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School projects in the works

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Public Schools have many different improvement projects in the works throughout this summer.

On top of the ongoing work on Peck Middle School, the district is doing a few accelerated repair projects with the Massachusetts School Building Authority and they are using their ESSER funds for some remaining projects.

Thanks to the MSBA, Donahue, Morgan, Lawrence and McMahon are all getting new windows and doors throughout the summer. Donahue's upgrades are only on the older sections of the building.

"New windows and doors, they just bring a building to life, so I'm really excited about those projects," Superintendent/Receiver Anthony Soto said. "You get a lot of natural light and improve the air quality and ventilation by being able to open and close windows."

See PROJECTS, page ??

Teens battle it out with bots

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Public Library hosted Mobile Quest for their battle bots program for teens.

During this program teens got to use a robot, three skewers, a piece of straw and a balloon to battle one another in an arena. They designed their robots so that they could pop other people's balloons.

Kids were able to use an app to drive their robots, like a remote control.

The goal of the battle was to be the last person standing with an unpopped balloon attached to their robot.

Kids had ten minutes to test drive their robots, ten minutes to design their balloon-popping contraption and then they had their first battle.

After the first battle the teens had another ten minutes to redesign their robots to try to improve upon their defensive and offensive capabilities.

"It's part of the engineering and design process," Owner of Mobile Quest Brian Kampper said. "They're building a prototype and then they get to test it out and see what works and doesn't work and then they go through the redesign process for a second battle."



All of the teens at the Battle Bots program had fun putting their robots to the test in the first battle.

Turley photo by Quinn Suomala

Kampper hoped that through this program kids would get exposure to the scientific idea of testing out ideas and then modifying them based on how well they worked.

"They have tools and they get to figure out a problem and test it out," Kampper said. "It's all about getting them used to that process of building a prototype and seeing what works."

Kampper enjoys seeing kids work through this process and test out their different ideas for how to design their robots.

"I love seeing the different ideas they come up with and the creativity they get from doing something different," Kampper said. "It's not something they're normally used to so they get to think outside the

box."

One of his favorite parts is seeing when kids are stuck on a particular issue and then they finally get an idea on how to solve it or to try something new.

"A highlight is to see that lightbulb pop off in kids' heads," Kampper said. "You

See BATTLE, page ??

Art 'pops up' at Holyoke Public Library

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The public library hosted Pop Up Art School to come in and do a painting event open to anyone over eight years old.

Those who attended the event received step-by-step

instructions on how to paint an axolotl floating in the ocean.

Pop Up Art School Teacher Cindy Ferrer provided the instructions and a live example of the painting. She also put a video up on the projector for people to have a larger view of the steps they were doing.

Anyone over the age of

eight was welcome to come to the event and give painting a try.

"No matter if you're a beginner or an advanced artist, anybody can join," Ferrer said.

Ferrer enjoys seeing people of all ages and abilities come in and try out the art classes.

"I really appreciate having the opportunity to teach adults and children at the same time," Ferrer said. "It's my favorite part."

At this event in particular she loved seeing how creative everyone got with their different paintings. Even though they all started with the same idea and instructions, each person put their own unique spin on their final product.

"Everybody made their painting into their own," Ferrer said. "Everyone approached it differently and to their own unique tastes."

Pop Up Art School provides programs like these all over the state, in libraries, senior centers and schools throughout the state.

"We're a traveling art school, so we 'pop up' in different libraries, COAs and different public or community spaces to teach art classes to our community," Ferrer said.

The school has a variety of different lessons available for people to choose from, so each community can select something that fits them.

The lessons include felt animals, watercolor paintings, clay figures and acrylic paintings.

Each of these lessons can work for people of all ages and skill levels, though they also have options for people to select lessons for specific age groups.

"They try to come up with lessons that are engaging for all age groups," Ferrer said. "We also try to do seasonal stuff, so right now as it is summer we try to do sea animals or ocean or other things regarding summer fun."

All of these lessons are provided free to the public, so they are the perfect way for

See ART, page ??

Wistariahurst has fun for all this summer

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – Wistariahurst has a variety of summer programs available for anyone to come by and enjoy themselves.

The majority of the programs are free for the public, with the guided house tours and regular tours being the only ones that require payment.

The guided house tours are available once a month and there is an exhibit called "Reflections of the Museum" that is celebrating the 150th anniversary of Wistariahurst.

Additionally, Wistariahurst has Wisty Wednesdays from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on the first and third Wednesday of every month. Each of these events has a different theme, so far they have celebrated Pride Month, Juneteenth, Fourth of July and Wistariahurst's anniversary.

See WISTARIAHURST, page ??



Pop Up Art School Teacher Cindy Ferrer went around to different tables to see if they needed any assistance on their paintings.

Turley photos by Quinn Suomala

Fiestas Patronales de Holyoke festival this weekend

HOLYOKE – Nueva Esperanza Inc. presents the 3rd annual 4-day Fiestas Patronales de Holyoke Event, set to take place, Aug. 1 through 4, with even more excitement and community spirit. The festival committee, composed of local business owners, community leaders, and with the support of various City of Holyoke Department And the overwhelming support of Mayor Joshua Garcia has dedicated this year's festivities to the town of Salinas, Puerto Rico, and its esteemed Mayor Karilyn Bonilla. Holyoke, with its significant population of residents from Salinas, Puerto Rico, dedicates this event with pride and joy celebrating the deep connections between Holyoke and its sister city.

The committee has worked tirelessly to bring top-tier artists in different genres in music including salsa, bachata, merengue, freestyle, and christian music, promising an



unforgettable musical experience.

With over 15 food vendors and numerous miscellaneous vendors, attendees can enjoy a wide array of souvenirs, art, customized t-shirts, and more. For the first time ever, the festival will feature mechanical bull riding, adding an extra thrill to the event. Michael's Limo will provide complimentary transportation to festival-goers

from the MGM Casino Springfield parking lot directly to the festivities in Holyoke. Ensuring convenient access to the Fiestas Patronales de Holyoke all day on Saturday and Sunday free of charge. The City of Holyoke's Tourism Advisory Committee is also partnering with the Fiestas Patronales de Holyoke to recruit a local photographer/videographer. This collaboration aims

to capture and showcase the vibrant culture and spirit of Holyoke through stunning visuals that are recorded and archived to be used for future presentations about Holyoke. Various businesses and organizations will be exhibiting their work, sharing their contributions, and engaging with the community.

Each year, the festival strives to surpass the previous year's success, and 2024 is set to be the best yet. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our supporters, sponsors, and the city of Holyoke who make this event possible. Their contributions and enthusiasm are invaluable in celebrating the rich Puerto Rican cultural heritage. Join in celebrating the Fiestas Patronales de Holyoke, Thursday, Aug. 1 through Friday, Aug. 4, and be part of a tradition that honors the Puerto Rican Culture in our region.

Police Chief search committee holding public input meeting

HOLYOKE – The Search Committee tasked with evaluating candidates for the position of police chief and then forwarding their recommendations to the Mayor will hold a public listening session at Holyoke Media on Tuesday, Aug. 27, from 5 to 7 p.m.

Police Chief David Pratt announced his retirement on May 3. After 31 years of service, Chief Pratt will step down July 31. Holyoke Police Captain Isaias Cruz will serve as interim chief until a permanent chief is named.

