far more than the piece of

paper itself.

"That diploma doesn't define you," he said. "You define that diploma. The work that you have put into it is everything on the four corners of that paper. The skills that you learned, how to speak to people in class, how to collaborate with your peers and work with your teachers, how to do math, how to critically think, this is what's preparing you for your next steps."

Mayor Joshua Garcia offered graduates one simple piece of advice as he prepared to close his remarks:

"Be a good human being and try to give back as much as you can. The City of Holyoke is where you are from. I want you to be proud of it. This is the community that made you, no matter where you decide to go and whatever it is that you decide to achieve."

Hot car safety: Don't leave kids, pets

By Quinn Suomala
Correspondent

One of the largest heat-related safety threats of the summer is hot cars.

In 2025 there were 31 children who died nationwide due to being left in a car during the summer heat. So far in 2026, there have already been 12.

It is crucial to maintain awareness of how quickly a car's internal temperature can rise in the heat.

"It could reach up to 120 degrees and north of that within five to ten minutes of sitting in the sun," Agawam's Deputy Fire Chief Frank Matuszczak said.

Due to these dangerous temperatures, if a person sees a child or an animal within a car in the heat and they are unsure if the car is running or not, they need to call 911 immediately.

"It is a true emergency at that point," Matuszczak said.

Children's internal



body temperatures rise faster than adults, making it even more dangerous for them to be left in a hot car.

Heatstroke begins when a person's internal body temperature reaches 104 degrees. Death occurs at a body temperature of 107 or higher.

With car temperatures reaching over 120 degrees, these dangerous internal temperatures can happen quickly.

Matuszczak advises people to never leave children or pets in the car in the heat, even if they

think it will be a quick trip. Sometimes even a five minute trip can result in heat related injury or even death.

When getting out of the car, always do a sweep to ensure no one is left in the back seat. Over 50% of pediatric vehicular heat-stroke deaths are the result of a parent or caregiver forgetting the child in the car.

The National Highway Safety Administration recommends leaving an important item in the backseat with a child to serve as a reminder to look in the back.

It is also important to teach children that cars and vehicles are not play areas and to leave car keys out of their reach.

This will help prevent children from accidentally locking themselves in a vehicle when their caregiver is not paying attention.

Many modern cars are made to be more air tight to help retain air condition-

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Former councilor appears before Ethics Commission

By Gregory A. Scibelli
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HOLYOKE – Despite being voted out of office during the 2025 Municipal Election, former Ward 3 Holyoke City Councilor David Bartley was still required to go in front of the Massachusetts State Ethics Commission for violations made while he was still in office.

Bartley, who served as the Ward 3 councilor for many years, was voted out last year in favor of Anne Thalheimer.

On Tuesday, a public hearing was held by the commission as a motion for summary decision in the case. The hearing was continued and no decision has been reached in the case.

Bartley had been the target of criticism prior to his departure for some erratic behavior and name-calling during council meetings and subcommittee meeting during his last term.

While he was councilor, he was accused of representing clients in four real estate matters. Bartley, who is a lawyer, was also able to vote on the matters in his capacity as a member of the city council, which the Ethics Commission took exception to.

Bartley is also being accused of not complying with mandatory training education requirements. It is required that city councilors refresh their conflict of interest and other training every other year. Bartley apparently only did training 2025.

The ethics commission's order, which was released earlier this week, alleges the following:



David Bartley

• In 2023, while the Housing Court was considering the city's petition to enforce the State Sanitary Code at a Holyoke property, Bartley, as attorney for the late owner's heirs, communicated with the city's attorney regarding a continuance of the petition and was paid by the heirs upon the sale of the property;

• After the city referred a Holyoke property to the Attorney General's Office regarding State Sanitary Code violations, Bartley responded to a January 2024 demand letter from the Attorney General's Office on behalf of the property owner;

• In February 2024, Bartley represented a client who had purchased a property from the city in 2019 which included a reverter clause allowing the city to take the property back if it was not developed within five years. As attorney for the property owner, Bartley communicated with a prospective buyer's counsel in connection with a request for a waiver of the reverter clause; and

• From September 2024 until February 2025, Bartley represented a

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Kiwi is enjoying the sunshine and a nice summer breeze during the dog days of summer before the stretch of rain that has downpoured over the area.

Turley photo by Kara Walsh-Vey

Local author set to celebrate new book

HOLYOKE – Local author and public school teacher Lisette Martinez is celebrating the release of her newest book, *The Extraordinary Adventures of Emma and the Dragon*, just one year after publishing her debut fantasy novel, *Born of Fire: The Phoenix Knight*.

To mark the occasion, Martinez will host her first-ever book signing on Saturday, Aug. 15, from 2 to 5 p.m. at New Chapters Bookstore in West Springfield.

The *Extraordinary Adventures of Emma and the Dragon* is a heartwarming children’s adventure that encourages readers to look beyond appearances and discover the value of kindness, courage, and compassion. Written for young readers and families, the story follows Emma as she embarks on an unforgettable journey that challenges expectations and celebrates friendship.

Martinez, who teaches in the local public school system, has long been pas-



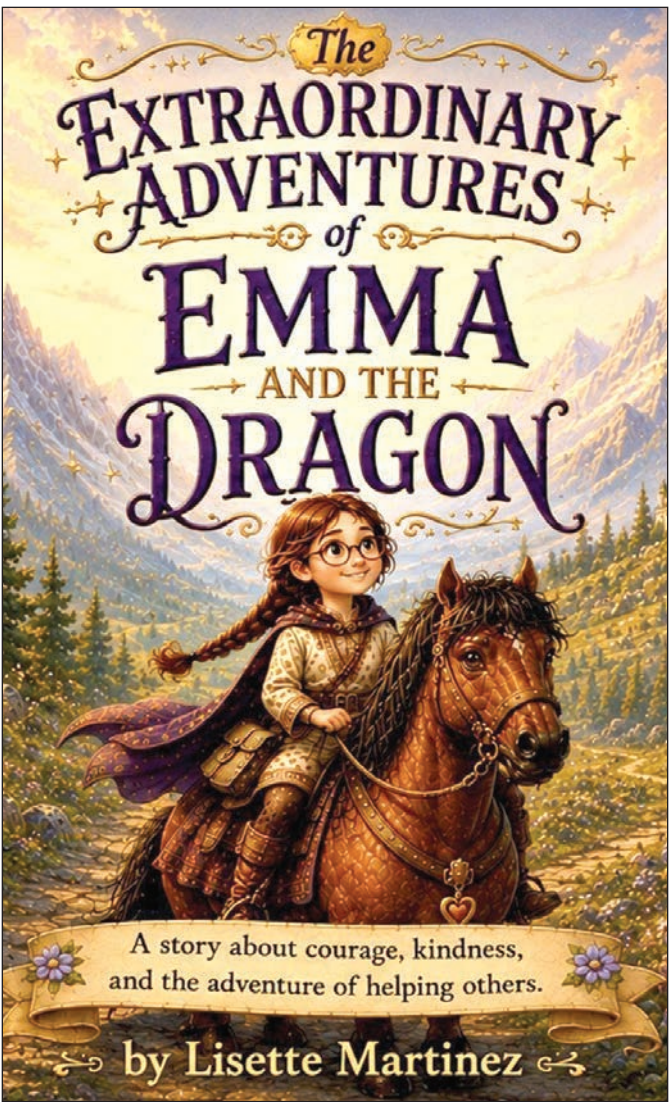
Lisette Martinez

sionate about inspiring children through literature. Her experience as an educator has shaped her storytelling, with a focus on imagination, character development, and meaningful life lessons.

“My hope is that my books encourage readers of all ages to dream big, show kindness, and never stop believing that ordinary people can make an extraordinary difference,” Martinez said.

Her debut novel, *Born of Fire: The Phoenix Knight*, introduced readers to an epic fantasy world of courage, sacrifice, and hope. With the release of her first children’s book, Martinez is expanding her reach to inspire younger audiences while continuing to pursue her passion for writing.

The Aug. 15 event offers readers an opportunity to meet the author, have books personally signed, and celebrate the launch of her latest work. Families, educators, students, and book lovers of all ages are invited to attend.



School District reminds parents to have kids vaccinations up to date

HOLYOKE – Families whose children need vaccinations before the school year begins should contact their healthcare provider as soon as possible. If your family does not have a regular healthcare provider, the Holyoke Health Center is accepting new patients. Families can call 413-420-2200 to learn more, schedule an appointment, or get help applying for health insurance.

HPS Director of Health, Wellness, and Nursing Cynthia Carbone reminds families that Massachusetts law requires children to be vaccinated against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), polio, measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis B, chickenpox (varicella), and meningitis before they can attend school. Families must provide proof of these required vaccinations. Students who do not have the required documentation may not be allowed to attend school until the school receives it.

