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FY2027 budget in effect

By Quinn Suomala
Correspondent

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke city council passed the fiscal year 2027 budget back in June by a 10-2 vote.

Councilors Linda Vacon and Michael Sullivan were the only two who voted against the budget, due to concerns about increase in expenses.

“At a time when residents and businesses face significant financial pressure, taxpayers deserve confidence that every proposed expenditure is being considered with care, discipline, and a realistic understanding of what Holyoke can afford,” Vacon said in a message urging her fellow councilors to consider the budget carefully.

The budget totaled to \$213 million, which is an increase of \$8.97 million, or 4.4%, over FY26.

Mayor Joshua Garcia stated that this increase is mostly due to rising costs for schools, school transpor-

See BUDGET page 6

Wistariahurst opens ‘little’ library

By Christina Gioscia
Correspondent

HOLYOKE – On Monday July 27 Wistariahurst Museum officially opened their newly installed little library. The library was built by Bill Bousquet. The library is mobile and can move throughout the museum or even outside depending on the weather. For the opening reception, Mayor Joshua Garcia cut the ribbon to open the library and then read a book to attending children.

Kelly Bousquet, a volunteer at Wistariahurst Museum; is the one who came up with the original idea.

She states, “I grew up around here, just a few streets away. And we would come down here all the time, I just have very fond memories of Wistariahurst and wanted to pay it forward. We really just liked the idea of having the community come in and be able to take a book, share a book. It’s gonna be great for kids. I just think it’s gonna bring a lot of people to the museum. And we did register it, which is nice, and people will be able to find it.”



Turley Photo by Christina Gioscia

Wistariahurst Museum Office Archivist Emily Munsell, Museum Director Megan Seiler, Rachel Powell and Mayor Joshua Garcia at the opening of the little library on July 27.

Mayor Joshua Garcia highlighted how important it is to have free options for people to find new books. He highlighted how important reading is for everyone,

but especially for children.

“In Holyoke, we try to step outside the box in the most creative way possible, to connect and make that point,” Garcia said.

“We have free little libraries around the city in neighborhoods, and it’s such a simple, unique thing to offer that allows us to just extend a little further the ability to

close those reading gaps for our kids.”

Wistariahurst Museum Director Megan Seiler

See LIBRARY, page 10

Reading program ‘igniting’ enthusiasm among students

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Public Schools is now entering its third year of participation in the Ignite Reading program designed to improve literacy skills for students in grades K-3.

District and school leaders saw significant literacy gains during the 2025-26 school year and are anticipating continued growth this year.

Last year, 333 Holyoke students across six schools logged 7,601 collective hours of targeted reading instruction—averaging more than 22.5 intensive hours per student—through the Ignite Reading program’s high-dosage individualized tutoring for students across all six of the district’s elementary schools. Ignite Reading is among the programs and

strategies that HPS has incorporated in recent years to strengthen early literacy.

Data from the Ignite Reading program in 2025-26 reveal significant breakthroughs for Holyoke’s K-3 students:

• **Kindergarten mastery:** 89% of participating students who started the year lacking kindergarten-level foundational skills have now

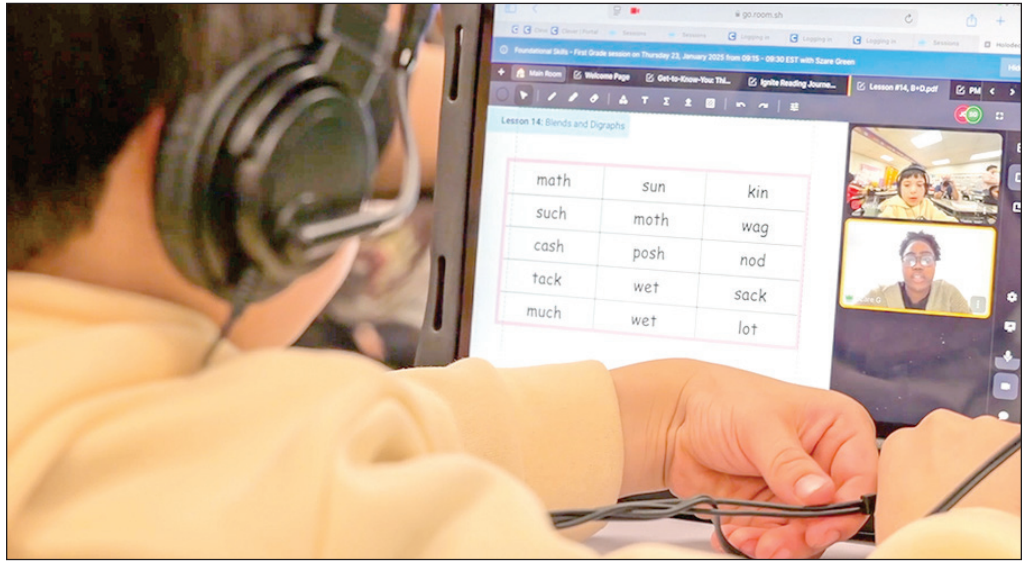
fully closed those gaps.

• **First grade breakthroughs:** 70% of participating students who entered first-grade lacking foundational skills have officially moved past those gaps and are now reading sentences and paragraphs at a second-grade level.

• **Accelerated growth:** For first-grade students who entered the program missing foundational skills from kindergarten, 46% completely closed their kindergarten gaps and successfully transitioned to on-grade-level skills.

“With early literacy serving as the single most critical predictor of a student’s long-term academic success, these numbers represent an important win for Holyoke’s educators, families, and youngest learners,” said Chief of Academics Rebecca Thompson.

The Irene E. & George A. Davis Foundation provided \$282,500 in initial grant funding to launch the program in 2024, with continued support the following year.



A literacy program is making gains in the Holyoke Public Schools.

Submitted photo

School committee discusses new district handbooks

By Quinn Suomala
Correspondent

HOLYOKE – The school committee met on July 13 to discuss new handbooks for the district.

The committee is in charge of approving and distributing handbooks to members of the district so everyone is aware of district policies.

During the meeting the committee discussed both the employee and the student and family handbooks.

After a few amendments to both for clarifying language, both handbooks were passed.

Within the student and family handbook there is a clause discussing the use of artificial intelligence.

