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## Shooting suspect will remain in jail

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – On Tuesday, Aug. 4, the juvenile who is being accused of shooting at police inside the Holyoke Mall was back in court for a dangerousness hearing as prosecutors sought to keep him held without the right to bail until his trial.

Hampden County District Attorney Anthony Gulluni announced following the hearing that the juvenile male, 17, of Springfield, has been ordered held without the right to bail following the dangerousness hearing.

During the dangerousness hearing in Springfield Juvenile Court, the defendant stipulated to dangerousness and agreed to be held without the right to bail, without prejudice. His next court date is scheduled for Wednesday, August 21, for a pretrial hearing.

The juvenile was initially arraigned virtually on Monday, July 28, following his arrest in the aftermath of the incident.

At approximately 4:30 p.m. on July 25, a Holyoke Mall security officer observed an individual allegedly shoplifting and alerted Holyoke police officers working a detail assignment inside the mall. When officers approached the suspect near the Round One entrance, the juvenile produced a firearm. Preliminary investigation indicates that

both the suspect and one officer discharged weapons. The officer was not struck; the juvenile sustained at least one gunshot wound.

Holyoke officers provided immediate medical aid, and the juvenile was transported to Baystate Medical Center with non-life-threatening injuries. A firearm was recovered at the scene. He was placed under arrest, and was arraigned virtually on Monday, July 28, 2025, in Springfield Juvenile Court.

At the virtual arraignment, the juvenile was held without right to bail based on a dangerousness detainer. Probable cause was found, and a full hearing on dangerousness occurred yesterday.

The Hampden District Attorney's Office intends to seek a youthful offender indictment as the investigation continues.

The incident remains under investigation by the Holyoke Police Department and the Massachusetts State Police Detective Unit assigned to the Hampden District Attorney's Office.

In his first statement on the incident, Gulluni expressed the importance of going for a youthful offender status on the case.

"The juvenile's alleged behavior is appalling, and we will seek accountability to the fullest extent of the law. We are grateful that no innocent people or officers were

See JAIL, page 6

## Union workers stage protest

By Brendan Rooney  
Correspondent

HOLYOKE – On Aug. 5, the Holyoke City Council gathered in committee from inside City Hall to conduct routine business; however, outside representatives of the UFCW union stood together offering a sense of unity to raise and garner support by conducting an informational picket as they seek a new contract due to the union's most recent contract expiring on last month on July 1.

Leading the charge was UFCW Vice President and Business Rep Chris Adams, who offered thoughts while citing a plethora of issues,

such as the city asking for a variety of substantial take-backs that the union bargained and fought for, while admitting that the city has cut a majority of job positions while increasing the budget for non-union subcontracted workers, as ongoing negotiations remain a hot-button issue.

Adams also revealed that no progress has been made, forcing both sides to remain deadlocked at a stalemate, but relayed that the city proposed to restrict the benefits that employees may receive if they leave employment with the city. Adding to the cumulative caution of an already low-staffed workforce, causing a

chain reaction, which is now affecting other portions of the city as a whole.

Highlighting how the city of Holyoke's DPW lags in the number of personnel for staffing by more than "approximately half the staff other communities in the area use, such as Chicopee and Springfield," according to comments from Adams.

Additional comments also add to the dilemma that the exodus of staffing issues stems from the disparity of pay in the department, being noted and acknowledged as "on average are the lowest in all the areas and far behind Chicopee, which is the next city over." The

union also spoke about the concerns of rising health insurance premiums, forcing the high turnover as well. And now the community is experiencing the decline in services, as the Holyoke DPW put out a social media post just hours before the standoff transpired, looking to quell the lingering fears of the community when it came to trash not being properly serviced by noting:

"Due to staff call-outs, trash, recycling, and yard waste collections are delayed. All available staff have been assigned to these services. We hope to close the collections gap tomorrow."

See UNION, page 6



The protest was in response to a lack of a new contract after theirs expired on July 1.

Submitted photos

## ¡VIVA BORICUA!



Last weekend people gathered at Holyoke's Fiestas Patronales de Holyoke to enjoy music, food and festivities. See more photos on page 10.