Students who are new to the district must also meet these state vaccination requirements before starting school.

Although vaccinations are required for most students, Massachusetts does allow medical and religious exemptions in certain situations. However, if there is an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease, students who are not fully vaccinated, including those with an approved exemption, may need to stay home from school until it is safe for them to return.

Staying up to date on vaccinations is especially important because measles cases have increased across the country, including in

Massachusetts. As of the third week of July, more than 2,300 measles cases had been reported in the United States this year.

“Many people don’t realize that with a disease like measles, a single case at school is considered an outbreak,” Mrs. Carbone said. “If this happens, students and staff who are not protected may have to stay home from school. Depending on the disease, this could be as long as three to four weeks.”

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), measles is a highly contagious virus that spreads easily from person to person. It can be serious, especially for babies and young children.

Measles Information:

- Measles spreads through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes.
- The virus can remain in the air for up to two hours after it is spread, even if the infected person has left the area.

- Close to 90 percent of all unvaccinated people will become infected if they are exposed to the measles virus.

- People who are not vaccinated are at much higher risk of getting measles and developing serious complications.

“The MMR vaccine provides the best protection against measles and its complications,” Mrs. Carbone said. “Knowing the signs of measles and getting medical care quickly can help prevent the virus from spreading and reduce the risk of serious illness.”

If you have questions about vaccination requirements or your child’s immunization records, your child’s school nurse is happy to help.

Applications now available for FY27 CPA funding

HOLYOKE – The City of Holyoke Community Preservation Act Committee (CPAC) is pleased to announce the opening of its FY27 grant cycle.

Potential applicants are invited to submit an eligibility application form by Sept. 4. The eligibility form is the first step in a multi-step application process: after project eligibility is established, applicants will then be invited to submit a full application for consideration by the committee,

followed by public presentations of each project’s scope, benefit, and budget. Finally, CPAC makes its recommendations to the City Council for funding approval.

The Eligibility Form and other application materials are available by contacting CPA Administrator Naomi Klayman at klaymann@holyoke.org, and will also be posted to the City of Holyoke website. Eligibility requirements can be found on the

Massachusetts Community Preservation Act’s website.

The Community Preservation Act (CPA) is a state law enacted in 2000 and adopted by the City of Holyoke in 2016. The CPA supports historic preservation, recreation, open space, and community housing projects within Holyoke. The program has funded a variety of popular projects throughout the city, including community housing at Appleton Mills and Library Commons, the fully

accessible Miracle League Playground, the restoration of Lady Liberty at Veterans Park, and ongoing upgrades to Scott Tower and the Holyoke Merry Go Round.

Since its adoption, the CPAC has disbursed over \$5 million to preserve Holyoke’s character and improve quality of life for its residents.

Applicants are encouraged to contact Naomi Klayman with questions and for support throughout the application process.

Public invited to Hibernians Summer Picnic

HOLYOKE – The Hibernians of Hampden/Hampshire Counties invite the public to attend the Annual Traditional Summer Picnic 2026 on Sunday Aug. 30 at Hamels Pavilion in Holyoke from 1 to 5 p.m., rain or shine. This year for young people ages 1-10 we

are offering mac and cheese, chicken fingers and lemonade, face painting, and sculpture balloons.

The giant barbeque will include: hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, corn on the cob, tossed salad, dessert, coffee, iced tea, cash bar, music, dancing, raffle.

Featuring The Healy’s “The Institute for Better Living.”

The cost is \$30 for adults and kids 16 and over; kids 10-15 are \$15. For reservations/tickets call Ryan Allen at 413-531-3040 or Fran Hennessey at 413-785-5687 by Aug. 25.

Greek Festival scheduled for Aug. 22

HOLYOKE – Holy Trinity Church in Holyoke

is celebrating its 5th Greek Festival on Aug. 22

from 11-5 p.m.

The community event will raise funds to support the Ladies of the Philoptochos (Friends of the Poor) Society whose main mission is to support those facing hardships.

As America celebrates 250 years, this year’s features will include live music, a community-wide charity drive (personal care items, Walmart Gift-Cards, and slightly used backpacks), honor those who protect and serve by offering First Responders \$5 off any purchase with ID, and a crowd-pleasing Baklava Sundae



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Blood drive to honor lost infant continues

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

LUDLOW – In 2024, the unthinkable happened for the Robillard and Goncalves families experienced an unthinkable tragedy when infant Chase Goncalves lost his life from bacterial meningitis.

Lindsay Robillard, Chase’s mother, has worked to honor her son’s memory, starting a blood drive last year to help others. She is pleased to announced their next blood drive, which began on Tuesday, July 28, and will run through Aug. 12. However, she notes that a person can help outside of those dates.

“Giving blood anytime during the year is Chase’s memory is deeply appreciated,” Robillard said.

She shared the following information about this year’s hard drive, and hopes people will be able to participate.

“This year we will honor Chase by holding a blood drive at the Kraft Family Blood Donor Center at 35 Binney St, Jimmy Fund Building, Floor 1 in Boston, MA,” Robillard said. “Those who wish to donate should call 617-632-3206 or email

sbobbie@bwh.harvard.edu to schedule an appointment.”

Robillard said both her and Chase received lifesaving blood transfusions during their medical journeys.

Chase passed away in August 2024 from bacterial meningitis.

“Chase was pure love and pure joy from the minute he was born,” Robillard said. “He brought us immense peace. His illness was completely unexpected. Chase was fully immunized, healthy and breastfed his entire life. He was a beautiful baby who loved to be outside in nature and loved to be in the arms of those who loved him. We lost our future with him and his brother Jack lost his best friend. Losing Chase has tested our ability to live in this world without him. We were so connected to him and we continue to maintain our connection to him. We visit and spend time with him often at the cemetery and express our love for him by keeping flowers and mementos at his gravesite. It is a way to continue to “parent” Chase. Talking about Chase and doing acts of kindness in his honor help us to remain close to him. He will always be a part of our family. Our



Chase Goncalves lost his life from bacterial meningitis.

grief and period of ‘grieving’ will never end. We will continue to love and miss him every second of every day. A loss this profound upends your entire world. Parents are not supposed to bury their children and this out-of-order death is destabilizing. Our grief is an expression of our love. By holding this blood drive we hope to honor and keep his memory alive while also provid-

ing lifesaving blood donations. We ask those who are unable to donate in Boston to consider donating at a local Red Cross, as hospital blood supplies are generally at a critical low in the summer months.”

Robillard hopes to continue to honor his memory through the drive and is grateful to all those who help honor his memory through donations.



Submitted photos
His family now holds a blood drive to help others and honor the child’s memory.week.

Locals taking part in Pan-Mass Challenge

NEEDHAM – This August 1 and 2, the Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC) will bring together more than 6,000 cyclists and 4,000 volunteers on August 1-2 to raise money for cancer research and patient care at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Participants from local communities will be among those helping support the PMC’s mission to fund lifesaving cancer research and treatment.

Local participants include:
Maria Burke of Holyoke (<https://profile.pmc.org/MB1005>)

Louise Cavanaugh of Holyoke (<https://profile.pmc.org/LC0450>)

Jennifer Gilburg of Holyoke (<https://profile.pmc.org/JG0742>)

Deanna Jimenez of Holyoke (<https://profile.pmc.org/DJ0144>)

Timothy Hanlon of Holyoke (<https://profile.pmc.org/TH0259>)

The PMC, which raises more money for charity than any other single athletic fundraiser in the world, is aiming to raise more than ever this year, with a fundraising goal of \$79 million.

This year’s PMC comes at an especially critical time, with federal research support shrinking, grant approval rates reaching historic lows, and cancer cases continuing to rise. For the 20th consecutive year, 100 percent of every rider-raised dollar will go directly to Dana-Farber, one of the nation’s top three hospitals for cancer research and care.

“The theme for this year’s PMC, which is ‘now,



more than ever,’ underscores the paramount importance of every single dollar raised in fueling the search for a cure,” said Billy Starr, founder and chairman of the PMC. “We are endlessly grateful to every rider, volunteer, donor, and sponsor who makes the PMC possible. Because of their training miles, long hours of volunteering, generous support, and unwavering commitment, we are moving ever closer to a world without cancer.”

Since its inception in 1980, the PMC has raised \$1.125 billion for Dana-Farber, making it the organization’s largest single contributor and accounting for 67 percent of the annual revenue of The Jimmy Fund, Dana-Farber’s community-driven fundraising arm. This unrestricted annual funding has empowered and accelerated advancements in

cancer research, deeply benefiting patients across the world.

During each annual PMC weekend, thousands of cyclists and volunteers come together from across the world, hailing from 47 US states and 12 countries, with a shared purpose of raising as much money as possible for Dana-Farber. Cyclists ride routes ranging from 25 to 177 miles. Included among these participants is the PMC Living Proof community, riders and volunteers who were previously treated or are currently undergoing cancer treatment and serve as Living Proof of the progress made through raising funds for cancer research and treatment.