The committee anticipates that there will be an amendment to this clause

after the school committee hears the report from the AI use committee.

“This section could still be of use to families,” Superintendent Jacquelin Glasheen said. “Once this body has reviewed [the AI guidelines] we could amend it later, but I do think we could still give them something.”

Currently there is no official AI policy, just general guidelines. The committee anticipates creating an official policy in the coming months.

Glasheen and the school committee did not want to wait to send out the handbooks until after they had added the policy, as it would delay the distribution of the handbooks too.

After the policy is created, the committee will

See SCHOOL, page 10

Local professionals offer tips on how to apply energy saving tips for the summer

By Quinn Suomala
Correspondent

Many people see their energy bills increase in the summer due to the amount of appliances needed to keep their homes cool.

National Grid offered some advice to help keep energy costs low.

They suggested that you only run full loads in the dishwasher and dryer, setting your refrigerator temperature to 38 degrees Fahrenheit and utilizing a toaster oven to reheat or cook small meals, as it utilizes less energy than a traditional oven.

It can also be beneficial to cook outside when possible and even use a clothes-

line to dry clothes, rather than a dryer.

These strategies reduce electrical costs and can help to keep house temperatures lower.

Additionally, switching fan directions in the windows during the day can also help keep temperatures down. Switch the fans to push out hot air during the day and pull in cool air at night.

Eversource also recommended closing curtains on direct sunlight and turning off the air conditioning when no one is home.

Furthermore, regularly cleaning the AC filters improves air flow and extends the life of the AC unit.

It is also important to check that an AC unit is correctly draining any and all moisture. AC units remove moisture from the air as they work, and incorrect drainage can lead to leaks, mold and a broken AC.

A simple way to prevent this is when installing a window AC unit, ensure that the unit is tilted backward slightly. This ensures that the water drips down and out, rather than into the room the AC was installed in.

Furthermore, when installing the AC unit people should make sure that there is at least five feet of clearance from walls, trees, hedges

“Additionally, we encourage customers to consider installing a smart or programmable thermostat,”

- Lisa Sullivan
Holyoke Gas and Electric

es or yard ornaments. If there is not enough clearance it can block airflow and reduce the efficacy of the unit.

Another tip for keeping costs low, as suggested by Lisa Sullivan from Holyoke Gas and Electric, is sealing any air leaks in windows and doors to help keep all cool air in.

“Additionally, we

encourage customers to consider installing a smart or programmable thermostat,” Sullivan said.

Having a programmable thermostat allows people to turn up the temperatures in their home while they aren’t there, effectively cutting down energy costs.

Moreover, when installing a thermostat in a home, ensure that it is out of direct

sunlight. Having the thermostat in direct sunlight can lead to incorrect temperature readings, which then cause an increased energy output.

The thermostat should also be kept away from windows and doors, as drafts from those can also alter temperature readings.

Additionally, many people find themselves adding appliances in the summer to keep on top of the heat.

Having multiple appliances plugged in can cause safety concerns, including power surges or electrical fires.

To avoid these problems, Sullivan recommended that

See ENERGY, page 6

GHC invites businesses to Annual Chamber Cup

and relationship-building. The Chamber Cup offers companies and organizations a valuable way to connect outside the traditional meeting setting. Participants can build business relationships, strengthen team connections, and engage with professionals from across the region in a relaxed and welcoming environment. The event is open to Chamber members and non-members alike, making it a regional opportuni-

The day will include golf at Westover Golf Course, breakfast, lunch, raffles, and opportunities to connect with business owners, executives, public officials, nonprofit leaders, and professionals from throughout Western Massachusetts. For sponsors and raffle donors, the event provides added exposure before and during the tournament, helping businesses

stay visible among a broad and engaged audience.

The Greater Holyoke Chamber encourages businesses to register early, secure sponsorship opportunities, and plan now for participation in the 2026 Chamber Cup. Companies interested in playing, sponsoring, donating raffle prizes, or volunteering can visit holyokechamber.com or contact the Chamber for more information.

GRANBY – Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Granby will be having their Summerfest on Sunday, Aug. 23 from 12 to 4 p.m. Chicken dinner is \$15 and includes a half bbq chicken, baked potato and corn on the cob, as well as dessert and bottled water. Hamburgers and hot dogs will also be available. Raffles prizes, bake sale, kids games, prizes, lottery trees and more.

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.

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 fund-

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.

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.

HOLYOKE – NAMI Western Massachusetts is pleased to offer their NAMI Family-to-Family Education Program in person, starting Tuesday, Sept. 15, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. in Greenfield.

What is the NAMI Family-to-Family Education Program?

NAMI Family-to-Family is a free, 8-session educational program for family, significant others, and friends of people with mental health

conditions. It is a designated evidenced-based program. This means that research shows that the program significantly improves the coping and problem-solving abilities of the people closest to a person with a mental health condition.

NAMI Family-to-Family is taught by NAMI-trained family members who have been there and includes presentations, discussions, and interactive exercises.

BELCHERTOWN – Green Day Recycling is hosting several Saturday electronics recycling event fundraisers in the area, and we would like to invite everyone to participate.

Saturday, Aug. 8

- Most Holy Redeemer Church (120 Russell Street, Hadley, MA 01035)
- Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish (256 State Street, Granby, MA 01033)

Saturday, Sept. 12
 • St. Francis Church
 (10 Park St, Belchertown,
 MA 01007)

Details:

- Time: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 (Rain or shine)
- Pricing: Some items
 are free to recycle, while
 others range from \$5 to \$40
 each.
- Benefit: A portion of
 the proceeds will benefit the
 hosting parishes.
- Everyone is welcome.

– MassDevelopment employees who will provide on-the-ground economic development organizing expertise and collaborative leadership – and will have access to a range of tools to help accelerate development, including technical assistance, grants, and more, during a three-year period beginning August 2026. Each fellow is embedded within a locally led partnership comprised of cross-sector stakeholders, including the municipality, businesses, nonprofits, property owners, and residents, that guides district strat-

“MassDevelopment’s Transformative Development Initiative has helped Gateway Cities strengthen local businesses, revitalize commercial districts, and create new economic opportunities,” said Economic Development Secretary Eric Paley, who serves as Chair of MassDevelopment’s Board of Directors. “The fellows are at the heart of that work, bringing dedicated capacity to help local partners coordinate efforts, connect with resource

“We are thrilled to kick off our new Transformative Development Initiative districts this month in Chelsea, Fitchburg, Holyoke, Lowell, Malden, and Peabody,” said MassDevelopment President and CEO Navjeet Bal. “Our fellows bring dedicated capacity and expertise, empowering local leaders who are working hard to turn community priorities into action. The partnership is key to supporting businesses, attracting investment, and creating momentum.”