Turley photo by Kara Walsh-Vey

## Mayor nominated for award

HOLYOKE – Mayor Joshua A. Garcia has been named a finalist for the prestigious Mayor of the Year Award by the Northeast Renewable Energy Coalition (NREC), in recognition of his leadership and innovation in clean energy and community development.

The Northeast Renewable Energy Coalition is greatly engaged in several states, most notably in Connecticut and Rhode Island with a track record of bringing together leaders and the region's nationally recognized political energy trailblazers like Rhode Island's U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse and Governor

Dan McKee and Connecticut's U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal.

Mayor Garcia is the group's first mayor in Massachusetts to be recognized. The award will be presented during Massachusetts Clean Energy Week, taking place from Sept. 29 to Oct. 4.

"I am overwhelmed and honored to receive this recognition on behalf of Holyoke. This award is for all of us in Holyoke, not just



Mayor Joshua A. Garcia

me. Our residents, business owners, neighborhood and community activists who love our city and work so hard to move us forward in the effort to harness our clean energy resources to continue to bring clean energy environmental and economic benefits to our city," said Garcia.

Once known as the "Paper City," Holyoke has become a leader in hydro and renewable energy. Through community partnerships and long-term planning, Holyoke Gas & Electric (HG&E) has built a sustainable clean energy portfolio. HG&E's core strategy is to overestimate future demand. That approach led HG&E to upgrade infrastructure and

See MAYOR, page 6

"I am overwhelmed and honored to receive this recognition on behalf of Holyoke. This award is for all of us in Holyoke, not just me,"

- Mayor Joshua A. Garcia

## CPA seeks input from community on upcoming project funding

HOLYOKE – The Community Preservation Act (CPA) provides funding that preserves and enhances the city, based on local need as determined by its residents. Funding is available for projects in the following categories: Housing, Historic Preservation, Outdoor Recreation, and Open Space Acquisition.

To make your voice heard, please complete

the survey, available in both English and Spanish. Submissions will be accepted up until Oct. 15.

Recent CPA-funded projects include the restoration of the Lady Liberty statue in Veterans Park, construction of the all-abilities Miracle League Playground, and the on-going development of 88 affordable housing units at Appleton Mills and 41 at Essex Village near

the Holyoke Public Library. The iconic stirrups on the Holyoke Merry-Go-Round have been restored to their original design, and the stained-glass windows in City Hall are being meticulously brought back to life. Gloutak Park in Rock Valley will have a brand-new playground built this summer and public pickleball courts are

See CPA, page 6

# Barrett's 'Blooms' artwork to be featured at Wistariahurst

HOLYOKE – During the month of September Wistariahurst Museum's great hall will be filled with florals as we welcome in "Blooms", an art exhibit



by painter Lora Barrett. This exhibit will feature 99 vibrant paintings of flowers of varying sizes. An avid gardener, Lora Barrett maintains her gardens as a reference and muse for her highly colored paintings, pushing the vibrancy of the flowers to the limit. Wistariahurst Museum will be hosting a solo show of 99 of her floral paintings from September 2-25.

Barrett's artistic journey began with a childhood marked by curiosity and a passion for art. This passion was fueled by supportive parents and teachers. She carried

her passion for the arts into her adulthood as she majored in Art at The College of Our Lady of the Elms and began teaching Art in Holyoke upon graduation. While teaching in Holyoke, she continued her studies at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, where she earned a Doctorate in Education and later taught Art Education at the University. Barrett has received several awards throughout her life for her artwork and for her work in arts education. She has continued her education at Cape Cod School of Art,

the Chatham Creative Arts Center, the En Plein Air Art School in France, and Snow Farm, among others.

Barrett's work has been shown in several galleries across the region, and Wistariahurst is excited to have her work in our halls once more. Her paintings are in personal collections in France, Canada, Mexico, Italy, England, and Ireland and in the permanent collection of the United States Federal Reserve in Washington, DC.