The Search Committee recently engaged the services of Public Safety Consultants LLC to assist the team. Public Safety Consultants provides a range of specialized services, including personnel management, to municipal fire and police departments in Massachusetts. One of the firm's principals, Russ Stevens, will participate in the listening session. He has 37 years of municipal and state law enforcement experience, retiring as Chief of Staff to the Connecticut State Police Colonel. Stevens holds a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice and a Bachelor's in Communication. He is a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigations National Academy and is currently the President of the Massachusetts Police

Accreditation Commission.

Appointed to the Search Committee by Holyoke Mayor Joshua A. Garcia are Kelly Curran, the City's Personnel Director, Ward 1 City Councilor Jenny Rivera (chair of the City Council's Public Safety Committee), Holyoke Police Sargent Joseph Zurheide, Narcotics Intervention Officer Detective Dorothy Beben, Community Police Officer Josh Colon and citizen participants, all members of the Police Relations Committee, Axel Fontanez, retired Holyoke Police Captain Alan Fletcher, Quilana Rivera, Colleen Chesmore, Rosanna Lopez, and Jennifer Keitt.

Holyoke's Personnel Office is conducting a community survey that asks residents what qualities they would like to see in the next Chief of Police. The survey can be accessed online at the City's website: Holyoke.org. The survey — in English and Spanish — is on the Home Page under "News." Paper copies of the survey are available at the City Clerk's Office and the Personnel Office. Surveys should be completed by Friday, Aug. 23.

The police chief's job description can be found online at <https://www.holyoke.org/personnel-employment-opportunities/>.

Hibernians to hold picnic Aug. 25

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

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.

St. Peter's youth travels to New Orleans

HOLYOKE – The youth from St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Holyoke, traveled to New Orleans to participate in the ELCA National Lutheran Youth Conference. The gathering is a faith formation event for young people in grades 8-12 that takes place every 3 years at various locations across the country. The SPYS, as they are known as, (short for St. Peter's Youth Society) took the trip with Pastor Deb, the SPY advisor, and the church president. In total there were 7 members that went on this life changing adventure.

The ELCA website states that the goal is to create environments and opportunities for faith formation through worship, interactive learning, Bible study, service and fellowship. The theme of this year's convention was "Created to Be," centered on Psalm 139:14. The youth were encouraged to be brave, authentic, free, disruptive, disciples. The SPYS spent 5 days in which they joined 16,000 youth from across the country listening to Christian rock music performances and inspirational speakers in the Smoothie King Center Arena. They were able to make connections with other kids from across the country as they engaged in fellowship opportunities and traded giveaway items with each other. One of the youth described her experience as being, "Overall really good. We got to meet so many amazing people and listen to so many amazing speakers. The energy at the gathering was really high."

Each group attending the gathering was assigned a service project. The group from St. Peter's were told about how large companies are being allowed

to build factories very close to communities in Louisiana. They learned that in the past when this happened the whole community was destroyed in the process. This injustice is continuing to happen today with little to no regard to the effect that it is having on the health and safety of the people who built and live in the communities. The youth were asked to help write letters to the government officials of Louisiana requesting that there should be at least a 100 yard buffer zone between the factories and the town to help prevent the expansion of these companies and factories so close to the communities they are destroying.

In addition, the Youth Gathering had a collective goal to raise money for the ELCA Generation Zero Hunger Campaign; our members raised \$700. This money was put together with all of the participating congregations for a total of \$100,000 raised. An anonymous donor then matched that amount for a grand total of \$200,000 raised to help combat hunger around the world. More information on this great cause can be found at <https://elca.org/GenZeroHunger/Generation-Zero-Hunger>.

The youth of St. Peter's will make a presentation to the congregation in September to share their experiences, reflections, insights, inspirations, spiritual growth and hopes for the future; the community is invited to attend this free event. Please check our website (www.stpetersholyoke.org) and/or our Facebook page (facebook.com/stpetersholyoke) for specific dates and times as it gets closer.

Swift River Chicken BBQ to be held Aug. 24

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.

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Senator raises alarm on military suicides

WESTFIELD – In response to the recent New York Times’ investigation on the devastating reality of military suicides unrelated to combat, Sen. John Velis (D-Westfield) today called for national, state, and local action to address these statistics and support service members. Despite the common assumption that combat exposure is a primary contributor to suicidal risk in the military, it has been found that soldiers at the highest risk for suicide are active-duty personnel who have never deployed.

“How can we truly say that our government, and our country, is taking care of the men and women who serve our nation when we are seeing suicide rates like this continue to grow? What is happening in our military that soldiers who have not even seen combat are taking their own lives?” said Velis, who is also the Senate Chairman of

the Legislature’s Joint Committee on Veterans & Federal Affairs. “There are real systemic problems at play here and something is broken. These are individuals that sign up to serve our nation on the behalf of the rest of us, and we simply cannot sit by as this situation gets worse and worse.”

The New York Times’ investigation combats the misconception that suicide rates among service-members is due to combat trauma. The Army’s suicide rate in peacetime has now exceeded total combat deaths in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars and far too many of these service members take their lives on military bases, the very places where they are supposed to receive comprehensive resources and support.

“The New York Times investigation highlighted military suicide numbers that have been increasing for far

too long and that is simply unacceptable. Simply put, we have a national emergency on our hands,” said Velis, who is a veteran of the US Army and a current Major in the Massachusetts National Guard. “For far too long, there has been this misconception that military suicides are only linked to PTSD from combat, and that is simply not the case. We need a comprehensive response that includes systemic changes in the military, real action from all levels of government, and support and awareness from all of us in our communities. Nothing less is acceptable.”

Velis noted he will be hosting a roundtable discussion in Western Massachusetts this fall focused on military and veteran suicide alongside HomeBase, a national nonprofit dedicated to providing mental health and trauma services to veterans, service members, and military families.

ElderCare announces online auction to be held Aug. 8

HOLYOKE – WestMass ElderCare is thrilled to announce its fabulous 50th online auction, an event commemorating five decades of dedicated service to older adults and individuals with disabilities. This milestone celebration not only highlights WMEC’s unwavering commitment to enhancing the quality of life for those in need but also showcases the generous support of the communities we proudly serve.

Since its inception in 1974, WestMass ElderCare has been a pillar of strength and support for the older adults and individuals with disabilities across Western MA. Our comprehensive services, which include in-home care, nutrition programs, caregiver support, and more, have touched countless lives, fostering independence and dignity for our consumers.

“The impact of WestMass

ElderCare over the past 50 years has been profound,” said Roseann Martoccia, executive director of WMEC. “Our programs have provided vital assistance to individuals, allowing them to maintain their independence and live with dignity. This auction is a testament to the strong bonds we’ve formed within our community and the unwavering support we’ve received.”

The fabulous 50th online auction promises to be a remarkable event, featuring an array of exciting items and experiences generously donated by local businesses and supporters. From dining gift cards and gift baskets to Thunderbirds, Red Sox and Bruins tickets, there will be something for everyone to bid on and enjoy. The auction will run from Aug. 8 to Aug. 30, and all proceeds will directly benefit

WMEC’s programs and services.

The success of this event is made possible through the extraordinary generosity of the community partners and sponsors. Their continued support enables WMEC to expand its reach and impact, ensuring that we can meet the growing needs of our clients.

“We are deeply grateful for the incredible support we receive from our community,” added Martoccia. “It is this collective effort that allows us to continue our mission and celebrate this milestone. We invite everyone to join us in this exciting auction and help us make a difference in the lives of those we serve.”

For more information about the fabulous 50th online auction and to preview the items up for bid, please visit the website at www.wmelderare.org/online-auction.