HOLYOKE – Registration is now open for noncredit professional development and personal enrichment classes at Holyoke Community College for the fall 2026 semester.

The fall calendar begins Tuesday, Sept. 8, with individual classes running on different schedules throughout the semester. Many are available as single sessions that cost as little as \$20.

Class topics include cooking, wine tasting, sewing, painting, piano, dance, conversational Spanish, music technology, voiceover coaching, investing, graphic design, financial literacy, retirement planning, Social Security strategies, writ-

ing, starting a home business, applying to college, mediation, understanding AI (artificial intelligence), K-12 education (professional development), and computer technology (with specific classes geared toward seniors).

Most classes meet in the Kittredge Center for Business and Workforce Development on the main HCC campus, 303 Homestead Ave, or on Zoom. Cooking and wine tasting classes meet at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute, 164 Race St.

To see complete fall course listings and schedules, or to register, please visit hcc.edu/bcs.

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5-6:30 p.m. ~ weather permitting

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a safe and happy summer
and we hope to see you all soon!*

AMERICAN LEGION POST 325
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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 Sept. 1 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.



HCC culinary arts instructor honored for innovation

HOLYOKE – Chef Tracy Carter, chair of the culinary arts department at Holyoke Community College, is the recipient of the 2026 Innovation Award from Real Milk California and the Center for the Advancement of Foodservice Education (CAFÉ).

Carter was recognized for expanding educational access, strengthening community partnerships, and reimagining how culinary education is delivered.

“Chef Carter’s work reflects her belief that innovation in culinary education is about creating systems that better support students, strengthen programs, and are responsive to the evolving needs of the industry and community,” said Lisa M. Parrish, editor of CAFÉ’s Gold Medal Classroom magazine.

Specifically, Carter was recognized for implementing an educational program called the Culinary Learning Hub, a centralized, digital platform designed to rein-

force in-person instruction and provide students with widely accessible learning materials.

“By combining hands-on instruction with structured digital reinforcement, this approach represents a new delivery model in the college’s program,” Parrish said.

Beginning in Fall 2026, English 101 (Composition) will be embedded within the culinary arts education, allowing students to complete foundational coursework within their learning environment. The course will be taught through a culinary lens, aligning writing instruction with students’ academic and professional interests.

Another innovation example comes from the HCC culinary arts program’s partnership with the United Way of Pioneer Valley, where Carter’s students serve up to 200 free meals during a monthly community dinner. Carter also partnered with the Springfield Symphony

Orchestra, producing monthly curated platters for musical events.

The Innovation Award was presented at CAFÉ’s July 2026 Leadership Conference in Chicago. The award included a \$1,000 prize from Real California Milk and a commemorative plaque.

Carter is a graduate of the International Culinary Schools at the Art Institute in Los Angeles. She grew up in Springfield and joined the HCC teaching staff in 2018 after living for several years in New York City, where she worked as a freelance food stylist and culinary producer at the Food Network on shows such as “Chopped,” preparing the baskets of ingredients for the cooks involved in the on-air competitions, and working alongside famous chefs like Bobby Flay.

In 2025, Carter was recipient of the Community Outreach Award from CAFÉ and the Auguste Escoffier School of Culinary Arts.



Submitted photo
Chef Tracy Carter, left, chair of the HCC culinary arts program, receives the 2026 Innovation Award from Jennifer Giambroni, vice president of communications for Real Milk California.

Cooper’s accepting supply donations for Homework House

AGAWAM – For a limited time, Cooper’s Gifts, Apparel, Home of Agawam, Mass., is accepting classroom supply donations for Homework House, which is located at 54 North Summer Street Holyoke, MA 01040.

Homework House strengthens our community by promoting educational success and providing free tutoring and mentoring for children living in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods. Homework House provides a safe and nurturing place for children to

grow and learn. Donations will be collected at Cooper’s now through August 31st .

“We invite everyone to help out Homework House and be entered to win a \$100 Cooper’s Gift Card.” said Kate Gourde, owner of Cooper’s Gifts, Apparel, Home.

Items to keep their classrooms clean and well stocked; disinfectant wipes, facial tissues, paper towels, copy paper, dry erase markers and erasers, card games such as Uno, Go Fish and flash cards, are their current

needs. “We hope that while people are out purchasing items to send their children back to school with, that they will consider picking up a few extras for the Homework House. And, you’ll be entered into our raffle!” said Gourde.

“We will swap a raffle entry for every item donated to the Homework House. One lucky winner of a \$100 Cooper’s gift card will be notified on Sept. 1. Especially for people in the Greater Springfield area, it’s easier to bring dona-

tions here, and we are open 7 days a week,” Gourde said. Items may be brought to the shop anytime up until August 31. Cooper’s is located at 161 Main St., Agawam, Mass., and is open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays 12 to 4 p.m.

“This drive coincides with Homework House as our August Round-Up charity; so, it’s the perfect time to spread the word about their mission and really help them out,” Gourde said. Each month Gourde

chooses a local charity to receive the profits of the store’s Round-Up Program through which customers are invited to round up their purchase total to the nearest dollar amount. Gourde will then match 50% of the total collected. The program has donated more than \$68,000 to local organizations since its inception in 2014. More information on the Round Up program and how to nominate a charity may be found on Cooper’s website www.coopersgifts.com/round-up/.

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**Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is 3.75% as of July 6, 2026. Minimum deposit to open and earn the stated APY is \$500. A new or existing Florence Bank personal checking account is required to open the certificate of deposit and receive the stated APY. This account must be opened in person and is not available online. A penalty may be imposed for early withdrawal. Interest will be compounded monthly and credited to the account monthly. Fees may reduce earnings. Offer may be withdrawn at any time.