The opening reception of "Blooms" will be held

Tuesday, Sept. 2 from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Open Gallery Hours will be held on Mondays (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.) and Tuesdays (4:30 to 6:30 p.m.) through Sept. 25 which will also be free and open to the public. The exhibit will also be on view during Continued on next page Wistariahurst's Sunday Fundays and other public events through Sept. 25. Barrett will be hosting some events corresponding with her exhibit at Wistariahurst. Saturday, Sept. 6 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. will be Painting in the Garden with Lora Barrett. Paint in

the Wisty Gardens with Lora, or just come to watch as she demonstrates her craft. Some easels will be provided, but artists should bring their own art supplies. There will also be an artists talk on Tuesday, Sept. 9, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. where Lora will discuss the making of Blooms. We hope that you stop by and explore Lora Barrett's Blooms.

This program is funded in part by a grant from the Holyoke Local Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

## Hibernians to hold picnic

HOLYOKE – The Hibernians of Hampden/Hampshire Counties invites the public to attend the Annual Traditional Summer Picnic featuring The Healy's at Hamel's Summit View Pavilion 555 Northampton St Holyoke on Sunday, Aug. 24 from 1 to 5 p.m., rain or shine.

Tickets are \$30 per person for adults and 16-and-over, kids 10-15 are \$15.

For reservations by Tuesday, Aug. 19 call Joe

O'Connor at 413-627-7148 or Fran Hennessey at 413-785-5687 aoh-holyoke.com

The Maurice A. Donahue Memorial Scholarship will be presented.

There will be Irish-American Music; dancing; A Super BBQ-hot dogs, hamburgers, potato salad, tossed salad, dessert; coffee. Also, included is a cash bar; kid's games; giant raffle.

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

## Richard Tremblay named assistant VP of People and Talent

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College recently welcomed Richard Tremblay of Chicopee as its assistant vice president of People and Talent.

In his new role, Tremblay oversees the office of People and Talent, formerly known as Human Resources, part of the division of People, Culture, and Equity.

He comes to HCC with more than two decades of experience in human resources, most recently as human resources manager for

Preferre Melamines LLC in Springfield. Before that he served as director of human resources at Helix, formerly the Children's Study Home, in Springfield, and senior human resource administrator at Square One in Springfield. He has also taught psychology at American International College as an adjunct professor.

He started his position at HCC on July 28.

"I'm passionate about education," Tremblay said. "My background and my

strengths are in training and professional development; working for an institution like HCC complements all of that. The opportunity to bring the many years of experience I have in the field to Holyoke Community College, honestly, is my ultimate dream job."

Tremblay holds a master's degree in human resource development from American International College and a bachelor's degree in public relations from Northern Michigan University. He is also a cer-

tified life coach and recently completed training with the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination in conducting internal investigations and handling discrimination complaints.

"Rick's life mission is to create a culture of service, empowerment, leadership, and fun in the workplace," said Marlowe Washington, vice president of People, Culture, and Equity. "His new mantra in higher education is 'happy employees equal happy students.'"

## Church to hold Greek Festival

HOLYOKE – A Greek Festival will be held on Saturday, Aug. 23 at the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church Grounds from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 410 Main Street, Holyoke. Greek food, pastries music, vendors and family-friendly features. We look forward to sharing another "Greek Day in Holyoke" with you. Admission is free; Ample parking. For more information, contact Sharon at 533-9880 or email holytrinityofholyokey@gmail.com.

## Wistariahurst to feature senior artists

HOLYOKE – Wistariahurst Museum is excited to welcome senior artists into the gallery for "Creating COA Artists" this August 2025. This exhibition features artists involved in Holyoke's senior center and Council on Aging. Participating artists have anywhere from months to decades of experience, and this exhibition celebrates artists at all stages. A variety of mediums are featured in this exhibition from watercolor, to acrylic, to ceramics and textiles. This diverse selection of artwork shows both a range of experience and mediums, coming together to form a truly unique exhibit.