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 or call (413) 420-8109.

City to observe “Purple Heart Day”

HOLYOKE – The City’s Veterans Department invites the public to a Purple Heart Day observance at City Hall on Wednesday, Aug. 7, at 10 a.m.

Purple Heart Day honors the men and women who have been wounded or killed in action while serving their country. The day also commemorates the creation



of the Purple Heart, the oldest military medal in the United States. It was established by George Washington in 1782.

The day also aims to raise awareness of the impact of war on veterans and their families, and to highlight the importance of providing them with the support and resources they need.

For more information please contact 413-322-5630.

Dakin celebrates with lower adoption fees

SPRINGFIELD – In 2019, the Honorable Domenic J. Sarno, Mayor of Springfield, proclaimed Aug. 1 “Dakin Day” in Springfield to honor the organization’s 50 years of work in the animal welfare industry, as well as the community. The event also coincided with the 10th anniversary of Dakin opening its Union Street location.

This Aug. 1, Dakin will celebrate 55 years of improving the lives of animals in need and the people who care about them by keeping them where they belong, together. During that anniversary week, from Tuesday, July 30 through Saturday, Aug. 3, Dakin will lower adoption fees for cats six months and older to \$55, and also discount adoption fees for kittens by \$55. The adoption center will be open from 12:30 to 3 p.m. on each day of the promotion. All cats and kittens available for adoption will have undergone spay/neuter surgery,

microchipping, and received age-appropriate vaccinations before they leave the building.

According to Dakin’s Executive Director Meg Talbert, the organization will also celebrate Dakin Day by sharing stories and celebrating the animals helped within our community, and those who make our work possible. “Summer always means lots of animals who need rehoming,” she said “Cats and kittens, especially, arrive in large numbers at Dakin, and we’re hoping that by reducing adoption fees we can help them find homes that much faster.”

People interested in adopting a pet at Dakin can see a listing of currently-available pets online at <https://www.dakinhumane.org/adopt-a-pet>. The web page continually updates; removing pets that have left the building, and adding pets who become available for adoption, within minutes.



PHONE
413.283.8393
Fax: 413.283.7017
Subscriptions: 413.283.8393

EMAIL
Advertising Sales
Wendy Delcamp
wdelcamp@turley.com

Editor
Gregory Scibelli
thesun@turley.com

WEB
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I was self-employed and don't have enough credits for Social Security



Dear Rusty:

For a thirty-year period, I was making a living as an independent contractor and freelancer.

I was working on behalf of myself. Thus, I was only paying state and federal taxes when applied. Due to changes in the employment landscape, I wish to apply for benefits at age sixty-four, as receiving said SS benefits would serve as supplemental income to what I would be receiving from outside sources.

I recently discovered through the SSA that I do not have enough "points" to apply for Social Security benefits. What would be the method to obtain those required points in order to receive benefits?

Signed: Needing Points

Dear Needing:

Social Security is an earned benefit and eligibility is attained by contributing to SS through FICA payroll taxes or Self-Employment tax on your net earnings from self-employment, over your lifetime. You must have at least 40 "quarters of credit" to be eligible for Social Security benefits essentially you must work one quarter of each year earning at least a specified amount during that quarter to

earn one credit and you can earn a maximum of four credits for each year you work.

The amount of earnings per credit varies each year, but for 2024, work earnings of \$1,730 give you one credit (annual work earnings of \$6,920 earn four credits). Usually, you must contribute to Social Security for about ten years to be eligible for benefits.

You must have earned at least 40 quarter credits to collect Social Security retirement benefits/ If you have less than 40 you are not eligible for SS retirement benefits.

For self-employed individuals, SECA SS tax is paid when you file your federal income tax return – you pay into Social Security when filing your annual Self-Employment income tax return (the self-employed must pay both the employee and the employer portion of Social Security tax).

If you did not file an income tax return for each year over your lifetime you were self-employed, you didn't earn any SS credits for that year. You pay SECA tax on your net earnings from self-employment (after all business expenses are deducted).

If you are just a few credits short of the 40 necessary to be eligible for benefits, you can still earn those extra credits needed by working and paying SS FICA or SECA taxes on your work earnings. For each \$1,730 earned this year, you will earn one SS credit, up to a maximum of four per year.

But you must contribute to Social Security from those earnings – if you work as a company employee you will have FICA taxes withheld from your earnings, and if you are still

self-employed you would need to pay SECA taxes on net earnings over \$6,920 when you file your self-employment income tax return. You would need to do that for as long as it takes for you to attain the minimum 40 quarter credits needed to be eligible for Social Security retirement benefits. (FYI: you cannot "buy" the extra points needed; you need to earn them by working and contributing to Social Security from your earnings).

One final point: whenever SS benefits are claimed before one's Full Retirement Age Social Security's "earnings test" applies. The earnings test limits how much you can earn from working before some of your SS benefits are taken away. The earnings test no longer applies after you reach your FRA and, if you turned 64 this year, your FRA is 67. Self-employed individuals are also subject to an hourly limit of 15 to 45 working hours per month in their first year of early retirement.

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 informational 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.

HOLYOKE
the Sun
TEAM

EDITOR/SPORTS
Greg Scibelli
thesun@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES
Wendy Delcamp
wdelcamp@turley.com

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@The Holyoke Sun

WEB
www.sun.turley.com

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

DEANNA SLOAT
Graphics Manager

Turley Publications, Inc.
www.turley.com

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Tomato dreams and then there's reality



I always have such high hopes for my tomato plants. They go into the ground so healthy and green and for the first few weeks manage to stay that way. Then the inevitable yellowing and dropping of some bottom leaves happens from early blight.

The plants are outgrowing their cages and this point, though, so I just accept this as a normal condition and get excited for the first harvest. Some tomatoes look OK, but others are exhibiting strange, less than perfect, symptoms.

Read on to learn which conditions are which and what that means for your harvest.

My paste tomatoes in particular seem to always be susceptible to blossom end rot. It looks exactly as it sounds and is characterized by leathery brown or black spots on the bottom of the fruit.

Usually, it is seen on the first few developing tomatoes and occurs when there is trouble with calcium absorption.

The plan of action for this year would be to regulate your watering, since calcium assimilation can get botched up when plants suffer from drought. Applying a layer of mulch will help to encourage the deep rooting that is essential for nutrient transmission.

In the meantime, send a sample of your soil off to the UMass Extension Service Soil Testing Lab and adjust calcium levels per their recommendation if need be. If by chance you are growing a new variety of tomato and are experiencing blossom end rot for the first time, consider switching to another variety; some are more susceptible to it than others.

In my garden it is habitually only the paste tomatoes that suffer.

Regarding harvest and use: if you cut the end of the tomato off and then cut into the seed cavity and there is no black area, feel free to



use. Sometimes there will be sections of black within the cavity but not always.

This malady can also be seen on peppers and eggplants. Sometimes, though, sun scald can sort of look like blossom end rot in peppers. Planting peppers closer together so that foliage shields developing fruit can help with that issue.

Fruit cracking around the stem, either in rings or radiating downward is caused by over-watering; we or Mother Nature can be at fault. This year I will blame her for some of it.

A little over a week ago many gardeners in the area received an inch or more of rain in two separate deluges. Keep in mind that most veggies require about an inch per week. Adjust your irrigation to accommodate.

As mentioned above, mulches do well to moderate soil moisture; if you mulch, you can water less often! If cracking ends up being a big problem for you, consider scouring the seed catalogs for varieties that are resistant to it.