There is still time to participate in this year’s Pan-Mass Challenge. Folks interested in getting involved can learn more and register at PMC.org.



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Coalition hosting candidate forum

EASTHAMPTON – A coalition of Hampshire County Democratic Town Committees (DTCs) will host a candidate forum featuring individuals running in multiple local races, providing voters with a comprehensive opportunity to hear directly from those seeking to represent their community ahead of the September 1st Primary. It will be held

at Easthampton High School on Aug. 10 from 6 to 8 p.m. Designed to promote broad voter education, the forum will bring together candidates for U.S. Representative, Governor’s Council, State Representative, and State Senate. The event will allow voters to compare perspectives across races in a single, accessible setting.

Candidates for U.S. Representative and Governor’s Council, the two September 1st contested primaries, will have an opportunity to present their campaigns and answer questions. Other candidates in the district running for election will introduce themselves. The moderated portion will be followed by a candidate meet and greet.

CPL hosting dancing group

CHICOPEE – On Thursday, Aug. 6, the Chicopee Public Library will host Small Planet Dancers performing Emerald Road. The 75-minute program will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Small Planet Dancers is composed of 15 male and female dancers and singers. Emerald Road focuses on Irish and Scottish dances and tells the story of the Celtic people through songs and dances. “Our mission is to educate as well as entertain,” explains Josephine Sarnelli, the Artistic Director. For example, our routine Victory starts with a reading of the poem Easter 1916 by William Butler Yeats. Beware of the Banshee and Celtic Fairies bring to life Celtic lore and mythology.

The free performance begins at 6:30 p.m. and is open to the public. This program is supported in part by

a grant from the Chicopee Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Visit www.SmallPlanetDancers.com or phone the Chicopee Library for more information.

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SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor



I was cheated;
I delayed claiming SS but
didn't get my full benefits

Dear Rusty:

I'm 70 now and took my Social Security benefits at age 68.

Social Security would not allow me to take all my increased percentage earned by waiting until age 68 to claim. My local Social Security office said I would get an increased amount but not my full age 68 amount because it was "not an option;" they said I could take it only the way "they said." That's our illegal government.

Signed: Feeling Cheated

Dear Feeling Cheated:

Regarding your comment that SS "would not allow" you to take all of your "increased percentage," I assume you are referring to a Social Security rule which applies whenever benefits are claimed after full retirement age (FRA) but before age 70. That rule says that the Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs), which are earned when someone delays claiming until after their Social Security full retirement age, are applied only in January of each year. What that means is that whenever benefits are claimed mid-year after FRA but before age 70, only the DRCs earned through the end of the previous year are immediately applied, and any additional DRCs earned during the current year are not applied until January of the following year. The only exception to that rule is if someone applies for benefits to begin in the month they turn 70 (or after) when all earned DRCs are applied immediately.

So, if you applied for your benefits to begin when you turned age 68 mid-year in 2024 (but before the end of that year), you would initially only get DRCs earned through the end of the previous year (through December 2023) and the DRCs earned in 2024 wouldn't have been credited to you until January 2025.

Which means you now actually do get your full percentage of delayed retirement credits earned by waiting until age 68 to claim, but you did not get them all until January 2025. Essentially, those extra benefits earned from the beginning of 2024 to the month your SS benefits started were delayed until the beginning of the following year.

We run into this complexity fairly often here at our AMAC Social Security Advisory Service, which is why we counsel those who contact us about waiting longer to claim are aware of this rather obscure rule.

Not to defend your local SS office, but they are required to pay benefits according to the established Social Security law. Thus, they were required to inform you that paying you the full age 68 benefits effective immediately when you applied was not an option. It wasn't personal; they were just following the rules.

I know this explanation doesn't dissuade you from "feeling cheated," but I hope understanding how SS works in this case assures you it wasn't personal – SSA applies the same rules to all beneficiaries.

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.



Gardener's joys of harvest season

It's been a fun week in the garden! I love it when the harvest starts to roll in.

This week I picked broccoli, kale, green beans and zucchini. I also replanted a few crops in hopes of a second harvest prior to the first frost.

Read on to hear about my adventures.

You may remember my column from a few weeks back, where I was having a hard time getting "into it" this year. I guess like building any relationship, the more time you spend, the more time you may want to spend as things start to progress and go well.

Anyway, I am happy with my garden again and it feels good to spend time out there. Back to the harvest.

I enjoy harvesting broccoli. It's always fun to see just how big you can get the



no worms of any kind in the water left over after steaming.

Kale is broccoli's cousin and is subject to the same pests. Because of that I also grow it under the netting.

I've been harvesting the kale for well over a month and we already have several bags of it in the freezer. I am starting to rethink my use of plastic baggies, but for now the leaves are washed, patted dry then ripped into pieces and stuffed into baggies pushing out as much air as possible. When my husband makes his vegetable juices and stews, all he does is empty the contents into his creation.

I noticed that the older leaves of the kale were starting to have a yellow cast, so I got out the organic granular fertilizer and gave the plants a sprinkle and a good watering. Hopefully that will reinvigorate the plants for picking well into the fall.

See GARDEN, page 5

Glossy Ibis occur in flocks, both at nesting colonies and when foraging. They typically feed by lowering the bill into water, mud or soil, to feel for prey.

In addition to consuming animal matter, plants may constitute a major portion of their diet during some seasons.

They frequent almost any wetland environment with shallow water or exposed mud and also readily feed in farm fields or open areas where soils are moist.

They inhabit shallow freshwater wetlands as well as brackish and saltwater wetlands, mangroves, and rice fields. Over much of its range,

When flying, the glossy ibis has its neck stretched forward and legs straight behind it. The glossy ibis does not call often, but may make murmuring sounds while foraging.

During the breeding season, glossy ibises will court one another by preening and touching bills. Males and females will work together to build a large nest.

Nesting in tight colonies, glossy ibis nests are often no more than 2 feet away from each other. The female will lay three to four

eggs and incubate them for 20-22 days.

Glossy ibises can be found across the globe. Their range has greatly expanded in the 20th century in North America.

This species has gone from a rare and local Florida species to regularly breeding as far north as Maine and occasionally along the east coast of Canada. The first Massachusetts nests were found at coastal sites in 1974.

The oldest recorded glossy ibis was at least 21 years old and lived in Virginia between 1971 and 1992.

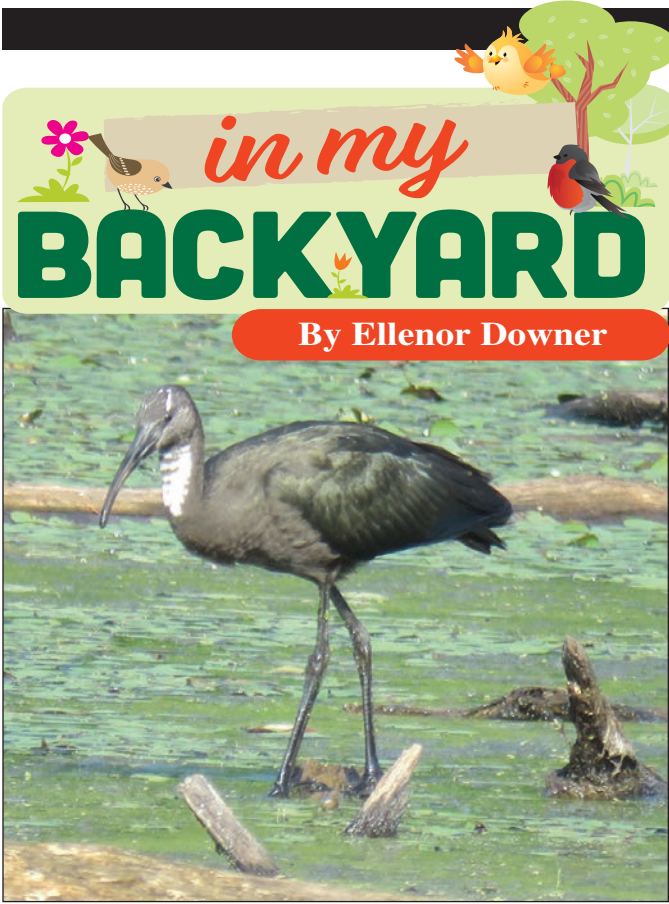
Sutton birds

Recently, my brother and sister-in-law hosted a pool party. My brother, Ted, puts out grape jelly for the Baltimore orioles and a nectar feeder for the ruby-throated hummingbirds on his deck.

Birds included male and female ruby-throated hummingbirds for the nectar feeder. Baltimore orioles, red-bellied woodpecker, downy woodpecker and a scarlet tanager came to the deck.

They also have a pond

See BIRDS, page 5



Juvenile glossy ibis

Photo by Doug Moore

A Belchertown resident shared this photo of a glossy ibis he took at Lake Wallace.