The Holyoke Council on Aging and Senior Center has hosted a variety of art classes, encouraging their visitors to continue or begin creating. Many members of the senior center have used these classes to embrace their passion for the visual arts. Some of the artwork on view in the exhibit at Wistariahurst has been created in these classes.

The opening reception of "Creating COA Artists" will be held Thursday, Aug. 21 from 5 to 7 p.m. Wistariahurst is an artist-friendly space that encourages creativity and supports the growth of this region's artists. Open Gallery Hours will be held on Mondays (10 a.m. to 2

p.m.) and Tuesdays (4:30 to 6:30 p.m.) through Sept. 23, which will also be free and open to the public. We hope that you stop by and explore "Creating COA Artists."

This program is funded in part by a grant from the Holyoke Local Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Visit the link below to register for the opening reception. Registration is not required, but encouraged: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/opening-reception-creating-coa-artists-tickets-1505175413179?aff=odtdtcreator>.

## Genealogy labs offered

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke History Room, located at Holyoke Public Library, is inviting the public to come research in company, and seek advice from two professional

genealogists. The history room is hosting Genealogy Labs on the fourth Wednesday of the month. The next one will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 27 from 2:30 to 5 p.m.

## Graves restoration event

HOLYOKE – The Veterans Services is honored to host a Graves Restoration Event on Saturday, Aug. 16 at the Calvary Cemetery located at 2140 Northampton Street. The event will begin at 10 a.m. Rain Date will be on August 23.

This event is to restore and preserve our deceased veterans markers so that

they are kept in a presentable form for posterity. Tools and supplies will be provided. There are no hazardous chemicals (to humans, animals or environment) used in the process of restoration. If you have any questions, please contact Wayne Klinge at [klingsw@holyokey.org](mailto:klingsw@holyokey.org) or 413-322-5630. All are welcome.

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# Velis instrumental in strengthening phone free school policy

BOSTON – Today, the Massachusetts State Senate passed legislation to limit students' access to personal electronic devices, including cell phones, during the entire school day. The final legislation was influenced by several similar policies introduced by Senators this session including a bill introduced by Senator John C. Velis. Through careful work alongside subject knowledge experts, Senate Velis received praise for his instrumental work in strengthening the final policy passed by the Senate.

The legislation, S2561 An Act To Promote Student Learning And Mental Health, would require local districts to develop policies that prohibits access and possession of personal electronic devices during school hours by the 2026-2027 school year. The legislation ensures

that districts receive support and guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and also provides exceptions for students with IEPs (Individualized Education Programs). The legislation also requires that school policies ensure that parents and students can contact one another if requested during the school day.

"We are so grateful for Senator Velis's leadership, and we commend Senator Velis, the Senate Ways and Means committee, and the hardworking staff of the Senate for making a bell-to-bell policy work for the Commonwealth's students, teachers, and families," shared Casey Mock, Senior Director of Policy for The Anxious Generation. "We look forward to Massachusetts joining 19

other states in adopting a strong statewide policy."

"The passage of this bill means that every Massachusetts public school student will get the enormous benefit of a 6-to-7-hour break, each school day, from cellphones and other personal electronic devices. This is a huge victory for students' mental health, focus, and real world connection," shared Debra Mann Schmill, President of Becca Schmill Foundation. "It is also a huge victory for teachers and school administrators. I cannot thank Senator Velis enough, first for working with the Becca Schmill Foundation on one of the 13 bills introduced this



Senator John C. Velis

session on this topic, but also for fighting so hard to make sure that the bill that did pass would be most beneficial for Massachusetts students."

"We have a serious five-alarm fire on our hands. Our kids are distracted from their education, their social development is being hindered, and they are struggling with their mental health like we've never seen before. I don't think it's a coincidence that when you look at data related to lower academic scores or increasing diagnosis of anxiety, that the trends drastically changed for the worse right around 2012 when smart phones became widely accessible," shared Senator

Velis, Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery. "When you bring up the idea of limiting a kids access to their cell phone, they are usually incredibly defensive and outraged, and in many respects, their reaction doesn't look that much different from telling someone in the throes of addic-

tion that they are being sent to rehab. The very least we can do for their well-being and to support our incredible educators is restrict the use of cellphones during school hours."