As long as the cracks are fresh, and haven't begun to show mold, I use the fruit anyway.

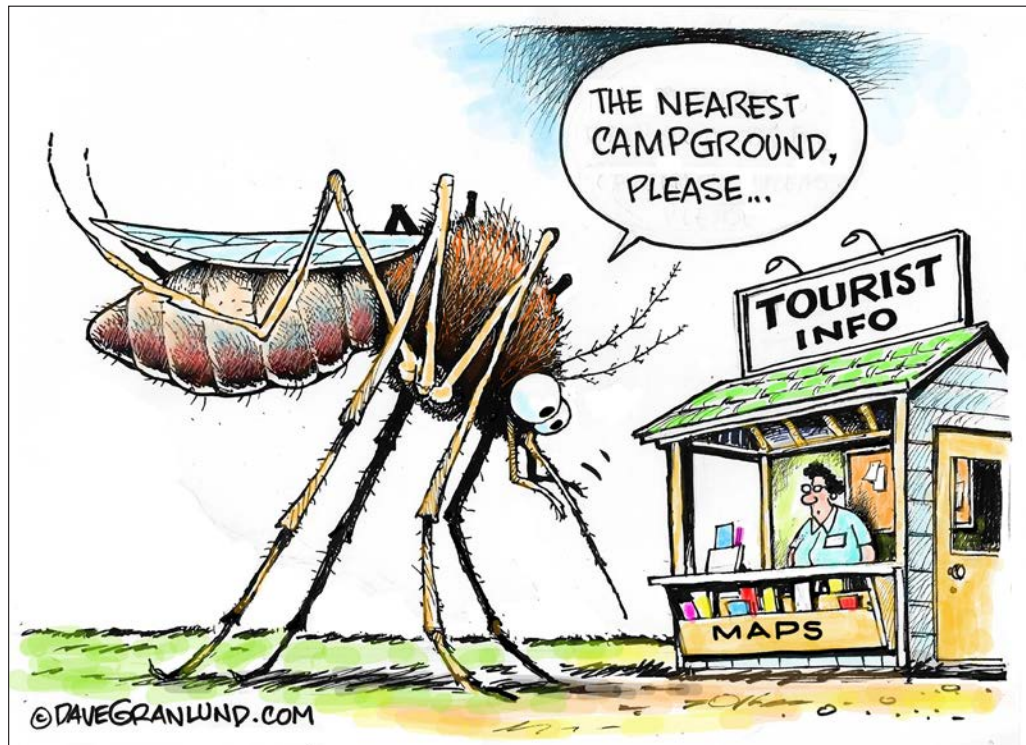
Another problem many gardeners experience is a condition called yellow shoulders, in which tomatoes never ripen fully on the top or stem end. This is usually a genetic problem, but it can be lessened by allowing the fruit to ripen slowly under the cover of surrounding foliage rather than out in the open.

High organic matter content and a pH of 6.4 or lower is said to help with this condition –another good reason to have your soil tested and see where it stands.

You can still use these tomatoes. Simply cut that portion off or use it regardless.

These conditions don't have to mean the end of your harvest. By working around the issues, making some minor adjustments and choosing appropriate resistant varieties, tomato sauce is still in your future!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 32 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



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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.

Letter to the Editor

Second chance expresses gratitude

Dear Editor,

I am writing on behalf of everyone at Second Chance Animal Services to express our gratitude and appreciation for the tremendous support we received for the 12th Annual Second Chance Golf Tournament. This event was a great success made possible by generous sponsors and supporters.

The tournament was held to raise funds for programs to benefit the underserved at Second Chance Community Veterinary Hospitals, a cause near and dear to my heart. Our four hospitals in North Brookfield, Southbridge, Springfield, and Worcester provide access to full-service veterinary care. Each location offers subsidized rates to those that qualify so all pets can get the care they need. This helps keep pets in their homes with the people they love.

Thank you to the golfers who joined us for a fun-filled day of golf at Cold

Spring Country Club. We are particularly grateful to our sponsors including Ted and Barbara Hebert of Teddy Bear Pools and Spas, St. Germain Investment Management and Tito's Handmade Vodka, as well as all the prize and auction item donors, and volunteers who made this event possible. Your contributions helped us reach our fundraising goals and bring awareness to our mission. The generosity shown by our community is a testament to the importance of animal welfare and highlights the significant role that animals play in our lives. We could not have achieved this success without the support of our community.

On behalf of Second Chance Animal Services, I extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported the event. Your contributions are deeply appreciated.

Lindsay Doray
Chief Development Officer

WISTARIAHURST, from page 1

The future themes will be announced as the dates approach and people can learn about them on the Wistariahurst website or their social media.

Wisty Wednesdays started last year and have quickly become a highlight of summers at the museum. They provide a great opportunity for people to come to the museum, have fun and enjoy the gardens.

"We loved hosting and meeting so many new people in our gardens which motivated us to continue the event again this year," Museum Director Megan

Seiler said. "The gardens are meticulously cared for by an amazing crew of dedicated volunteers and our grounds are open from dawn to dusk for the public to enjoy but so few people were enjoying the gardens. Wisty Wednesdays helped us invite people in to enjoy this great space and we have so many more people coming by to enjoy the grounds outside of that event, which we love to see."

At Wisty Wednesdays people are able to play games, enjoy some music and eat local food.

There is also Sunday Fundays, which are a new weekly program. They are from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. every Sunday.

and anyone is welcome to join.

They are a drop-in program with a first-floor self-guided tour, a scavenger hunt and games.

"We want our museum to be a space of learning and fun for families and people of all ages but people learn and want to experience museums in different ways," Seiler said. "Sunday Fundays is a casual and family-centered way to enjoy the space and best of all, it's free!"

Seiler greatly enjoys these summer events and watching the public come out to participate in them.

"Seeing people come together, enjoying our spaces, and enjoying what Holyoke has to offer, always makes my

heart happy," Seiler said.

She hopes that many people in the community will come over and have some fun at Wistariahurst. These programs are a great opportunity for families to have some free enjoyment throughout the summer.

You can keep updated on the different events offered at Wistariahurst at their website at <https://wistariahurst.org/> or by following their accounts on Instagram or Facebook.

They also post their different events on their eventbrite page and they post on Explore Holyoke, which can be found at <https://www.exploreholyokey.com/calendar/>.

Mindfulness yoga classes available

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

This series will be 4 weeks starting 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

Spots open for summer sports camps

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



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.