The glossy ibis is a medium-sized wading bird, 18.9 to 26 inches long, with compact body, long neck, long legs and long, curved bill.

The plumage appears dark, almost blackish, at a distance or in poor light. Up close, the body is maroon with wing coverts showing a metallic green, bronze and violet tones.

Juveniles are a duller brown color with some white streaking on their neck

The Holyoke Sun welcomes election letters to the editor

The Holyoke Sun welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Holyoke Sun, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to thesun@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Friday's

newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspa-

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

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

the HOLYOKE Sun

We Want to Hear From You

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Turley Publications, Inc.
www.turley.com

Turley Publications, Inc. cannot assume liability for the loss of photographs or other materials submitted for publication. Materials will not be returned except upon specific request when submitted.

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.

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your health

By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN
Guest Column



Many of the articles I see about older drivers focus on how families can have The Talk: “Mom/Dad, it’s time for you to stop driving.” That’s not a helpful way to approach it. It’s better to observe their driving, take notes and have a conversation about road safety, looping in their doctor if necessary. But this column isn’t about that.

Instead, I think senior drivers themselves (and I am one!) should be assessing their own fitness to drive and take that burden off their kids. The fact is that medications, physical limitations and cognitive difficulties can make driving very dangerous for older folks.

The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration says that the majority of people killed in traffic crashes involving older drivers are 65 and older. About 66% of the deaths in 2024 were either the older driver or their passenger, also 65 years of age or older.

The risk of serious injury and death increases with age. Older drivers may have fewer accidents than younger ones, but when you look at accidents per mile driven, the math is clear: Getting older behind the wheel can be very risky.

Massachusetts law requires drivers 75 years of age or older to renew their licenses in person every five years at a Registry of Motor Vehicles office or AAA. If you have a medical condition or are taking a medication that affects your driving, you must self-report to the RMV.

But between the ages of 75 and 80, how many drivers develop conditions like arthritis that limit their ability to turn their head? How many are taking medications that can potentially impair their ability to not only drive but react to an unexpected situation, like a deer in the road? How many are having trouble remembering where they were going but get behind the wheel anyway?

Are there 95-year-olds who are still safe on the road? Of course. But we older drivers need to be honest with ourselves and not assume that, just because we’ve been driving for 60 or 70 years, we should still be driving.

Here are some things to ask yourself:

Can you comfortably turn your head to back out of a parking spot or check a blind spot before merging or changing lanes?

Do you have the muscle strength, reaction time and control to slam on the brakes if needed?

Are you able to clearly

read signs?

Do you get confused at roundabouts, when making left turns or getting on or off the interstate?

Do other drivers honk at you?

Have you narrowly missed having an accident and said to yourself, “That car/pedestrian/bike came out of nowhere”?

Vision, hearing, motor abilities, cognitive abilities all decline naturally with aging. That doesn’t mean you have to hang up your keys at a particular age. It just means to be aware of those changes and adjust to them.

For example, take time to stretch your arms, legs and neck every morning to maintain flexibility. If your doctor prescribes a new medication, ask whether it will have any impact on your ability to drive. Maybe stay on surface streets rather than highways or drive only during the day if night vision and glare are a problem. Assistive devices can also help.

From a cognitive standpoint, it’s important to keep distractions to a minimum. Don’t try to eat or drink while driving. Tell passengers to keep conversation to a minimum. Set your GPS before putting the car in drive. And, for the love of all that is holy, stay off the phone – hands free or not.

Cars these days are packed with safety technology. Your car may alert you when you’re following too close, wandering into another lane or have a car sitting your blind spot. It may automatically correct a skid or even parallel park for you. All of that technology is great, but remember: You are still the one in the driver’s seat.

Every so often, invite a trusted adult to ride shotgun and note your driving behaviors for later discussion. They may spot things, like driving too slow or being in the left lane when you’re not passing. If they identify concerns, talk to your doctor or an occupational therapist who specializes in driver safety and sign up for an older driver course.

After an honest self-assessment, you can decide for yourself if it’s time to stop driving and, guess what? There’s life after cars! Friends, family, taxis, rideshares and transit-on-demand are all plentiful. You can have groceries, meals and prescriptions delivered.

We all love the independence of going anywhere we want when we want. Just be aware that freedom comes with the responsibility to make sure you’re fit to drive.

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



GARDEN, from page 4

My bush bean seeds got planted late; well after Memorial Day. The harvest is just starting. I will be sure to pick often to keep the plants producing.

I have been saving my own bean seeds for a few years now. It’s easy, just harvest the dry pods of “the ones that got away.” Make sure they are crispy dry.

Break open the seed pods and store the seeds with a packet of desiccant (usually in a bottle of vitamins or with leather shoes) in a jar. If you are growing open pollinated or heirloom, non-hybrid varieties you will reliably get the same variety back again. They don’t cross pollinate with neighbor beans.

This week I was happy to harvest four zucchinis with more coming. It’s funny that already I see freebies at the end of drive-ways on my commute. I truly hope I have an abundance.

To avoid “boat-sized” squash, pick them small, say six to eight inches long. The seed cavity won’t be too big that way and you will encourage the plant to keep producing.

No doubt the vine borer will do in my early sowing soon enough, but never fear, I have sown additional seeds under cover to hopefully have a later harvest once this one expires. I try and keep them covered until the plants bloom, at which time the cover needs to be removed so that the flowers can be pollinated and fruit can form.

I hope you are enjoying the start of the harvest season as much as I am.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 34 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.

BIRDS, from page 4

that abuts their backyard. They have a pair of mute swans on the pond. They raised a family for several years in a row.

Great blue heron

I often see a great blue heron wading in Long Pond in Rutland. Every time I drive along Route 122 by the pond, I look for the heron.

People may report a bird sighting by emailing edowne@turley.com or calling or texting 774-262-5882.



Great blue heron

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10
11				12		13			14		
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48					49			50	51	52	53
55					56			57			58
59					60			61			
62					63			64			

CLUES ACROSS

1. Egyptian bull god

5. Romanian monetary unit

8. Santa’s helper

11. Fictional Pink Floyd corporal

13. Sea eagle genus

14. Broad volcanic crater

15. Minneapolis suburb

16. Actual commercial worth (abbr.)

17. Exchange rate

18. Ethnic peoples in Guinea

20. Men’s fashion accessory

21. Craft material

22. Offerings

25. Early

30. Large room

31. Soviet Socialist Republic

32. One who hauls

33. Shorthand for accepting

38. Promotional materials

41. Loss of memory

43. One who beheads

45. Photographers

48. Small, rich sponge cake

49. White clerical vestment

50. Partner to “oohed”

55. Abba __, Israeli politician

56. Zero

57. Owl monkey genus

59. Lace bug genus

60. Mild expression of surprise

61. Storage devices

62. Keyboard key

63. Make a mistake

64. One-time Korean president

CLUES DOWN

1. Bridge building degree

2. Expression of sorrow or pity

3. Large, stocky, lizard

4. Rumanian river

5. Missive

6. Stout-bodied moths

7. Brings out

8. Bird of prey

9. King of Thebes

10. Cleaving tool

12. African antelope

14. Three are particularly famous

19. Satisfy

23. C. European river

24. Dictator

25. Portion of (abbr.)

26. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet

27. Consume food

28. Woman (French)

29. Scrape or wear away by friction

34. Popular vegetable

35. Pacific Standard Time

36. Brazilian state capital

37. Paddle

39. Cause to become insane

40. Drier and flakier

41. Mimic

42. ESPN host Kimes

44. One who moseys

45. Secret political clique

46. Behind the stern of a ship

47. Supernatural force

48. Sanctuary in Orthodox churches

51. Swiss river

52. Grayish white

53. Engrave

54. UNC’s chief rival

58. Midway between south and southeast

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 6

Blessed Sacrament Parish
Rev. Duy Le
frduyle@blessedsacramentholyoke.org
1945 Northampton St., Holyoke
PARISH RECTORY: 413-532-0713
OFFICE HOURS:
Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Friday 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
WEEKEND MASSES:
Saturday 4 p.m.
Sunday 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
DAILY MASS AND ROSARY
Monday - Friday: ROSARY 6:15 a.m.
Monday - Friday: MASS 6:45 a.m.
Legal Holidays: ROSARY 7:30 a.m.
Legal Holidays: MASS 8 a.m.
ROSARY AND MEDITATION
Monday Evening: 6 p.m.
www.blessedsacramentholyoke.org
FaceBook: @bspholyokema

CHURCH DIRECTORY



Your Community Church

St. Peter's Lutheran Church
Rev. Debora Stein
34 Jarvis Ave., Holyoke
Office: (413) 536-3369
Office: stpetersholkyoke@gmail.com
Pastor: revdebma@gmail.com
Website: www.stpetersholkyoke.org
Social media:
facebook.com/stpetersholkyoke
OFFICE HOURS:
Monday and Thursday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Friday, 12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
WORSHIP:
Sundays at 9:30 a.m. (also on Facebook Live) & Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.
Other: Prayers with Pastor - Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. - on Facebook Live.