With the legislation having been passed by the Senate, it now goes to the House of Representatives for their consideration.



# HCC culinary arts instructor honored for community outreach

HOLYOKE – Chef Tracy Carter, a culinary arts instructor at Holyoke Community College, was recognized recently for community outreach by two national culinary arts organizations.

In June, Carter, a Chicopee resident and chair of the HCC culinary arts program, received the 2025 Community Outreach Award from the Auguste Escoffier School of Culinary Arts and the Center for the Advancement of Foodservice Education (CAFÉ). The national award recognizes a culinary/hospitality program or individual making a positive impact in their community via outreach programs such as food banks, recycling efforts, skill development for the disadvantaged and other services.

As culinary program chair, Carter has committed herself to building bridges between the college and community groups on wellness campaigns. This year, the HCC culinary program partnered with the Western New England University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences to develop an adaptive cooking series designed

for people with disabilities and their caregivers. The goal of the class is for participants to gain confidence in the kitchen, develop essential life skills, and foster a sense of independence and joy around food. The program is entirely hands-on, complete with accessible tools, modified recipes, and supportive instruction to meet diverse needs.

"For me, this award is a reflection of the amazing work happening every day in our kitchens at HCC," said Carter. "It means a great deal to be recognized nationally, not just as an individual, but as a representative of a program that truly values community, inclusion, and student success."

Carter says she believes food can break down barriers and bring people together.

"This program exemplifies that belief in action – merging culinary education with therapeutic outcomes to serve those who are often overlooked," she said.

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.

The award provides a \$1,000 prize and commemorative plaque. Additionally, Carter received a complimentary registration to attend CAFÉ's 2025 Leadership Conference in Pittsburgh, where the award was presented.

"This recognition reinforces that we're on the right path, and it energizes us to keep growing, innovating, and building a culinary community where everyone belongs," Carter said.

With campuses in Austin, Texas, and Boulder, Colorado, the Auguste Escoffier School of Culinary Arts is the largest culinary school brand in the United States. Based in Annapolis, Maryland, CAFÉ's mission is to link culinary educators with the foodservice industry.

# City seeks input for signage project

HOLYOKE – The City of Holyoke, its Office of Planning and Economic Development (OPED), and the city's consulting group, Stantec, are asking for the public input on the next phase of Holyoke's "Wayfinding Project."

Working with stakeholders and the Wayfinding Advisory Group, the city has produced initial concepts and design aspects that need community input.

Updating Wayfinding in the city — signage that directs residents and visits to key locations, points of interest and key assets in the city — is long

overdue, said OPED Director Aaron Vega. "Ideas for updates to our wayfinding signage seek to balance Holyoke's past with our future as a city," he said.

Posterboards highlighting some of the design aspects will be placed at six locations during the first two weeks of August: the Holyoke Senior Center, Holyoke Public Library, Holyoke YMCA, Holyoke Boys & Girls Club, City Hall and the Beyond Amour Yard Monday Night events. (See [www.exploreholyokey.com](http://www.exploreholyokey.com) for more information on Monday nights at the Amour

Yard.) Residents are asked to use the simple "sticky dot" method to indicate which ideas, designs, and designations they favor. Dots will be located with the posters at each location.

OPED secured funds through the Mass Gaming Mitigation Fund and directed the team at Stantec to develop and design Holyoke's updated wayfinding signage. Final wayfinding designs will be presented this fall and implementation will start by the Spring of 2026.

Please direct questions to Aaron Vega at [vegaa@holyokey.org](mailto:vegaa@holyokey.org).



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<p><b>Friday, August 15th</b> <b>Sean Griffin</b></p>	<p><b>Saturday, August 16th</b> <b>The Healys</b></p>	<p><b>Sunday, August 17th</b> <b>Jimmy McArdle</b></p>

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# SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor



## Why hasn't my SS benefit changed because I am still working?

Dear Rusty:

I am currently receiving Social Security benefits while continuing to work full time.