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SOCIAL SECURITY
Matters
By Russell Gloor



When should my wife file for spouse benefits?

Dear Rusty:

My wife is 66 (born February 1960) and started taking Social Security retirement benefits just over one year ago at age 65.

She was a stay-at-home Mom for most of her adult life. I turned 62 this past March and received my first SS payment recently for a May 2026 start. We are scheduled to meet with SSA in late July to initiate spousal benefits because my wife's current benefits are less than 50% of mine.

We also have an adult disabled son, who receives Supplemental Security Income and Social Security benefits (this split in benefit sources happened after my wife filed - that whole process was confusing and we don't understand it).

My question relates to spousal benefits (I was a career finance person but don't completely understand these rules). We were going to file in July but is there any benefit to waiting until she turns 67? And will her 50% benefit be 50% of my lower benefit due to my filing at 62 or is that based on another amount?

Signed: Confused Finance Guy

Dear Confused:

First, the spouse benefit will be based on her age when she claims it, and half of your Full Retirement Age, (although you claimed at 62, her benefit as your spouse will still be based on your FRA entitlement).

Because she claimed her SS retirement at 65, your wife will not get 50% of your FRA entitlement; rather she will get her own reduced SS retirement benefit (which was reduced by about 13% from her FRA entitlement) plus a "spousal boost." The amount of that "boost" will be the difference between her own FRA entitlement and half of your FRA entitlement, but that boost amount will also be reduced because she will be claiming in July before her FRA.

Your wife will reach her FRA in February 2027, so by claiming her spousal boost in July her boost amount will be reduced by about 5% and the "boost" will be added to her already reduced SS retirement about. The result will be your wife's benefit as your spouse will be less than 50% of your FRA entitlement. And, FYI, your wife will be automatically deemed to be filing for her spousal benefit, she will not be able to defer claiming it.

As your son is now collecting SS benefits based on your wife's personal SS record, you should ask Social Security to switch him over to payments based on your record because you have the higher SS benefit.

FYI, because your son is now receiving Supplemental Security Income, the SS disability benefit he receives will offset by his SSI benefit, and the payment amount will consist of two sources - SSI and SSDI. Nevertheless, he cannot get more than 50% of your SS retirement amount and will likely be affected by the Family Maximum, which may further reduce his SSDI entitlement.

Your wife's benefit as your spouse will also be affected by the "Family Maximum," which limits how much can be paid on any one person's SS record (on your SS record).

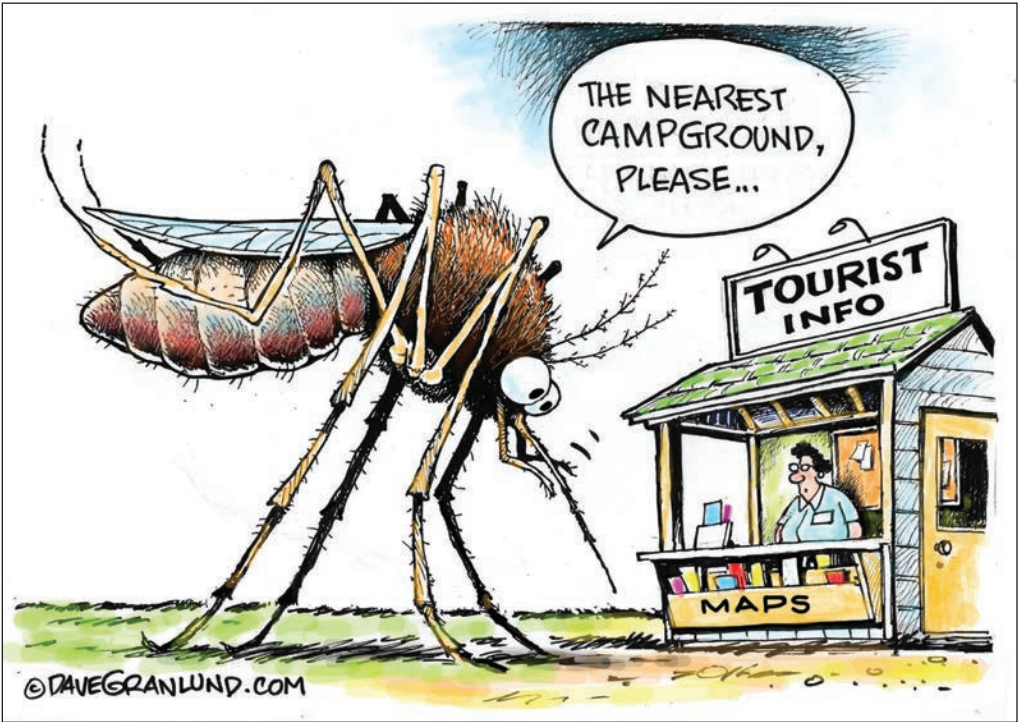
That also means that your wife will not get a full 50% of your FRA entitlement; rather she will get less because the family maximum limits how much all your dependents can receive to somewhere between 50% and 88% of your FRA benefit amount (after subtracting your own SS entitlement).

That also means that your son's SS payment, as well as your wife's SS payment as your spouse, will be reduced to less than 50% of your FRA entitlement. SSA will be able to guide you through the Family Maximum calculations for both your son and your wife when you meet.

To recap all of this: a) your wife will be automatically deemed to be filing for her spousal benefit; she cannot delay until her FRA. b) her amount as your spouse will be less than 50% of your SS FRA entitlement. And c) both your wife's and your son's SS benefit will likely be also affected by the Family Maximum and, thus, be less than half of your FRA entitlement.

Nevertheless, it was likely the right decision to claim as you have, considering that your son and wife have been receiving SS benefits for some time now, and both will continue to receive more as your dependents.

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 ssadvisory@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



Privet pruning leads to instruction

Every year when we head off to the Cape, the "yard" talk becomes privets, and bunnies, but that is a whole other column.

When we visited in June, the privets where we stay had been cut way back in an effort to reduce height and width. This trip, I noticed those cuts had grown back nicely, achieving the desired results.

Read on while we revisit a column from the archives on pruning hedges.

A living hedge offers multi-seasonal interest. A number of shrubs suited for hedges flower or have appealing fall leaf color.