The program runs 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

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

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Nasal mucus

5. Hairs on the back of a dog

11. Ones who build anew

14. Consume too much food

15. Praised

18. Provides weapons

19. Become less lively

21. Engine additive

23. Thought or suggestion

24. South Korean city

28. Midday rests

29. Expression of acidity or alkalinity

30. Group of rockers

32. Very fast airplane

33. One who is paid to do something

35. Buzzing insect

36. Monotheistic religion founder

39. Strong dark beer

41. Blood type

42. Square measures

44. Honorific titles in NW Semitic languages

46. Present

47. Afflict in mind or body

49. Duty

52. Municipality in Stockholm

56. In a normal way

58. Rode a bicycle

60. Charitable

62. Verandas

63. Uncredited

CLUES DOWN

1. No seats available

2. Russian river

3. A European river (abbr.)

4. Phrase

5. Idol

6. Keyboard key

7. Prefix indicating mutual

8. Kilometers per hour

9. Set an example

10. It's among the "Great" ones

12. VVV

13. Murdered

16. Icelandic poems

17. Seas

20. Famed cartoonist

22. Partner to "Ma"

25. Equal to one quintillion bytes

26. Speak incessantly

27. Disquiet

29. Parts per billion (abbr.)

31. Upper-class young woman

34. S. American plant

36. Monetary unit of Thailand

37. Regions

38. Baseball legend Yogi

40. Ancient Egyptian notion of spiritual part of humans

43. Fishing net

45. Tinseltown

48. MacBeth's wife was one

50. Took a spill

51. Adversary to pets

53. Town in Galilee

54. Secret racist society (slang)

55. About aviation

57. Longing or yearning

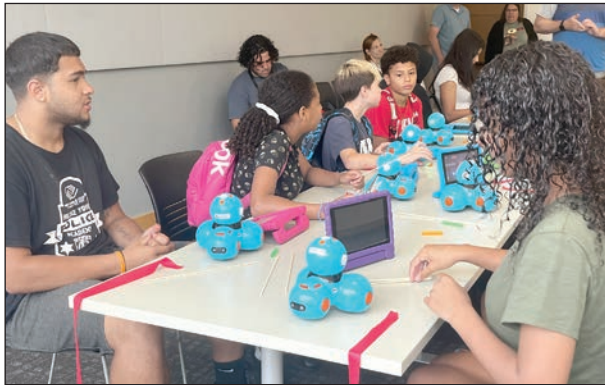
58. Hawaiian dish

59. Field force unit

61. Partner to "Pa"

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 9

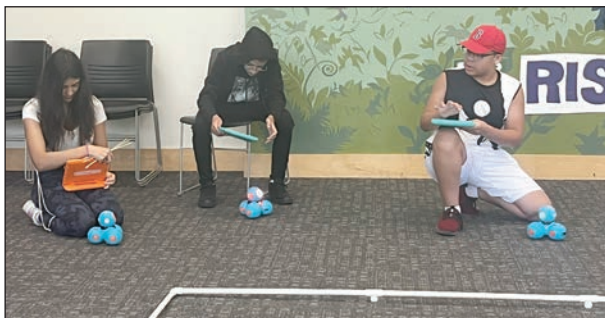
In The News



Teens began to come up with the designs for their robots to be able to hold their own balloon and pop others' balloons.



Once the battle began, teens were focused on driving their robots around, avoiding their balloons getting popped and trying to pop others' balloons.



Teens had ten minutes to test out how their robots drive around.



Once the first battle was complete teens had a chance to redesign their robots to make any changes they thought would help in the next battle.

Turley photos by Quinn Suomala



Teens came up with many different clever designs for their Battle Bot robots.

BATTLE, from page 1

can see that 'gotcha' moment where they are like, 'oh, I understand what I'm doing now,' and that learning process... they go through that redesign process and you can see the wheels clicking in their head about what they have to change, I think that's the best moment."

He hopes that through this program kids were exposed to something different and that kids may get more interested in different STEM ideas.

Kampper was inspired to start Mobile Quest as he had two young daughters and he noticed there were not a lot of STEM opportunities in the area for them.

"That inspired me as an educator to start a company to give kids hands-on learning opportunities," Kampper said.

He hoped the programs he offered would spark an interest in STEM fields and show kids all the options available in STEM.

"We definitely like to reach out to different communities, especially communities where they otherwise may not

have that opportunity," Kampper said.

Kampper and the others in his business go to libraries, schools and a variety of community organizations to offer their different programs.

"It's important for kids to have the opportunity to experience different STEM fields," Kampper said. "Our goal is we combine entertainment with education to create engagement and I think that's been a very successful formula for us."

Mobile Quest has been in business for seven years and they have many more programs available for kids and teens.

"We offer everything from coding and robotics to movie-making to stop-motion animation to engineering programs," Kampper said.

They offer these programs throughout Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island. People can learn more about the different programs they offer at their website <https://www.mobilequestadventures.com/>.

The library has many more programs available this summer. To keep updates on these events, go to their website at <https://www.holyokelibrary.org/>.



Owner of Mobile Quest Brian Kampper walked the teens through the rules of Battle Bots.

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Aldenville reaches American Legion district finals

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

SPRINGFIELD – Things didn't start out very well for the Aldenville Post 337 Legion baseball team in the District 3 Senior Division semifinals against East Springfield Post 420.

Aldenville was trailing, 3-1, before they came storming back in the bottom of the fourth inning.

After Post 337 tied the score, Topher Reardon, who was the Post 337 starting pitcher, blasted a double to deep left field bringing home all three baserunners giving his team a 6-3 lead.

Aldenville never relinquished the lead as they advanced into the District 3 championship game for the second time in the past three years with a 7-5 victory, at Springfield Central, last

Tuesday night.

"This is the second time that we'll be playing in the finals in the past three years," said Aldenville manager Mason Scott. "I just have to give these kids a lot of credit. They came here and played very hard. We fell behind early, but we were able to battle back. This team never gives up."

The contest was scheduled to be held at Szot Park in Chicopee, but that field was unplayable due to rain. Aldenville also plays home

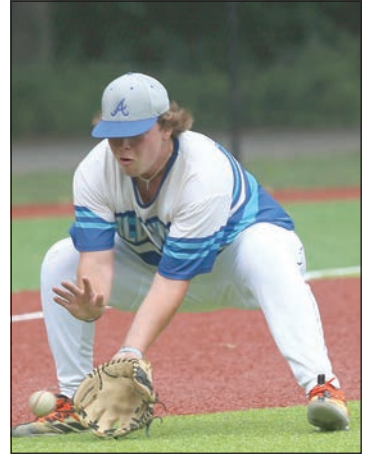
See **BASEBALL**, page 8



Ryan Netkovich waits for a throw.



Topher Reardon fires a pitch home.



Spencer Labonte pounces on the grounder.



Nate Carillion makes the off-balance throw after fielding a grounder.



Justin Moskal watches the ball into his glove.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



The Tigers' Brad Bullough delivers a pitch.



Jamie Ryan throws to first.



Randy Marseau fields a grounder for the Tigers.



Colin Fecteau makes a throw across the diamond.



Justin Morin fields the bouncer to third.

Turley photos by David Henry



Adam Kinney delivers a pitch.

Big inning leads Blue Sox to win

HOLYOKE – After the Blue Sox took both games of Saturday's double-header, they were hungry for more against the Westerners on Sunday afternoon.

Valley capitalized on an eight-run seventh inning to win Sunday's game 13-5. The Blue Sox continue to cushion their lead of the eighth seed in the NECBL playoff picture.

Danbury starter Alex Mach struggled early and gave up four runs in the bottom of the second inning. Blue Sox designated hitter Jay Bant hit his third home

See **BLUE SOX**, page 8

Quabbin regular season nearing end

WEST SPRINGFIELD – The Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League continues Sunday morning action into August with just three more games remaining in its regular season. So far, the Orioles are at the top of the league followed by the Tigers in second place. The Quabbin League playoffs will follow, and this year, the league will be hosting a fall league for players 28 and over.

Hopkins takes the checkered flag in Calef 125

WALPOLE, N.H. – A busy stretch of four races in four weeks for the Granite State Pro Stock Series wraps up this Friday night at one of the series' staple venues.

Lee USA Speedway, only a short drive from the New Hampshire seacoast, welcomes the GSPSS back for their first of two visits this year with this Friday's Clash on Calef 125.