There are no restrictions on my wage earnings because I waited until full retirement age before beginning benefits. However, I was also told that my benefit amount would be reviewed each year if my current earnings were higher than past earnings.

That held true for the first two years, but has yet to be adjusted for 2025. I thought it might be because of HR 82, which does not impact me directly, but I think it may be the reason my payment has not yet been changed. Has enough time passed so I should contact SSA now to see if this is the case?

when calculating your benefit amount.

Your earnings for each year in your lifetime up to age 60 were adjusted for inflation when you originally claimed SS and your recent earnings would need to be higher than the inflation-adjusted amounts used by SS when you claimed. They use the 35 highest earnings years adjusted for inflation over your lifetime to calculate your benefit and inflation has a substantial effect. For example, \$50,000 earned in 1990 would require over \$100,000 in earnings today to cause an increase in your benefit. Thus, you cannot go by the actual dollars you earned in earlier years, because SS uses inflated amounts to calculate your benefit.

In any case, if you believe that the Social Security Administration neglected reviewing your earnings from last year or in any year since you claimed, you can make an appointment to review that with them by calling 1-800-772-1213. SSA typically does such appointments over the phone, so you likely won't need to make a personal visit to your local SSA office to investigate this.

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

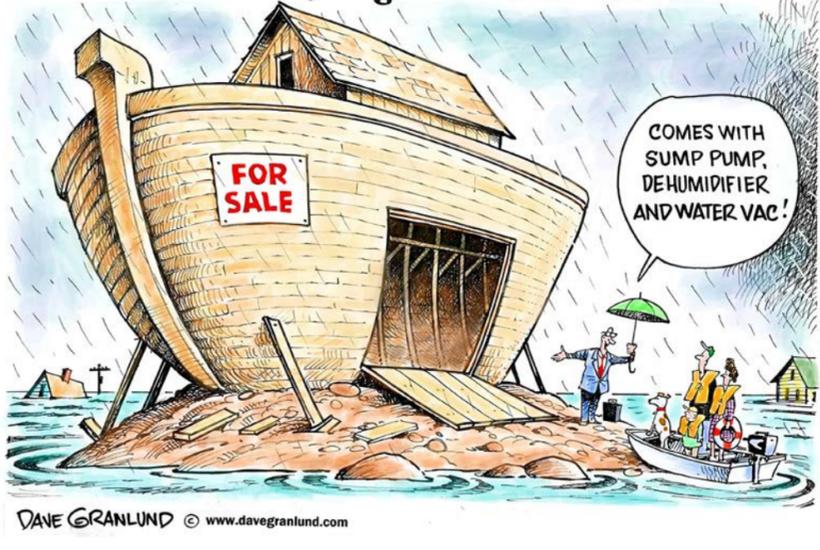
Signed:  
Waiting Anxiously

Dear Waiting:

If you are already collecting benefits, Social Security reviews your earnings each year to see if your more recent earnings are high enough to warrant an increase in your monthly benefit. They do this automatically, after they get your most recent earnings data from the IRS and they typically do that review by the end of the third quarter of each year. If a higher benefit is indicated, they will increase your monthly amount and pay you retroactively to the beginning of the year for any difference in your benefit.

SSA has, indeed, been vigorously working on changes resulting from HR82 (the Social Security Fairness Act), which may have affected the timeliness of their review of your recent earnings. However, I suspect that is not why your SS benefit has not yet changed. More likely, it has to do with the fact that your past earnings have been adjusted for inflation, which is a normal part of Social Security's process

## Alternative to buying flood insurance...



## Maintenance will keep annuals going strong

The half dead pot of petunias on the rental house's steps got me thinking about the perfect column for this time of year! After all, we invest hard earned money in annual flowers and plants, and we expect that they will provide us with color through the first frost. What steps can we take now to ensure that they will?

Read on for some useful advice, straight from the archives.

### Remove spent flowers

Most annuals will continue to bloom abundantly if they are deadheaded on a regular basis. Deadheading is an entertaining term used to define the removal of spent flowers.