First Baptist Church
Pastor Theresa Temple
1976 Northampton St., Holyoke
(413) 533-7728
firstbaptistchurchholkyoke@comcast.net
Facebook: First Baptist Church of Holyoke, MA
HOURS: Sunday worship service (winter hours) at 10:30 a.m. (summer hours) at 10 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Studies, one at 11 a.m. and one at 5:30 p.m.

Our Lady of the Cross Catholic Parish
Pastor: Fr. Albert Scherer, OFM Conv.
Email: pastor@ourladyofthecross.com
Holy Cross Ave., Holyoke
Parish Offices are located at: 15 Maple Street, Holyoke (413) 532-5661
parish@ourladyofthecross.com
OFFICE HOURS:
Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
WEEKEND MASSES:
Saturday 4 p.m.
Sunday 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m. (Polish), and 10:30 a.m.
DAILY MASS:
Monday - Saturday 8:30 a.m.
Legal Holidays Mass 9 a.m.
Reconciliation (Confession) Monday - Saturday 8 a.m.
Saturday 3:15pm
Anytime by Appointment
DEVOTIONS
Monday - Saturday Divine Mercy Chaplet - 7:50 a.m.
ROSARY 8:05 a.m.
www.ourladyofthecross.com

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
The Rev. Canon Joel Martinez
485 Appleton St., Holyoke
413-532-5060
Office@StPaulsholyoke.org
StPaulsHolyoke.org
Instagram: stpaulsepiscopalchurch_holyoke
OFFICE HOURS:
Tuesday – Friday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Days and Hours of Services:
Sunday: 8 a.m.
Sunday: 10 a.m.
Sunday: 5 p.m. (Spanish)

First Lutheran Church
1810 Northampton St.
Holyoke, MA 01040
Every Sunday at 9 a.m.

Public Notices

City of Holyoke
Notice of Public Hearing
The Holyoke License Board will be holding a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, August 5, 2026, at 5:15 p.m.** You can join via Zoom.com: ID **83974921923**; CALL IN: ***67 646 558 8656** or in person at **City Hall, 536 Dwight St. in the Old Tax Collector Office Room 6**, regarding the application for a **New Seasonal All Alcohol On-premises License for Demented FX Inc., 530 Main Street.** pursuant to M.G.L. Ch.138.
Applicant: Demented FX Inc.
License Board:
Jose Correa, Chairman
07/24, 07/31/2026

MORTGAGEE’S
SALE OF REAL ESTATE
By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by HOLYOKE REAL ESTATE, LLC, to FLORENCE BANK, dated August 26, 2019, and recorded on August 27, 2019, with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 22822, Page 355, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder by virtue of Assignment of Mortgage from Florence Bank, dated April 23, 2026, and recorded in said Registry of Deeds in Book 26313, Page 324, for breach of the conditions of the said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at public auction at 10:00 a.m. on the Twenty-seventh (27th) day of August, 2026, at the mortgaged premises described below, to wit, 642-648 High Street, Holyoke, Massachusetts, all and singular, the premises in said Holyoke, Hampden County, Massachusetts, described in said Mortgage, to wit:

PARCEL ONE
Beginning at a point on the easterly side of High Street, one hundred twenty three and 81/100 (123.81) feet northerly from the northerly side of Sargeant Street; and thence running
N 36°46’ 41” E along High Street thirty-one & 19/100 (31.19) feet; thence turning and running
S 53° 13’ 19” E a distance of eighty-eight (88) feet to the center line of a sixteen (16) foot alleyway; thence turning and running
S36° 46’ 41” W a distance of thirty-one & 19/100 (31.19) feet along said centerline of the alleyway; thence turning and running
N53° 13’ 19” W a distance of eighty-eight feet to the place of beginning.
Containing 2,745 square feet more or less and being Parcel 2 on a plan entitled “Plan of Land for Dean and Mary Jo Nowak” drawn by Pharmed Engineering Corporation, Holyoke, Massachusetts, recorded in Plan Book 224, Page 105.
Together with the right and easement to enter Parcel 1 on said plan to service, maintain, renew, or construct gas lines for the service of said Parcel 2.
Subject to restrictions and reservations of record, including alleyway restrictions, if in force

and in effect.
Being the same premises conveyed to the Mortgagor herein by deed of Anjana International, LLC dated August , 2019 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds immediately prior hereto.
PARCEL TWO
Beginning at a point in the easterly side of High Street, one hundred fifty-five (155) feet northerly from the northerly side of Sargeant Street, and thence running
NORTHEASTERLY on said High Street, fifty (50) feet; thence
SOUTHEASTERLY and at right angles to said High Street, eighty-eight (88) feet to the center line of an alley or common passageway (which passageway is sixteen (16) feet wide running from said Sargeant Street to Hampshire Street); thence
SOUTHWESTERLY on said center line of said alley and parallel with said High Street, fifty (50) feet; thence
NORTHWESTERLY in a straight line, eight-eight (88) feet to the place of beginning; containing four thousand four hundred (4,400) square feet, more or less.
Together with and subject to possible rights to alleyway as set forth in the deed and shown on the plan recorded in Plan Book 224, Page 105.
Subject to encumbrances of record.
Being the same premises conveyed to the Mortgagor herein by deed of Anjana International, LLC immediately prior hereto.
Said premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and other municipal assessments and liens, prior liens, mortgages and other enforceable encumbrances of record having priority over the mortgage described herein, and subject to, and with the benefit of, all easements, restrictions, improvements, reservations and conditions of record, and all tenancies and/or rights of parties in possession, including rights or claims to personal property installed by tenants or former tenants now located on the premises, and including, without limitation, the Party Wall Agreement dated March 25, 2020, and recorded in said Registry of Deeds in Book 23159, Page 104. It shall be the bidder’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 laws, ordinances or regulations.
TERMS OF SALE: FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$5,000.00) will be required to be paid in cash or by certified check or bank cashier’s check by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid in cash or by certified or bank cashier’s check and the deed shall be delivered within twenty-one (21) days after the public auction at the offices of HASHIM & SPINOLA, 82 Wendell Avenue, Pittsfield, Massachusetts. The purchaser will be responsible for all the closing costs, recording

fees, deed stamps and shall be required to sign an Auctioneer’s Memorandum containing the terms of this sale.
In the event the successful bidder shall default in purchasing the within described premises according to the terms of this Notice of Sale and/or the terms of the Memorandum of Sale executed at the time of the foreclosure, the Mortgagee reserves the right to sell the property by Foreclosure Deed to the second highest bidder provided that the second highest bidder shall deposit with the Mortgagee’s attorneys, HASHIM & SPINOLA, the amount of the required deposit as set forth herein within three (3) business days after written Notice of Default of the previous highest bidder, and title shall be conveyed to the said second highest bidder within twenty (20) days of said written notice.
This 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, to be announced at the time and place of sale.
REO PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, LLC
Holder of Said Mortgage
Date: July 24, 2026
FROM THE OFFICES OF:
HASHIM & SPINOLA
Attorneys for the Mortgagee
82 Wendell Avenue
Pittsfield, MA 01201
(413) 499-1304
AUCTIONEER:
MARCELLA ASSOCIATES
LICENSE NO. 1687
44 Lake Street
Dalton, MA 01226
07/31, 08/07, 08/14/2026