Unique among the tracks on this year's GSPSS itinerary, Lee hosts its own regular Pro Stock division, welcoming the class back to its weekly program a few years ago. Lee's own big-ticket Pro Stock shows earlier this year boasted plenty of names familiar to GSPSS fans and followers. But Friday night's showdown, named for the state highway on which Lee has been situated since the 1960s, is the first opportunity for those Pro Stock wheelmen to score points toward the series crown.

That contest took an intriguing turn Saturday evening at Speedway 95, with hometown hero Mike Hopkins the fifth different driver to wave the GSPSS checkered flag this season. The two strongest title threats in attendance, Casey Call and Evan Beaulieu, each faced their own pitfalls in the race. But where Call exited early with chassis damage, Beaulieu recovered from a mid-

race spin to finish fifth, chipping away at Call's healthy advantage.

Call's calamity ended a season-opening streak of finishing no worse than fourth, while Beaulieu has back-to-back top-fives after a slow start. Both drivers have a lot of work ahead to be ready for Friday, and with the season's deepest entry list in hand, winning promises to be a tall order.

A trio of Maine rookies have run the majority of the races this year, with Jamie Wright, Morgan Call and Miller Buzzell all set to carry on their season-long efforts at Lee. Joining them from the Pine Tree State is veteran Gary Smith and multi-track titlist Dave Farrington, Jr., who won his GSPSS debut back in 2016.

Wiscasset Speedway veteran and 2023 Speedway 95 winner Josh St. Clair is on the entry list, as well as Nick Jenkins and Matt Dow. Cole Robie, who hails from Maine, but has Granite State ties through his father Jarod and grandfather Carleton, plans to make his series debut as he graduates from Legends and Bandoleros into full-size fendered cars this season.

Local racers Bobby Baillargeon, Bobby Frappier and Frankie Eldredge plan to put their Lee expertise to the test. Dan Winter has stepped up his GSPSS appearances this year and wants to repli-

cate his top-five run at Star Speedway in May's season opener. Andy Shaw missed the season opener, but he and the Dale Drew Racing team have been at every event since.

Massachusetts teammates Alex Quarterley and Jeremy Sorel are back for more GSPSS action, with Sorel still smiling after his second-place finish at Claremont Motorsports Park earlier this month.

Cory Casagrande is back after a week off, with the Connecticut star anxious to avenge a hard crash at Lee a month ago. Fellow Nutmeg Stater Anthony Bello is back with the series as well, racing for Maine car owner Shawn Knight.

With big-league racing on a summer recess, Maine native and NASCAR spotter Derek Kneeland is dusting off his race car for his first GSPSS start since 2022. Kneeland accompanied his driver, Kyle Busch, to June's Keen Parts 150 at Lee, where he and Busch both outlasted the carnage to post top-five finishes.

But the early favorites are sure to be those who have a record of past success at Lee. Ryan Green's redemption arc remains in play after a grinding crash at June sidelined his own race car. Green borrowed a car from friend Joey Doiron to race at Claremont this month, reintro-

duced his repaired mount at Hudson two weeks ago, and will be a threat in whichever car he brings to the track this week.

Brandon Barker, the first Pro Stock champion at Lee after the division's revival a couple years back, won the Keen Parts 150 in June and took home a \$10,000 prize. Barker has a pair of GSPSS wins at Lee in 2018 and 2019 and would love to add to the trophy case.

Reigning Lee track champion Wayne Helliwell, Jr. last won a GSPSS feature in 2014, a dry spell the New Hampshire all-star would love to erase. Helliwell's longtime rival, Joey Polewarczyk, won a GSPSS feature at Lee that season, one of two touring wins at the track. "Joey Pole" was victorious at Hudson Speedway two weeks ago, his eighth series victory.

And Corey Bubar won the GSPSS' last outing at Lee, taking home \$8,500 in last fall's Bosowski Properties 150. The Beech Ridge Motor Speedway veteran is one of several racers who came to Lee after Beech Ridge was shuttered, and one of many to find success at his new home track.

In a showdown between the proven veterans and the optimistic hopefuls, the sure winners are the fans in the stands who can take in Friday night's on-track fireworks.

BASEBALL, from page 7

games at South Hadley High School, which was also unplayable. The game was moved to the brand new turf baseball field at Springfield Central and Aldenville remained the home team.

Reardon, who lives in Holyoke and was a school choice student at Easthampton High School, hurled the first five innings against East Springfield. He wound up as the winning pitcher after allowing three runs on seven base hits with three walks and seven strikeouts.

"Topher didn't have his best stuff in tonight's game, but he just battled out there," said Scott said. "He was able to keep us in the game. He also helped us with his bat."

Reardon threw a total of 108 pitches and won his first Legion playoff game.

"This is my first win in a legion playoff game and it's a great feeling," said Reardon, who's planning to be a freshman member of the Anna Maria College baseball team next year. "We're now looking forward to playing in the championship game."

Aldenville finished the regular season with an 11-7 record.

Post 337 began their postseason journey by squeaking out a 7-6 home win over West Springfield Post 207 in a first round game. Lefty Brady Burnett was

the winning pitcher in that contest. They then defeated Pittsfield Post 78, 7-1, in the quarterfinals with righthander Matt Drobiak earning the victory.

Aldenville's season came to an end following a 6-5 loss to top-seeded Belchertown in the finals.

The four Aldenville players, who'll be too old to play for the legion team next year, are Nate Carillon, Nik Misiaszek, Oldenberg, and Burnett.

Carillon, who began the semifinal game at shortstop, replaced Reardon on the mound in the sixth inning. He allowed two runs on two hits. His younger brother, Noah, was Aldenville's starting centerfielder and his cousin, Brandon, started the semifinal game in left field.

"It's awesome playing on the same baseball team with my younger brother and cousin," said Nate Carillon, who was a freshman on the Westfield State University baseball team last spring. "I did play high school baseball with my brother when I was a senior at South Hadley. This is the first time I've been teammates with my cousin. He has played a key role for us during the playoffs."

East Springfield (9-6-2) scored the two runs of the semifinal game on a ground ball single into centerfielder by first baseman Sal Ortiz with two outs in the second.

Burnett, who started at first base, drew a leadoff walk in the third before crossing the plate on a throwing error by the pitcher, which sliced Aldenville's deficit in half.

Another RBI single by Ortiz gave his team a two run advantage with one-out in the top of the fourth.

Aldenville took control of the contest as they batted around in the bottom half of the frame.

After loading the bases against righty Eddie Villavane, Brandon Carillon, who's a member of the Granby varsity baseball team, walked making the score 3-2. Two batters later, Nate Carillon knocked home the tying run with a single into left field. After the next batter struck out, Reardon delivered the biggest hit of the ballgame.

"The pitcher threw me a fastball right down the middle," Reardon said. "My extra base hit changed the momentum of the game."

Reardon struck out the final two batters that he faced in the fifth inning leaving the bases loaded.

East Springfield closed the gap to 6-5 in the top of the sixth, but Aldenville added an unearned run in the bottom half of the frame.

It turned out to be a huge insurance run, as East Springfield had a runner standing on third base when Nate Carillon ended the game with a comebacker.

BLUE SOX, from page 7

run of the season. Two of those runs were scored as unearned as Danbury made two errors (one on catcher Roman DiGiacomo and second baseman Carl Schmidt). After two innings, it was 4-0 Valley.

Danbury chipped its way back into the game, scoring one run in the third, fourth and fifth innings. In the top of the sixth inning, Danbury left fielder Jaden Sheffield, son of Major League Baseball superstar Gary Sheffield, struck out looking and was ejected by home plate umpire David Speranza.