Others are evergreen and fulfill the "need for green" even in the off-season.

Some make great homes for wildlife, and others are the perfect backdrop for our holiday decorations.

Whatever the case, a hedge doesn't have to be old and overgrown to require your attention. Perhaps it is a little misshapen, or too tall and gangly. Maybe it has lots of dead wood.

Anyway, there is no time like the present to get out the loppers and hand clippers and do some pruning.

Old and overgrown

Hedges that fall into this category should be rejuvenated over the course of three years. The general rule of thumb is to remove no more than one-third of a shrub's mass at one time.

Working from the interior of each plant, cut out the oldest stems first to ground level. Fresh new growth will fill in the gaps.

Repeat in years two and three, until all the old wood has been pruned away. If you prune more drastically than recommended, there will be less leaf power for photosynthesis, and vigor may be reduced; curb your impatience and stick to the three year rule.

Misshapen

Hedges can sometimes be disproportionate and appear top or bottom-heavy. Proper pruning can alleviate these problems.

Before horticulture college, it never occurred to me that I could determine the

in the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid



direction in which my shrub will grow based on the pruning cuts I make. I used to think I was merely shortening stems!

Grab a branch and examine the buds closely. Some point inward while others point out. Voilà!

For a top-heavy shrub make cuts at inward facing buds on the upper section - this will curb outward facing growth. On the lower portion make your cuts at buds facing out to encourage outer branching.

Best cuts are made on a 45 degree angle just after the bud of choice. Try this pruning method on privet.

Too tall and gangly

Hedges that are tall and thin need more than just "a little off the top." Here you will employ pruning strategies that you've already learned.

Cut deep into the plant to bring down its height, then prune the sides of the shrub to outward facing buds to encourage a wider hedge.

This technique works especially well with hedges comprised of Rose of Sharon.

Lots of dead wood

The quickest way to prune a hedge has always been to employ shears or electric trimmers and simply remove new growth each season. Unfortunately this method makes for lots of green leaves at the plant's tips but for very little on the interior of the shrub.

If you should decide you want to reduce the overall size of the hedge you will be in for trouble - all that will be visible is dead wood. Start making "windows" now by cutting out large stems back to main branches.

Light will penetrate inside the plant spawning lots of fresh green growth. Eventually you will be able to cut the hedge back to that point. The three year, one-third rule that I spoke of earlier should apply here as well.

Boxwood and yews benefit from this type of rejuvenation.

Kudos to the privet pruner; you did well!

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.



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

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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

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By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN
Guest Column



The gland guys don't want to talk about

the symptoms aren't particularly bothersome, you should still mention them to your doctor and head off more serious complications.

What about prostate cancer?

Prostate cancer is the second most common cancer in men, the first being skin cancer. As with most cancers, the earlier it's detected the better the treatment outcomes. There's a 97% survival rate, but treatments like surgery and radiation sometimes result in lifelong complications such as urinary incontinence and erectile dysfunction.

No wonder it's something men don't want to necessarily discuss. However, if you're between the ages of 55 or 69, have a family history of prostate cancer or are African American, it's wise to at least talk to your doctor about it or not brush it off if the doctor brings it up.

Why? Because in its later stages, the cancer can spread to the bones and lymph nodes. At that point, treatment focuses on managing symptoms and maintaining quality of life rather than attempting to cure the disease.

How it's detected

Getting screened and treated for prostate cancer involves highly individualized decisions, ones that should be made in conjunction with a urologist rather than a family practitioner. A private patient advocate with medical expertise can help with such decisions because prostate cancer screening is not universally recommended.

The standard blood test, which looks for levels of prostate-specific antigen (PSA), is not a perfect indicator of cancer and can lead to unnecessary procedures, such as biopsies. There are now non-invasive MRI tests for the prostate that may be more reliable than PSA. Researchers are marrying MRI with ultrasound to provide more accurate biopsy results.

Also, many prostate cancers are slow-growing and may never become life-threatening, particularly if a man is 70 or older. In that case, a urologist may recommend active surveillance

rather than treatment.

Treatments are evolving

As with many cancers, researchers are using hormonal, genetic and immune therapies to treat more advanced cases of prostate cancer. In 2023, the FDA approved enzalutamide for some men who are at high risk of their cancer spreading but don't show signs that it's come back. Research is ongoing into whether these therapies help men live longer with better quality of life.

On the genetic front, some people inherit factors that limit their body's ability to repair DNA damage. Such tumors can be treated with PARP inhibitors, which "turns off" a specific enzyme. Researchers are also looking into vaccines and other forms of immunotherapy to help the body be more effective at killing prostate cancer cells.

The same things you do for overall health also help your prostate: good diet, exercise, no tobacco.

Supplements advertised as supporting prostate health have not been studied extensively, so don't expect much in the way of results.

But I think the most important thing men can do is talk to their doctors -- and to each other -- about prostate health.

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.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Bleated

6. Snake-like fish

9. Database management system

13. Social evolution

14. American rocker Grohl

15. Greek personification of compassion

16. Negatives

17. Rescued

18. Self-immolation by fire ritual

19. Assigns tasks

21. Popular type of cigar

22. Discounts

23. The whole quantity

24. New York Giants legend

25. Indicates before

28. Lentils

29. Extremely angry

31. Body part

33. "North Star State"

36. David __, US playwright

38. Lower and raise one's head

39. Private rendezvous

41. In a way, improved

44. A place to play

45. Astronomical period of 18 years

46. Automobile

48. Something you can take

49. A radio band

51. Jaws of a voracious animal

52. Short-billed rails

54. Chinese province

56. Shameless

60. Horizontal passage from the surface into a mine

61. Indian respectful titles

62. Fail to entertain

63. Dried-up

64. Central Utah city

65. Southern U.S.

66. German river

67. Necessary for breathing

68. Put into play

CLUES DOWN

1. Curved segment

2. Wings

3. Yellowish volatile liquid

4. Makes less severe

5. Debit note

6. Overhang

7. The nights before

8. Type of light

9. Lacking enthusiasm

10. Tattle

11. Some is "heavy"

12. One who is canonized

14. Indicates date and place of writing

17. "Peace" in Arabic

20. "Olaf" actor Josh

21. Fragmented rock

23. They __

25. Advanced degree

26. Backside

27. Influential architect and design couple

29. An act of undue intimacy

30. Words from which later words are derived

32. 10 meters

34. Neither

35. Fungal sacs

37. The law of God revealed to Moses

40. A woolen cap of Scottish origin

42. A promise

43. Challenges

47. British Air Aces

49. Large bank

50. Served as an omen

52. Cavalry sword

53. Vaccine developer

55. Belgian WW2 resistance leader Jules

56. Italian Seaport

57. Hip joint

58. __ Clapton, musician

59. Insect repellent

61. Constrictor snake

65 "The First State" (abbr.)