REVISED AD
INVITATION TO BID
JONES POINT PARK
IMPROVEMENTS REBID
IFB 2027-5P
Sealed bids for of Jones Point Park Improvements (Re-Bid), Holyoke, MA will be received on August 13, 2026 at the City of Holyoke Office of Procurement, 536 Dwight Street, Room 3, Holyoke, Massachusetts 01040, Attn: Jaime Morrow, Chief Procurement Officer until 2 PM prevailing time, at which said Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. All bids shall be submitted within a sealed envelope addressed to the “City of Holyoke Office of Procurement, 536 Dwight Street, Room 3, Holyoke, Massachusetts 01040, Attn: Jaime Morrow, Chief Procurement Officer” and titled “Jones Point Park Improvements (Re-Bid), Bid#2027-5P”. The work under this contract shall include park improvements including installation of a walking path, basketball court resurfacing, parking improvements, and other incidental construction related to the project. Bidding procedures

shall be in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 30, Section 39 M as amended. This project may be funded in whole or part with federal funds. Attention is called to the minimum wage rates required to be paid for all labor on this project. Every Bid shall be accompanied by a bid deposit, in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the bid amount, in the form of a bid bond; or a certified check; or a treasurer’s check; or by cashier’s check issued by a responsible bank or trust company, made payable to the City of Holyoke. Beginning at 10 AM on July 22, 2026, all project documents will be distributed and supplied by the City of Holyoke’s in electronic format only. Submit requests for documents to Jaime Morrow, Chief Procurement Officer, at morrowj@holyoke.org between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM. Requests shall include firm name and address, contact name and title, email address, and telephone number. Any questions need to be submitted in writing via email to morrowj@holyoke.org by August 7, 2026 @ 2 PM. The answers will be issued via addenda to all bid holders no later than August 11, 2026. The bidder Contractor shall also be MassDOT, Highways Division, Prequalified in the class of work “RECREATION FACILITIES or “HIGHWAY-CONSTRUCTION” The total estimated Project value, including all Bid items, Alternates, allowances, and extension options, is \$396,900.00 . An award will not be made to a Contractor who is not pre-qualified with the MassDOT Highway Division prior to the opening of proposals. The bidder agrees that its bid shall be good and may not be withdrawn for a period of 45 days, Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays excluded, after the opening of the bids. The Awarding Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and/or waive any informality, if it is deemed to be in the public interest so to do.
07/31/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No. HD26P1050EA
Estate of:
Jill Stough
Also Known As:
Jill Strader, Jill Connell
Date of Death:
February 26, 2026
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner James A. Stough of Holyoke, MA.
James A. Stough of Holyoke, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.
The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative

under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
07/31/2026

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. HD26P1597EA
Estate of:
Herman A Sutter, Jr.
Date of Death: 02/10/2026
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Helene E. Sutter of Holyoke, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that Helene E. Sutter of Holyoke, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 08/19/2026.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Claudine T. Stoudemire, First Justice of this Court.
Date: July 22, 2026
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
07/31/2026

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

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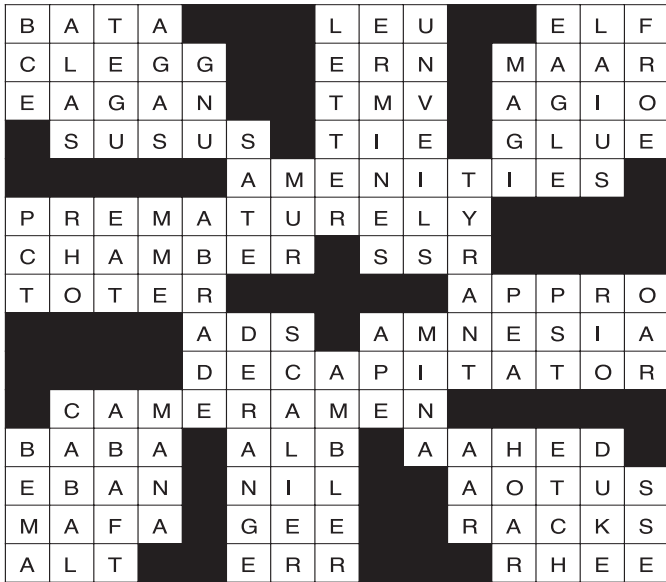
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The Holyoke Sun
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SPORTS

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Saints beat rival PeoplesBank

HOLYOKE – Last Thursday night, the pennant race stepped up with rivals PeoplesBank and St. Joe's matching up at Mackenzie Stadium. While PeoplesBank trailed early in the game, they nearly

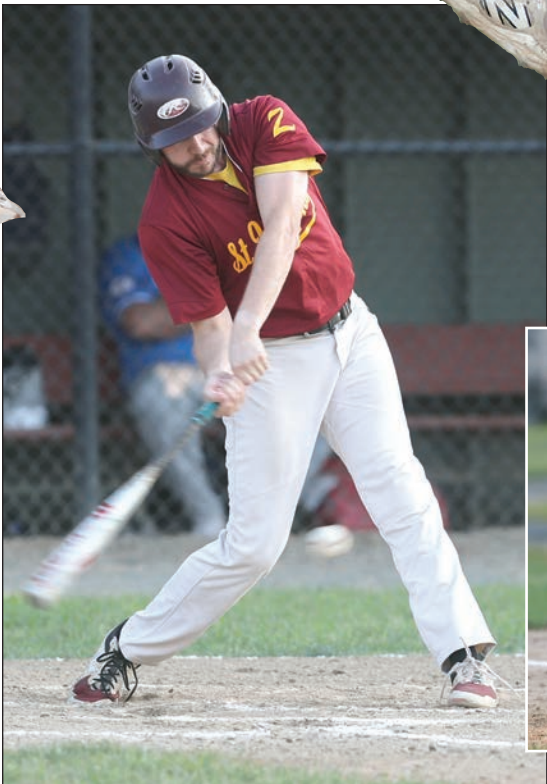
came all the way back, but St. Joe's prevailed 9-7. The playoffs are on the horizon in the league with St. Joe's and PeoplesBank likely drawing top seeds for the six-team playoffs.

Jake Jachym sends a ball to homeplate for the Bankers.

Tre Yesu, of Monson, fires home for St. Joe's.



Seth Adams swings for the fences.



Brandon Magni connects.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Joe DeMichele makes a catch at first.



Dave Clark sends a throw to first for PeoplesBank.

Blue Sox nearing end of regular season

HOLYOKE – The Valley Blue Sox went 1-for-2 in a doubleheader against the Mystic Schooners on Saturday. Entering Saturday's doubleheader against the Schooners (22-17) Valley sat at 16-18-1, sixth in the South Division and outside the play-

off picture, trailing both Danbury and Bristol for one of the division's postseason spots. The Blue Sox (17-19-1) responded with a convincing 10-3 victory in Game 2 to split the twin bill and

remain in the postseason hunt.

Mystic struck first in the first game and opened the inning when Bryce Detwiler lifted a sacrifice fly to right field after consecutive singles from Jack

Harley and Anthony Belisario put runners on the corners.

The Schooners added another run in the fourth as Chris Walsh lined a two-out single before Adam Troch followed with an RBI double down the left-field line, giving Mystic a 2-0 advantage. Valley answered immediately in the bottom half; however, Chris Cancel launched a solo home run to left field to cut the deficit in half.

Andrew Oppenheimer kept the Blue Sox within striking distance throughout his six-inning start, allowing three runs, only two earned, while striking out four. But Mystic manufactured what proved to be the decisive run in the sixth after a hit batter, a walk and a Valley error loaded the bases. Walsh singled to center to score Detwiler and extend the lead to 3-1.

Valley mounted one final rally in the seventh. Chris Carson doubled to center before pinch-hitter Alex Hill delivered an RBI single to trim the deficit to one. With the tying run aboard, Mystic closer MJ Bollinger recorded the final two outs to preserve the 3-2 victory. Despite matching the Schooners with seven hits, the Blue Sox came up just short.

The Blue Sox wasted little time putting the loss behind them in the nightcap.

Nick Tomasetto ignited the offense with a solo home run in the first inning before Michael Iannazzo added a sacrifice fly later in the frame to give Valley a 2-0 lead. Tomasetto drove in another run with an RBI single in the second, and after Mystic answered with one of its own, Valley broke the game open in the third.

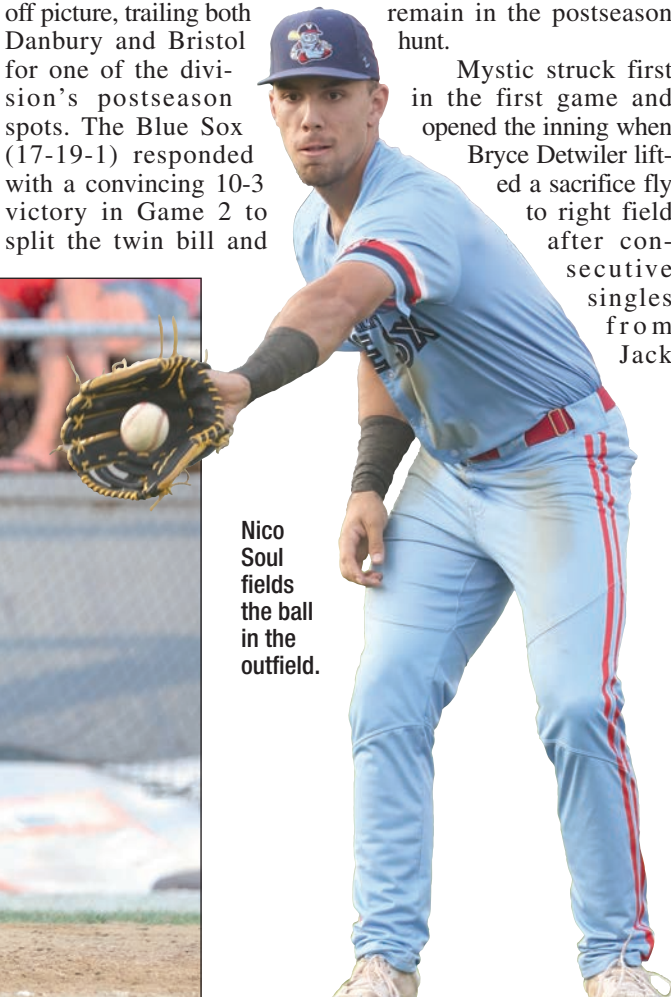
Nick Spaventa blasted a solo home run to center before



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Above, Nick Tomasetto looks to turn a double play during recent action last week at Mackenzie Stadium. Below, Trey Spees swings and makes contact.