Going into the top of the seventh inning, Valley had the 4-3 lead. KJ Lavoie surrendered singles to Kobe Mentzer and Lorenzo Rios. Danbury took a 5-4 lead going to the bottom of the inning.

Mach entered the bottom of the inning and was taken out after immediately loading the bases on an E4, walk and single. Max Foster entered the game and got two quick groundouts.

Jonathan Hogart and Bant singled in runners. Anthony Scarabino walked and Zev Moore also singled in runners. Kyle Henington capitalized the eight-run seventh inning to make it 12-5. Valley tacked one more in the bottom of the eighth and won 13-5



Aiden Kelly goes for a long pass.



Leonel Vergara makes a throw-in.

Pioneers defeated in second round of playoffs

LUDLOW – After a phenomenal season, the Western Mass. Pioneers were defeated for just the third time this season. The Pioneers lost 2-1 against Lionsbridge FC on the road. The Pioneers opened up the playoffs with a 3-1 win against FC Motown. The Pioneers season ends at 13-3-1.



Kwame Adu-Gyamfi tries to keep the ball from going over the sideline.

Turley photos by David Henry

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. HD24C0235CA

In the matter of:
Sophia Rose Anthony
CITATION ON PETITION
TO CHANGE NAME

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

Elliott Leo-Tate Anthony
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 08/28/2024.**

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 30, 2024

Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
08/02/2024

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. HD24P1502EA

Estate of:
Frances Blanchard

Date of Death: 04/14/2018
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR FORMAL
ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **Alfred Shattelroe of Granby, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

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 08/16/2024.** This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by

an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

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UNDER THE
MASSACHUSETTS
UNIFORM PROBATE
CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: July 19, 2024

Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
08/02/2024

COMMUNITY
OUTREACH MEETING

Blue Fox Brands Inc. a proposed cannabis manufacturer is giving notice of a Community Outreach Meeting for their change of location to be held on **Thursday, August 15, 2024 at 5:15 pm** at their proposed location: **1 Cabot St. Holyoke, MA 01040.** There will be an opportunity for the public to ask questions or, email ezra@blueskiescan.com, their consultant.
08/02/2024

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REPAIRS ANNUAL
CONTRACT

Sealed bids for the above contract will be received by Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept. until **2:00 p.m., August 23, 2024**, at the Office of the Manager, 99 Suffolk St., Holyoke, MA 01040, at which time proposals will be publicly opened and read.

Bid Deposit:

A Bid Deposit in the amount of \$4,000 must accompany all bids and may be in the form of a certified, treasurer's, or cashier's check payable to HG&E from a responsible bank or trust company; cash; or a bid bond from a licensed surety payable to HG&E.

Prevailing Wage Rates:
Rates, which are to apply to the work, are set by the Mass. Dept of Labor & Industries.

Additional information

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

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

Please mark sealed envelopes "**Bid for Dive Surveys, Inspections, Maintenance & Repairs Annual Contract**" and address them to:

James M. Lavelle, Manager
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept.
99 Suffolk St.
Holyoke, MA 01040
08/02/2024

LEGAL NOTICE
CITY OF HOLYOKE
GAS & ELECTRIC
DEPARTMENT
GATEHOUSE
ACTUATORS

Sealed bids for the sale of the above will be received by Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept. until **2:00 p.m., August 13, 2024**, at the Office of the Manager, 99 Suffolk St., Holyoke, MA 01040, at which time bids will be publicly opened and read.

Additional information may be obtained from:

Chi Wong
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept.
99 Suffolk St.
Holyoke, MA 01040
(413) 536-9308

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

Please mark sealed envelopes "**Bid for Gatehouse Actuators**" and address them to:

James M. Lavelle, Manager
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept.
99 Suffolk St.
Holyoke, MA 01040
08/02/2024

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 regu-

lations.

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

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. HD24P1533EA

Estate of:
Mary F. Provost
Date of Death: 03/31/2024
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR FORMAL
ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Natasha Pieciak 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: **Louis A. D'Amarino, Esq. of Taunton, MA** be appointed as Personal

Representative(s) of said estate to serve 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 08/27/2024.** This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION
UNDER THE
MASSACHUSETTS
UNIFORM PROBATE
CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: July 23, 2024

Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
08/02/2024



think OUTSIDE of the BIG BOX SUPPORT COMMUNITY BUSINESSES

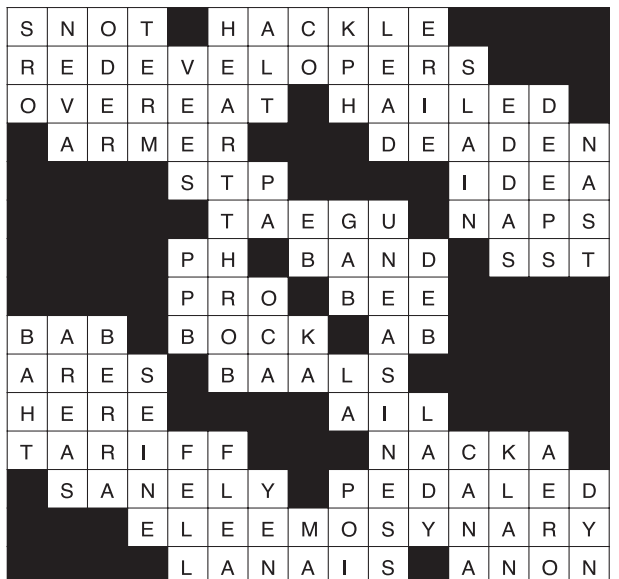
The Holyoke Sun
OBITUARY POLICY

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.

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



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- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

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HELP WANTED

CHURCH ORGANIST/PIANIST WANTED

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.**

PART-TIME CONCRETE FINISHER. Driver's license preferred. Retirees welcome. Call Mo **413-244-5520.**

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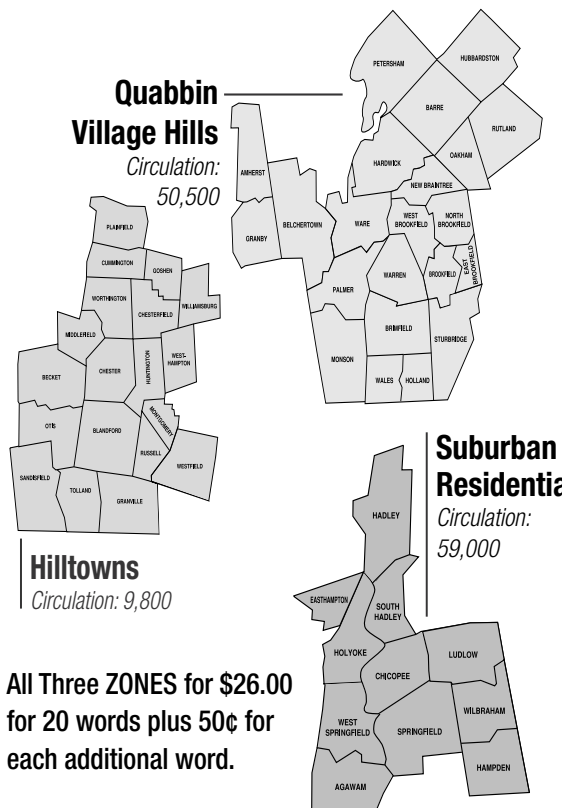
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DEADLINES: **MONDAY AT NOON**

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40

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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. HD22P2580EA

Estate of:
Dominga Rodriguez
Also known as:
Dominga Rodriguez
Date of Death: 02/23/2022
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for S/A - Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Edwin Velazquez 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: Edwin Velazquez 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 08/26/2024. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

ing the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
Date: July 26, 2024
Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate
08/02/2024

Invitation for Bids 2025-04SB, RTU Replacements at Dean and Morgan Schools (REBID)

The City of Holyoke invites sealed bids from Contractors for the RTU Replacement project at Dean Technical High School and Morgan Elementary School. The work consists of the replacement of five (5) roof top units, one (1) at Dean Tech and four (4) at Morgan Elementary. This project is being managed by the Owner's Project Manager, Anser Advisory. Documents will be available electronically through biddocs.com on 07/31/2024.