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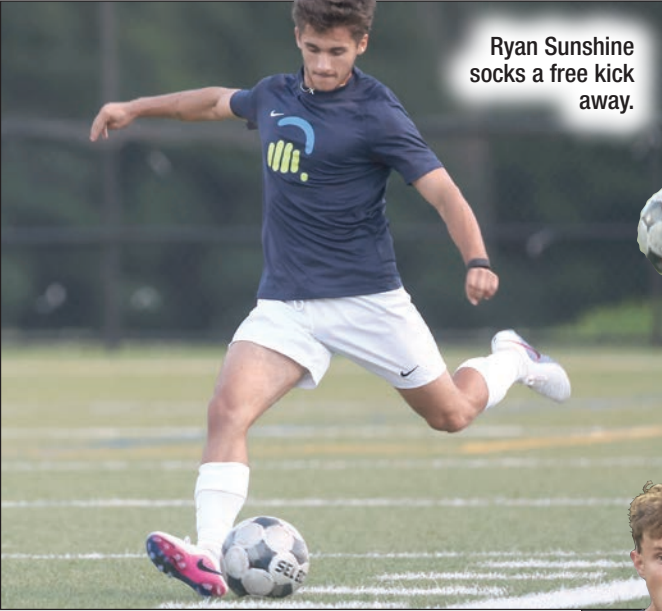
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CF Arbor reaches PVSSL semifinals

SOUTH HADLEY – In last week’s PVSSL summer playoffs, the CF Arbor Men’s soccer team, which was the No. 4 seed in the playoffs, was able to advance into the semifinals and took on Mt. Carmel, which defeated CF Arbor by a score a 2-0, ending CF Arbor’s chances of reaching the championship game this year. Mt. Carmel would capture this year’s men’s championship.



Ryan Sunshine socks a free kick away.



Tyler Lewis advances up the field.



Landry Kwawu goes to meet up with a loose ball.



Owen Dieterle heads up the field.



Troy Remillard outplays an opponent for the ball.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPOTOS.COM



Nate Woodland makes a catch for the A's during regular season action in the Valley Wheel league.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Pitcher Mike Bielen fires to the plate.



Sam Ribeiro takes a swing.



Ken Schubert heads to second.



Adam Strain fields a grounder.



Mike Burgos pitches in a game for the Orioles on July 26.

Valley Wheel regular season ends

WILBRAHAM – The regular season has concluded for the Valley Wheel Over-28 Baseball League, one of several adult baseball leagues that plays in the region. This year, with play concluding this past Sunday, the Angels were able to finish the regular season with the top record,

going 11-4. The Angels matched the Twins with the same record, but won two out of three head-to-head for the tiebreaker advantage in the playoffs. The Orioles finished third and the Cubs overcame the A’s by tiebreaker for the final of four playoff spots. The semifinals for the league

are set for this Sunday at Spec Pond in Wilbraham. In the first matchup, the No. 2 Twins host the No. 3 Orioles at 2:30 p.m. Then, the top-seeded Angels face No. 4 Cubs at 6 p.m. The championship game will be held on Sunday, Aug. 16 at Spec Pond at 3 p.m.

Blue Sox fall in Game 1 of first New England Collegiate Baseball League playoff series

SANFORD – The Valley Blue Sox (0-1 postseason) dropped Game 1 of their first-round NECBL playoff series against the Sanford Mainers (1-0 postseason), 5-2. This marks the first time that the Blue Sox have lost to the Mainers this season, as Valley won the two previous outings. The first inning remained scoreless for both teams, but the Mainers got themselves on the board in the second. Nater Watcher

(UConn) hit a 2-run home run out to left field with Steven Kraus (Binghamton) on base to give Sanford an early 2-0 lead. Valley, however, was able to tie the game back up shortly in the fourth after Mainers’ pitcher Andrew Middleton (Maryland) had a lackluster inning, allowing 2 runs and 3 hits. Nick Spaventa (UPenn) got the first run to score when he singled to the shortstop, who made an error,

which allowed Esteban Garcia (Boston College) to score and Spaventa to advance to second. Anthony Tirado (Penn State) then hit a sacrifice fly to right-center, letting Spaventa make his way around the bases to tie the game 2-2. While it seemed like it was panning out to be a close game, Sanford broke things open in the sixth. Kraus was



up to bat with the bases loaded when he singled to third base, sending Albert De La Rosa (Maine) and Brian Connolly (Rhode Island) home to score, breaking the tie 4-2. The Blue Sox loaded up the bases once again for Sanford, but it was Valley

who sent the run home for the Mainers when Michael Goodman (UMass) hit Brennan Stauble (Elon) with a pitch, forcing in the fifth tally for the Mainers. While the Blue Sox still had plenty of time to mount an offense, the Mainers’ pitching staff locked it down, retiring batters in order over the final three innings. “You got to tip your cap when [Sanford’s pitching] does their job,” said head

coach John Raiola post-game. “We had some tough at-bats; it’s tough to string a bunch of hits together against guys like that.” Though it was not the result the Blue Sox were looking for, Raiola still has full confidence in his team’s ability to win Game 2. “The fun thing about getting to this time of the year [is] it truly can be any random person who puts one good swing on a ball that changes the game.”



Shane Denault looks to clear the ball.



Kyle Girourd starts a move up the field.

Rumbleseat advances to finals of playoffs

CHICOPEE – The second-seeded Rumbleseat defeated KO Elites 2-0 in the semifinals of the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League playoffs in the Men’s

Division. Rumbleseat would move into the finals last Friday evening to take on Mt. Carmel. Highlights and photos from that game will be in next week’s edition.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Jack Leland traps the ball and tries to outmaneuver and opponent.