Joshua Toole frames up a pitch.



Nico Soul fields the ball in the outfield.

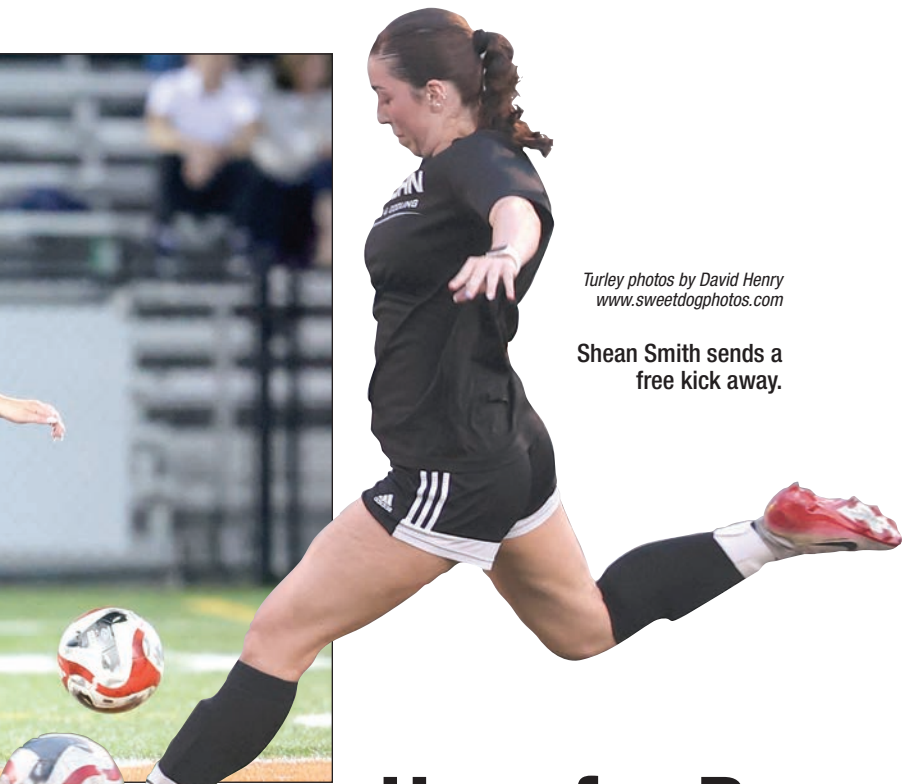


Estaban Garcia has his eyes on the ball as he swings.

See SOX, page 8



Rachel McKenna, of Granby, dribbles near the sideline.



Martine Worrall-Turgeon guides the ball near the midfield.

Here for Beer earns first-round bye

SOUTH HADLEY – Here for Beer, a women’s soccer team in the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League featuring women from all over the region, has continued to have successful summer campaigns.

They have earned the No. 1 seed in this year’s playoffs. With that, they have a first-round bye to the semifinals.

If they get past their semifinal opponent, they would play in the finals on Friday, July 31 at Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow.

New exhibit dedicated to Stephen Curry

SPRINGFIELD – On Friday July 24, the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame made history by launching its newest exhibition dedicated entirely to 12-time NBA All-Star, two-time MVP, Olympic gold medalist, four-time NBA champion, and the undisputed greatest shooter of all time: Stephen Curry.

This project represents the first time in the Hall’s nearly 75-year history that a current, active player will be honored with a dedicated feature experience.

Developed as the next iteration of the Hall of Fame’s acclaimed gallery, “The Vault,” the immersive exhibit titled Stephen Curry: Beyond the Arc goes far beyond Curry’s legendary on-court accolades. Created in direct partnership with Curry’s Thirty Ink business team, the exhibit is designed to explore his multifaceted legacy as a basketball icon, entrepreneur, philanthropist,

and family man. Visitors can expect a captivating, curated journey through Curry’s life and career, featuring:

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- **Rare Footage:** Archival video tracing his journey from an overlooked college prospect to a global superstar.
- **First-Hand Storytelling:** Immersive audio and video components that capture the emotion and heart of a true champion.

The Stephen Curry: Beyond the Arc experience promises to be an unparalleled attraction, offering fans an intimate look at a superstar of basketball - and a superstar of life.

The exhibit was scheduled to open to the public July 24 at the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Massachusetts

SOX, from page 7

Chris Carson added an RBI single. A wild pitch later scored Michael Iannazzo to cap a three-run inning and extend the Blue Sox’s lead to 6-1. Valley continued to add insurance the rest of the way, highlighted by Tomasetto’s two-run single in the fifth, an RBI single from Iannazzo in the sixth and Nico Soul’s sacrifice fly in the seventh. The Blue Sox finished with 10 runs on 14 hits.

Earlier, Carson was named an NECBL All-Star, and the outfielder backed up the honor with another productive performance. Carson finished the doubleheader 3-for-7 with a double, an RBI and two runs scored,

helping pace a Valley lineup that received contributions throughout the order. Tomasetto led the way by going 3-for-5 with a home run and four RBIs, while Iannazzo collected two hits and two RBIs. Spaventa also homered as the Blue Sox salvaged the split.

Four Valley pitchers combined to secure the Game 2 victory. Lukas Jachens started before Niall Todd earned the win with two scoreless innings in relief. Jon Shields and Jason Pinsonnault closed out the final three innings as the Blue Sox improved to 17-19-1, keeping themselves alive in the NECBL playoff race entering the final week of the regular season.

Jack Emerson grabs win at Thompson Speedway

THOMPSON, CT – The Crown Vics began Wednesday’s showcase with multi-time winner Ethan Williams showing the way early before youth prevailed. Upon his first time at the Thompson 5/8-mile, young Jack Emerson would take over the lead with eight laps remaining and never looked back to take the win over Williams and Ty Mello.

Jared Materas and Jason Williams may have brought the Late Model field to green but it was Matt Lowinski-Loh who quickly took over the top spot within the first lap. Materas would bring out the first caution on lap 10 after spinning across the nose of Jared Roy’s #1CT. Things went sideways once again on lap 18 with a mechanical issue slowing Jake Johnson leaving Williams and Mike Benevides to pile in for a massive wreck into the turn four wall. Back to green, Lowinski-Loh drove away with the 25-lap win over rookie Travis Hydar and Jared Roy.

Todd Douillard ran away with the lead at the start of the SK Light Modified feature before Austin Goff made it a two-man show by

lap four. RJ Marcotte, John O’Sullivan, Kevin Davis and Daltin McCarthy ran nose-to-tail behind the leaders, keeping them honest before Goff was shuffled back on the inside groove. Motoring into turn one, Davis and O’Sullivan launched sideways into the corner to bring out the lap nine caution that also ended the day for newcomer Brandon Michael with a hard lick into the turn one wall.

Douillard would be next on the wrecker on the restart with Marcotte leaving no room to race, making hard contact with the turn one wall to end his day. Back to green, McCarthy, Goff and Eddie Gomarlo ran nose-to-tail at the head of the field. The busy night for the Thompson Speedway wreckers continued on lap 13 with McCarthy and O’Sullivan piling into the turn three wall. Under green for the final time, Austin Goff would run away with the win followed by RJ Marcotte and rookie Milania Shilosky.

Dan Bowes took off at the start of the Twisted Tea 40 for the New England Supermodified Series with hopeful winner Jon

McKennedy dropping out on lap five with mechanical issues. All the while, Jeffrey Battle began reeling in Bowes out front as Ben Seitz lay in wait back in third. Battle would finally nab the lead on lap 22 while Seitz and PJ Stergios went to war for third behind him. Stergios would win that battle and one more against Bowes as the right-rear tire on the #25 was all but expired through the final fifteen circuits. Jeffrey Battle lambasted the field for the win with PJ Stergios coming home second and Dan Bowes holding on for third to round out the victory lane podium.

Ryan Lineham would bring out the lap one caution in the Street Stocks when a three-wide move in the first corner didn’t pan out. Back under green, Nick Anderson and Mike Viens showed the way up front with Jerrod Soucy and Al Stone III keeping the pressure on behind them. Soucy would make his way around to lead the halfway marker and never looked back for win number one on the season ahead of Lineham and Viens.