Pre-Bid Site Tour

(optional) is scheduled for Wednesday, 08/07/2024, beginning at 10:00AM at Morgan School - 596 S. Bridge St., Holyoke, MA 01040. Upon completion of Morgan tour attendees to travel to Dean Tech at 1045 Main St. for the remaining tour.

This project is being funded with Federal Funds. Respondents will be verified for their eligibility for federally funded contracts. The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids. City of Holyoke follows MGL CH. 30B, CH. 149, CH. 30 & 39M, CFR 200 and all applicable purchasing laws.

SUBBIDS DUE 08/21/2024, 2:00 PM in the following categories: Mechanical and Electrical.

GENERAL BIDS DUE 08/28/2024, 2:00 PM.
08/02/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD17P2325GD
In the interests of:

Kevin Schneider
Of: Holyoke, MA
RESPONDENT
Incapacitated Person/
Protected Person
CITATION GIVING
NOTICE OF PETITION
TO EXPAND THE
POWERS OF
A GUARDIAN

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Dept of Developmental Services of Springfield, MA in the above captioned matter requesting that the court:

Expand the powers of a Guardian of the Respondent.

The petition asks the court to make a determination that the powers of the Guardian and/or Conservator should be expanded, modified, or limited since the time of the appointment. The original petition is on file with the court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of 08/16/2024. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance

if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M. Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
Date: July 12, 2024

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
08/02/2024

PROJECTS, from page 1

Soto believes that this work will transform the schools, especially Lawrence and McMahon which are some of the older buildings.

Additionally, Dean Tech will be getting a new boiler as the current boiler system is near the end of its useful life.

"We want to make sure that we keep up to date on regular maintenance on our buildings," Soto said.

The new system will be more energy-efficient and will ensure the comfort of the students in the school.

They are also still working on putting a large pavilion over the new basketball court at Sullivan so that it can be used in the rain.

The block wall along Main Street at Dean will also be repaired and some railings at Lawrence are being repaired for accessibility.

All of these projects are anticipated to be completed before the beginning of the school year. If they are not completed for whatever reason, there will be no impact on children's daily lives in schools.

"If they're not [completed by the start of school], we'll work in areas that are not occupied by children and in off hours to not disrupt the daily activities of the schools," Building Maintenance Supervisor Sean Sheedy said.

Lawrence school is also receiving a new playground. The demolition of the original playground was completed on July 23 and now they are working on putting in the new structure.

"It is all inclusive for any child with any type of disability or impairment," Sheedy said. "Any student can use it no matter the age or ability."

There is also a new playground in the works for both Morgan and McMahon

schools. Morgan's playground will be covered through ESSER funds and McMahon will fall under a CGBD grant through the city.

Both of these playgrounds will also be all-inclusive, so that people of any age and ability can use them.

Sheedy and Soto hope that these new playgrounds will improve the safety of the play areas and will allow more children to come out and use them.

"These playgrounds aren't exclusively used by the schools, many of the playgrounds are accessed by the community," Soto said. "These parks said the message to our community and to our students that they matter and we're willing to invest in these resources so our students and our community can enjoy them."

The Morgan and McMahon playgrounds will likely be completed next spring, according to Sheedy.

Lawrence school's playground will

be done either by the start of school or within a couple of weeks after the start, depending on the weather.

There are a variety of other projects throughout the districts, including painting and repairs on small areas in the different buildings.

Soto and Sheedy are grateful to the school committee and the city council for their votes in support of the funding for these various projects.

All of the larger projects have been in the works for several years now, and Soto and Sheedy are glad to see them finally coming to fruition. They are excited to see the kids' reactions as they come back to school to their updated buildings.

"The best part is when you get to see the look on the kids' faces on the first day of school and they can see the noticeable investment that their community is making in their learning environment," Soto said.

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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 advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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Community members attending the Pop Up Art School event were focused on creating their different paintings.



Everyone's completed projects of the axolotl paintings came up wonderful and unique.



Pop Up Art School Teacher Cindy Ferrer provided instructions to attendees on how to paint an axolotl.



Holyoke community members gathered at the library to participate in a Pop Up Art School event.

ART, from page 1

someone to try their hand at art. "If someone is out there that is a bit nervous to try making art, this is a great place for them to try something new or different," Ferrer said. "A lot of the people who come to our classes are not those who make art all the time, so it's something out of the ordinary that they can try."

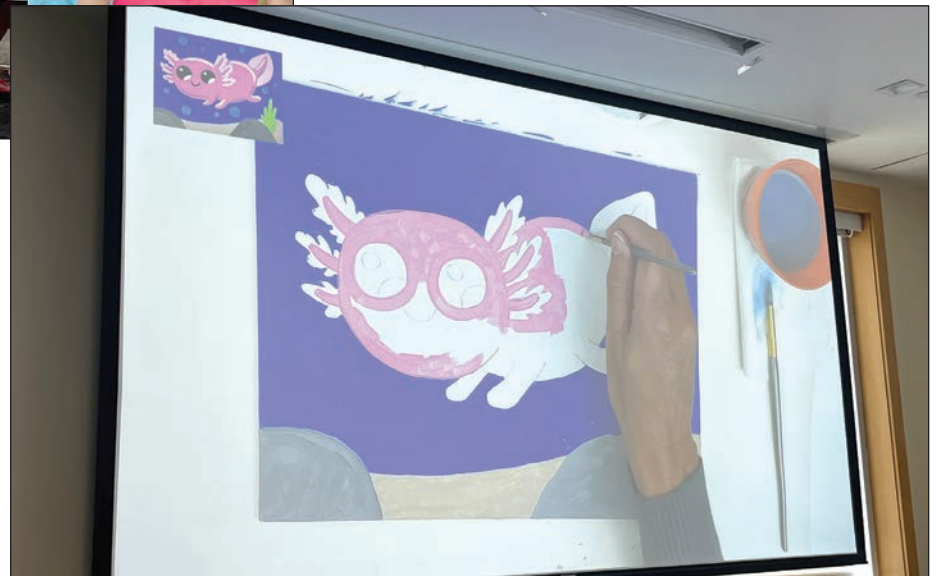
Ferrer will be back at the library on Aug. 13 at 11:30 a.m. to offer a water-color painting lesson. Ages 10 through adults are welcome, although kids under

the age of 13 need someone 13 or older to accompany them.

Pop Up Art School was founded by Janell Scannell and Lisa Walker, both of whom have their BFAs and are certified art teachers in Massachusetts for kids in kindergarten through eighth grade.

To learn more about the programs available through Pop Up Art School, go to their website at <https://www.popupart-school.com/>.

Additionally, to keep updated on the different summer events at the library, go to their website at <https://www.holyokelibrary.org/>.



Attendees were able to consult the video on the projector for a large view of what step they were painting.

Turley photos by Quinn Suomala

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