Jake Thibideau advances up the field.



Evan Ricelli possesses the ball.

Springfield Thunderbirds pick up new goalies coach

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds announced hiring Brandon Wildung as Goaltending Coach. Wildung, 32, joins the T-Birds and replaces Dan Stewart, who was appointed Goaltending Coach by the New

Jersey Devils earlier this month. Wildung most recently served as Associate Head Coach for the USHL’s Sioux Falls Stampede from 2024-26, where he helped the Stampede to a Clark Cup championship this past season. Prior to his coaching

career, the Nassau, Minn. native stood between the pipes for four NCAA seasons with Mercyhurst University from 2014 to 2018 before skating in seven pro games with the ECHL’s Utah Grizzlies and Manchester Monarchs.

Wildung began his junior coaching career as an assistant coach with the Stampede in 2022-23, then served as an assistant coach in 2023-24 for Augustana University, the program’s first season as an NCAA Division I school.

Patrick Emerling picks up win at Monadnock Speedway

WINCHESTER, NH – If there’s any end in sight to Patrick Emerling’s current dominance of the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour, it wasn’t visible Saturday, July 25 at Monadnock Speedway. The Orchard Park, NY speedster won the fifth annual JDV Productions Duel At The Dog energized by USNE Power Modified main event at the storied high-banked oval, using his third consecutive Tour victory to stay atop the points parade and, as an added bonus, picked up an additional \$5,000 check for topping the three-race JDV Whelen Midsummer Championship. And he did it with relative ease. Beating Tyler Rypkema to the checkers by 2.321 seconds, Emerling now has 13 Whelen Modified Tour victories to his credit, two of them scored at Monadnock. With a huge crowd on hand for the JDV Duel event,

other winners Saturday at the fast quarter-mile included Granite State Pro Stock Series rocketman DJ Shaw, and third-year Pro Truck Challenge hot shoe Jason Paquette, who scored his first career Pro Truck victory in front of the thundering Duel at The Dog crowd. Matt Hirschman set fast time in Whelen Modified Tour qualifying, touring the high banks in 11.836 seconds. The Keystone State hot shoe was one of ten drivers in the 21-car field to turn sub-12 second laps. It was the third week in a row that Hirschman had set fast time but a top-ten redraw Saturday would place him ninth on the starting grid for the night’s 200-lap main event. Jon McKennedy, a winner of many events at Monadnock over the years, started on the pole, with defending Tour Champion Austin Beers at his side.

At their bumpers, were six-time Champion Doug Coby and Emerling. McKennedy quickly took charge. With Coby, Beers, and Ronnie Williams riding in his shadow, McKennedy would lead the first 35 laps. Emerling, content to survey the task before him, moved up to third on lap 18. The first lead change occurred on lap 37, with Beers low-lining to the front. Two circuits later, his mirror was filled by Emerling. He would take charge on a lap 86 restart and never look back. Beers would stay right with him on restarts, racing wheel-to-wheel with the eventual race winner, but each time Emerling would again best him and pull away. Tyler Rypkema, aboard the fabled Boehler Old Blue, blasted into second on lap 137, actually inching ahead of Emerling to lead lap 148 by inches, but two go-rounds later, the Empire State star

was back in front to stay. Rypkema’s strong second-place performance was his third Whelen Modified Tour runner-up finish of the summer. Beers held strong to earn the third-place hardware, followed by 15-year-old rookie sensation Paulie Hartwig III and Tommy Catalano. Positions six through ten went to Teddy Hodgdon, Eric Goodale, McKennedy, Coby, and Stephen Kopcik. Hirschman, after his promising start, finished 12th on the night. Second generation superstar DJ Shaw did what’s become expected of him in big northeast Pro Stock events Saturday. The Center Conway, NH ace patiently worked his way to the front in the 100-lap Granite State Pro Stock Series main event, pounced at the first opportunity, and then sped off to victory. Teen star Cole Robie –

the series’ defending champion and defending Duel at the Dog Champion – set fast time in Pro Stock qualifying Saturday with a lap of 12.136 seconds, but a redraw put Tom Carey III and Cory Casagrande up front as the race went green. Carey, with Casagrande glued to his bumper, had the best seat in the house for the first 72 circuits, but Shaw – from row three – was methodically working his way to the front. Taking third from points leader Jeremy Sorel on lap 11, he was content to sit there until low-lining into turn three 40 laps later to swipe second from Casagrande. With the same move on lap 73, Shaw was at the front and off to the races, Casagrande kept it close, but there was no stopping Shaw once he was in front. Saturday’s big Duel At The Dog score was his second GSPSS victory of

the summer. With Casagrande holding strong for a close second, Carey’s strong performance brought him home third. Hudson, NH’s Joey Pole was fourth under the checkers, and Robie completed the top five. Pro Truck Challenge driver Jason Paquette couldn’t have picked a better day to earn his first win. Racing in front of the huge Duel crowd, the Scotland, CT hot shoe took the lead from pole starter Nate Smith on lap 26 and then held ageless wonder Duane Noll at his bumper the rest of the way. With Noll finishing glued to the winner’s bumper, Tyler Chapman was third on the day. Four-time winner and series points leader Randy Burr got as high as third before settling for fourth, and Adrien Paradis was fifth in the 16-truck field.

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DA’s office opens applications for HERizon leadership program

SPRINGFIELD – After a successful year in which participants reported increased confidence, stronger friendships and meaningful personal growth, applications are now open for HERizon, the Hampden District Attorney’s Office’s free leadership and empowerment program for high school girls across Hampden County.

Designed to help young women develop confidence, leadership skills and lasting connections, HERizon provides participants with mentorship, engaging discussions, interactive activities and opportunities to

learn from female professionals and community leaders. The program meets bi-weekly at the Hampden District Attorney’s Office in Springfield and is led by young women who serve in a variety of roles throughout the District Attorney’s Office. Throughout the program, students explore topics including healthy relationships, confidence, mental wellness, women’s health, self-advocacy and navigating challenges both in school and beyond.

“HERizon is about helping young women recognize their own potential and giving them the tools and sup-

port to become confident leaders in their schools and communities,” said Hampden District Attorney Anthony D. Gulluni. “When young women feel empowered to use their voices, advocate for themselves and support one another, the impact extends far beyond the classroom. Programs like HERizon are an investment in the future of our community.”