A plant produces flowers for one purpose: to survive. You see, once a flower has been pollinated it will produce seed; seed that will grow future plants.

If a plant has produced enough flowers that have gone to seed it will consider its job to be done, flower production will cease, and it will begin to decline. By deadheading, we keep the

plant in reproductive mode, in other words, in flower! When you remove dying blossoms, make sure to pinch off the entire flower, not just the petals, or it will do no good. Include the stem as well to keep the plant tidy. Petunias, marigolds, zinnias and salvia, among others, are examples of plants that require regular deadheading to look their best throughout the growing season.

growth. Cut calendulas, pansies and snapdragon back to that point. Alyssum or lobelia can often be sheared to within inches of the ground. Don't worry; they won't look bad for long! You can jump start regrowth with a bit of liquid fertilizer.

Feed your plants Annuals that are well fertilized at planting time likely look a bit pale by now. If foliage is off-color and flower production is nil, pull back the bark mulch and sprinkle some organic fertilizer granules at the base of each plant. Cultivate gently and water in a little bit. You can also use a water soluble liquid fertilizer every couple of weeks. If going natural is your cup of tea, make some! Compost or manure tea has long been used to keep growth lush. Steep a burlap bag of either compost or aged manure in a large trash bucket filled with water and use as needed. Smaller batches can be made right in a watering can. Likewise, there are numerous

See GARDEN, page 5



by Roberta McQuaid



Cedar waxwing

By Ellenor Downer

My daughter, Paula and family enjoy watching a large flock of cedar waxwings by the bridge near Hardwick Pizza in Gilbertville. They also watch "tons" of bats leave the chimney of the old senior center each night at dusk. Some nights there must be about 50 of them. They fly out and then make big circles around the building while screeching. They do a great job of controlling the mosquito population.

The cedar waxwing is one of the few North American birds that specialize in eating fruit.

It can survive on fruit alone for several months. It is a silky smooth songbird with a black mask, tan head and breast, yellow belly and grayish brown under parts. The tail has a yellow band at the tip and some wing feathers have waxy red tips, hence the name waxwing.

Adults perch on high, exposed perches where they are easily seen and heard. They also have a prominent crest. During courtship males and females pass a small fruit or other item back and forth. The cedar waxwing is medium sized and sleek. Their crest often lies flat and droops over the back of the

head. Waxwings are social birds and often seen in flocks year round. They sit in fruiting trees swallowing berries whole or pluck them I mid-air with a brief fluttering hover. They also course over water for insects, "flying like slightly, clumsy swallows."

It takes the female about five to six days to build a nest. They occasionally take nesting materials from other birds nests.

### Helping birds

A reader from South Hadley suggested I include a section about ways to help birds. She even provided several tips for future columns. In hot weather and during dry periods, it is important for birds to have a clean, cool source of water. Even something as simple as putting out a bird bath and water dishes and keeping the water clean and cool during the summer heat will help birds.

Many people don't realize that birds get dehydrated and the bird baths help them keep cool but equally important, maintain the health of their feathers. A bird bath doesn't have to be fancy, even an old ceramic serving dish would work as long as the water isn't too deep. One reader, who sends emails

quite frequently has a more elaborate system with a dripping water.

### South Hadley birds

A South Hadley resident emailed she hears an owl in her neighborhood, but has never seen it. She reported seeing red tailed hawks and turkey vultures. When she sees road kill, she moves it to a safe spot away from traffic so that vultures don't get hit by cars.

### Great blue heron at MacDonalds

Saturday night my daughter, Paula, took the girls to the McDonald's in Ware just as it was getting dark. A great blue heron flew into the parking lot from the river across the street and tried to unsuccessfully land on top of a lamp post. When it couldn't, it flew just a few feet over their heads into the swamp in the back of the parking lot.

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

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Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

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



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# The Terrifying Tripyramid Slide



By Julie Midura  
Guest Columnist

When you're attempting to hike EVERY trail in all six of the Federally Designated Wilderness areas in the White Mountains, you can't just skip a trail just because it takes you out of your comfort zone.