The Thompson Sunoco Modifieds rounded out

Wednesday’s racing program under the leadership of Nathan Pytko and Derek Ramstrom at the head of each lane under the initial green flag. Keith Rocco and Todd Owen made their way to the front by lap five just as contact between Bryan Narducci and Ramstrom sent the #35 into the turn one retaining wall. The remainder of the 50 lap feature saw Rocco and Owen wage their classic over-under battle for position before Owen finally began to drove away with fifteen laps remaining to take his first Sunoco Modified victory of the season. Keith Rocco came home second with Narducci coming back from his penalty for the lap five caution to claim third.

The NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour returns to Thompson Speedway on Wednesday, August 5 for the Thompson 150 presented by FloSports.com. The August midweek showdown at the Big-T will also feature the Thompson Sunoco Modifieds, Late Models, SK Light Modifieds, Street Stocks and Crown Vics with a 6:00pm Post Time. Event schedule will be released in the near future.

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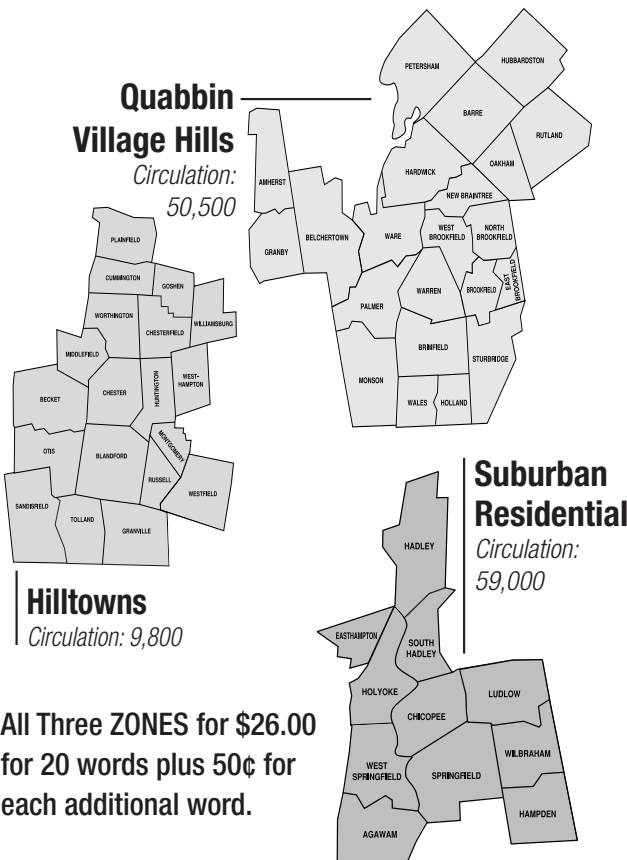
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HCC gallery presenting ‘Constellations’ alumni art show, Aug. 3-21

HOLYOKE – The Taber Art Gallery at Holyoke Community College will present “Constellations,” an exhibition of alumni artwork from the HCC Permanent Collection, Aug. 3-21, with a reception Aug. 6, from 5-7 p.m.

The show features paintings by HCC alumni artists from class years 1974 through 2021.

“In naming the show “Constellations,” we were thinking about the relationships that students build with their peers and with the community here at HCC, and how those relationships continue to connect us, even after they have moved on,” said gallery director Rachel Rushing.

The artwork was produced by alumni after they had graduated from HCC, with the pieces subsequently purchased by the college and added to its permanent collection, which numbers about 400 works.

HCC celebrated the 25th

anniversary of the Taber Art Gallery in 2025, and it’s been 24 years since the last HCC alumni art show, although alumni artists have been part of individual and other group shows over the years.

“Every artist in this show left our campus as an individual star, but ‘Constellations’ is about the lines we draw between them, showing how our alumni network becomes something bigger than any one of us,” said Natalia Castagno, HCC assistant director of alumni relations. “Fittingly, this exhibit opens in the season of Leo, the lion – HCC’s mascot is another feline, a cougar – watching over the sky that connects them all.”

The Taber Art Gallery, located off the lobby of the HCC Library on the second floor of the HCC Donahue Building, is free and open to the public Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. during regular school sessions.



The latest exhibit at the HCC art gallery is “Constellations.”

Submitted photo

Little Free Library opens at Wistariahurst

HOLYOKE – Readers rejoice. A beautifully crafted Little Free Library has been installed in Wistariahurst Museum’s Library. This little library will serve as a place for the public to take a book for free and drop off books that are in need of a new home. Join Mayor Joshua Garcia for a ribbon cutting and story time at Wistariahurst Museum to celebrate this community-centered addition to the museum.

Wistariahurst’s Little Free Library was donated by museum volunteers Kelly

and Bill Bousquet. “I have wonderful childhood memories of Wistariahurst,” says Kelly Bousquet. “I wanted to donate the Little Free Library to share my love of reading with the Holyoke community. My husband Bill designed and constructed this library.” Wistariahurst’s Library has recently been updated, with new exhibit panels on the Skinner Coffee House, a community space that served Holyoke for years, new exhibit shelves displaying archival objects, and a new layout that allows visitors to lounge on the couches.

The Bousquets’ generously donated Little Free Library is the perfect addition to this updated space.

Wistariahurst welcomes visitors to the ribbon cutting and story time with Mayor Garcia Monday, July 27 at 10 a.m. Enjoy story time, bring a book, and take a book to enjoy. This event is free and open to the public. Visitors are welcome to peruse Wistariahurst’s Free Little Library during the museum’s open hours, Mondays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Tuesdays, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley offering fun golf day

BELCHERTOWN – Join members of the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley on Sept. 12 for a fun day on the links at Cold Spring Country Club in Belchertown and be a champion for women and girls. The \$120 registration includes

golf, cart, pastries/coffee, snacks, box lunch, beverages, prizes and more. If you aren’t a golfer, you can donate a raffle prize or sponsor a hole.

Registration starts at 7:30 a.m., with a shotgun starts at 8:30 a.m. Registration

form and link are at www.ZontaQV.org/golf. Questions can be directed to Mary Knight at 413-219-8260.

Your support directly funds scholarships and grants that empower women and girls.

FINANCE, from page 1

applicants and advanced finalists for interviews with the Mayor. To reinforce the collaborative nature of this key appointment, Mayor Garcia invited City Council President Tessa Murphy-Romboletti to participate in the finalist interviews. Following those interviews, both Mayor Garcia and Council President Murphy-Romboletti strongly agreed that Plante was the right choice to serve as Holyoke’s first Chief Administrative and Financial Officer and to move his appointment forward to the full City Council for confirmation.

Garcia expressed appreciation to the council president for her role in the appointment of Plante.

“I want to thank Council President Murphy-Romboletti

for partnering with me throughout this process,” Mayor Garcia said. “This position will play an important role in the City’s future. It was important that we work collaboratively in selecting the best candidate. I also want to extend my sincere appreciation to the City Council, which has prioritized the need for this position, and also every member of the selection committee who dedicated their time and expertise to the initial screening and evaluation of applicants. Their work helped ensure we conducted a thorough, competitive, and professional hiring process.”

City Council President Tessa Murphy-Romboletti said she is “pleased to see the Mayor’s appointment of Timothy Plante as Holyoke’s first Chief Administrative and Financial Officer. Creating

this position has been a long time coming. I appreciate the collaborative process to get us here and want to especially thank Councilors Devine and Sullivan for their time helping to screen applicants. The appointment now comes before the Council for confirmation, and I look forward to working with Mr. Plante. His experience will be a real asset as we continue building a stronger foundation for city government.”

The city had been under scrutiny from the Massachusetts Department of Revenue and state funding had even been withheld because the city had failed to send certain financial data to the DOR in a timely period. Last year, after the city had hired a firm to help catch the city up with the work it was behind on, state funding was issued to the city.

HOT, from page 1

ing or heating in all weathers. While this has a benefit, it also means they hold heat in the summer for longer than many older models.

“If you are going somewhere, you should leave [your kid] at home, if you can, or take the child with you,” Matuszczak said.

With the hot temperatures cars can reach, it is also important to be conscientious as a person gets into a hot car.

Many modern cars have ways of lowering the windows using a key fob, which Matuszczak recommends using to help lower internal temperatures before getting inside the car.

This is especially important as metal surfaces, such as seatbelts, can reach temperatures over 180 degrees, which can result in burns.

If a person’s car does not have the ability to lower the windows using the key fob, it will be best for them to open the car doors for a few minutes before getting inside.

ETHICS, from page 1

deceased Holyoke property owner’s heirs and, as their attorney, communicated with city employees concerning the condition of the property

and State Sanitary Code violations.

Mayor Joshua Garcia condemned the alleged actions of Bartley, saying it is “not acceptable.”

“This type of conduct, using one’s position in gov-

ernment to advance personal or private business gain, is simply not acceptable in our government,” Garcia said.

With the four accusations, Bartley faces up to \$40,000 in fines, \$10,000 maximum for each violation.

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