The program continues to make a meaningful impact on participants. At the conclusion of this year’s program, in an anonymous survey, participants rated their overall experience 4.8 out of

5, while 100% said HERizon helped them grow as a person.

Participants described HERizon as a place where they felt supported, encouraged, and comfortable being themselves. Feedback on the survey included:

“It was a breath of fresh air to connect with other girls face to face and build a community.”

“Everyone was so supportive and passionate. I loved this group and the friendships that were built.”

“I loved being able to open up. Besides my own room, I feel like this was the

room I was most comfortable.”

Many also said the program helped them become more confident, set healthier boundaries and step outside their comfort zones.

“My confidence is so much better.”

“I’ve been able to set boundaries for myself without having to feel bad about it.”

“I’ve become more of a girl’s girl, combined with so much more confidence.”

Participants cited discussions on confidence, healthy relationships, positive self-talk, self-love and women’s

health among their favorite topics, along with hands-on experiences like a car maintenance workshop and opportunities to connect with peers from across Hampden County.

HERizon is open to high school girls throughout Hampden County and is offered at no cost. Applications for the upcoming program are now being accepted.

Students interested in applying can learn more here. Questions about the program may be directed to Halie Matthew at Halie.Matthew@mass.gov.

DA invites faith-based leaders to 51A training

SPRINGFIELD – Hampden District Attorney Anthony D. Gulluni is inviting faith-based leaders, clergy, staff, and volunteers from across Hampden County to attend a free training designed to help them recognize and appropriately respond to concerns of child abuse and neglect.

The training, “The Dos & Don’ts of 51A Reporting,” will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 19, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Participants may attend in person at Tower Square, 21st Floor, 1500 Main Street in Springfield, or virtually via Zoom. Parking will be validated at the Columbus Center Garage.

Presented by Assistant District Attorney Eileen Sears, the training will provide practical guidance to help faith-based communi-

ty members understand their legal responsibilities and confidently respond when concerns about child abuse or neglect arise.

Topics will include:

- How to respond when a child discloses abuse.
- When and how to contact the appropriate authorities.
- The legal and ethical responsibilities associated with filing a 51A report.
- Additional best practices for supporting children while following the appropriate reporting procedures.

Under Massachusetts law, a 51A report is filed with the Department of Children and Families when there is reasonable cause to believe a child is suffering physical or emotional injury resulting from abuse or neglect. Because members of

faith communities are often among the trusted adults children turn to in difficult moments, understanding how to respond appropriately can play a critical role in protecting vulnerable children.

“Faith leaders and members of our faith-based community are often among the first people children and families turn to in times of crisis,” said District Attorney Anthony D. Gulluni. “This training is designed to ensure those trusted individuals have the knowledge and confidence to respond appropriately, fulfill their legal responsibilities, and ultimately help protect the children in our communities.”

Whether attending in person or virtually, participants are asked to RSVP in advance using the registration form: [https://bit.ly/51A-](https://bit.ly/51A-TRAINING)

[TRAINING](https://bit.ly/51A-TRAINING). The Hampden District Attorney’s Office encourages faith-based organizations throughout Hampden County to share this opportunity with clergy, youth leaders, volunteers, and others who work with children and families. Questions may be directed to Gina Anselmo at Gina.Anselmo@mass.gov.

In addition to this training, the Hampden District Attorney’s Office offers free 51A reporting presentations throughout the year to educators at schools and other community groups. Organizations interested in hosting a training for their staff, volunteers, or members are encouraged to contact the District Attorney’s Office at Gina.Anselmo@mass.gov to learn more or schedule a presentation.

Local author set to release of 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 passionate 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.

The Aug. 15 event offers readers an opportunity to meet the author, have books personally signed, and celebrate the launch of her latest work.

SCHOOL, from page 1

contact students and families to ensure that everyone has access to it.

The handbooks themselves will be distributed to students and families before the start of the school year to ensure that everyone is up to date on all policies within the district.

The handbooks will be available in a variety of languages to ensure everyone in the community can understand them.

The school committee also discussed community relations goals for the upcoming year.

Within the policy around family relations, one of the biggest shifts is changing the wording of “parents” to “guardians.”

In some of the old policies it stated that the district was focused only on building relations with parents, excluding other individuals in students’ lives.

Now the district is changing the wording so it says guardians instead to ensure a more inclusive approach.

“In the original policy it only talked about parents, that’s it,” committee member Mildred Lefebvre said. “That means, I don’t care

who else is in charge of that child, we’re only having relations with parents. It’s like saying they’re the only ones that matter. But in actuality there are kids that don’t have their parents. So out of respect and the fact that there are other people in these children’s lives[...]we should be building those relations too.”

Given this update, committee member Patty Lubold asked that they also include an exact definition of guardian within the policy to ensure clarity.

The policy was referred back to the policy subcommittee for them to look over this recommendation.

LIBRARY, from page 1

shared how the idea came to life.

“At book club, we all discussed how great it would be to have a free little library at the museum so that people could share books and build community,” Seiler said. “Kelly is a volunteer, avid book club member, and little library enthusiast. She approached me about donating one to the museum and having her husband, Bill, build it, and I, of course, said, ‘yes.’”

Seiler then addresses the importance of offering a free space for people to learn

and relax, “I think offering free books is a great way to promote reading, invite new people into our space, and build a fun community. Wistariahurst has reimaged the library space to be a spot for people to relax and read; we hope people take advantage of the sofas and free little library. Free third spaces are becoming rarer and rarer but are essential for the social well-being of people of all ages. Who doesn’t want to get cozy and read in a beautiful museum and free. I can’t think of a nicer way to spend an hour or two.”

This little library is not just a great addition to

Wistariahurst Museum, it’s also an amazing addition to the community as a whole. Creating more spaces for people to find new and exciting books for free encourages people of all ages to try something new, visit the museum and maybe pick up the habit of reading. It’s clear Mayor Garcia and each of the museum staff members and volunteers care deeply about helping the community and allowing Wistariahurst Museum to reach its full potential with what it has to offer. For more information about upcoming events at the museum, visit the museum’s website.



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