At 1,200 vertical feet in just half a mile, North Tripyramid Slide is known as one of the steepest trails in New England and is also on the NH Terrifying 25 hiking list. The granite slide requires hand-over-hand climbing using 3 points of contact on steep, exposed rock slabs and is not recommended for the descent.

There are actually three potential routes up the slide; left, middle, and right.

The far left route is not the actual slide, but appears to be very popular based on how well-worn the steep dirt path has become over the years. I'm guessing that anyone with an ounce of self-preservation and a strong

desire to hug trees chooses this route.

The far right route is clearly the least used-covered in slick moss, with no trees to grab onto and providing little in the way of traction. I would say this is the route you take when your brain hasn't fully developed yet. Which, 'scientifically' speaking, is anyone under the age of 28.

And the space in between the left and the right? Well, that's the route for those who want to experience the thrill of rock scrambling without the benefit of rope, while still feeling like Spider-Man on the way up.

When Tom and I reached the base of the slide, I told him I wanted to take the dirt path on the left. My 68-year-old husband replied, "I came here to climb a rockslide, so I'm going to stay to the right."

Now, at 60 years old, I fall somewhere in between the age at which brain cells become fully developed and the age at which they start to decline, so I was completely against taking the moss-covered route on the right. I suggested we compromise and stay on the middle section, which is still part of the slide, but with far less moss, meaning far less chance of plunging to our death. However, Tom—who is usually the more rational one—was intent on taking the hardest route to the top. Unwilling to stray from my safety net, I reluctantly followed behind.

Until, that is, my feet began slipping on the wet moss, at which point, I found a small crevice in the granite



and slowly worked my way left until I was on the middle section. Tom, however, remained undeterred, and continued up the mountain a couple dozen feet to the right of me.

Although I was relieved to be on dry rock, the middle part of the slope was no less steep. I managed to scramble upward on all fours for about 25 feet, until the angle of the slope became so perilously steep that it was impossible to continue upward. I scanned the smooth granite

to the left and right of me, looking for something, anything, to grab onto. I saw nothing. With my toes balancing on a mere half-inch lip in the rock, I didn't have enough momentum to hurl myself upwards. And there was no possibility of down-climbing. I clung to the rock, unable to move in any direction, paralyzed with fear.

The sound of my racing heart assaulted my ears and my arms began shaking. My entire body became

drenched in perspiration. Sweat dripped down my face, stinging my eyes, but I dared not pull one hand away from the rock to wipe it away. All rational thought evaporated and panic surged within me with every ragged breath.

Tom attempted to encourage me from his own precarious position. "There's a slight projection on your left," he said. "Trust your trail runners. You got this!"

It was fight or flight, and there was no way to flee. I extended my left hand as far as I could to feel for the slight protrusion Tom was referring to. Once my fingers found it, I took a deep breath, then used every ounce of strength I had in my quaking arms to haul myself up onto a slight depression in the rock above me. I grabbed onto the trunk of a nearby shrub and clung to it in a death-grip while waiting for my heart rate to settle back into a normal rhythm.

Tom, in the meantime, was facing his own set of challenges just twenty feet to my right. He was unable to move upward himself due to how steep the slide had become. However, unlike me, he has no fear of steep,

open rock slabs. He felt the rock below his hands until he found a small split and used the very tips of his fingers to work his way over to me.

Thankfully, the trail soon turned from large, open slabs to loose boulders and gravel. No less physically challenging, but somewhat less mentally demanding. I find that taking a step upward and feeling the mountain slide down below my feet is far less terrifying than scrambling on all fours on a smooth slab of granite.

When we finally reached the top of the slide, Tom and I heaved a sigh of relief. I was filled with jubilation, not only for having completed EVERY trail in the Sandwich Wilderness, but also for making it up the single most terrifying trail we had ever attempted. I did not feel brave, rather, empowered.

I had not overcome my fears, rather I had charged into them with shaking arms and quaking legs. In doing so, I learned that sometimes the fear does not go away, so you just need to do it afraid. And perhaps, just perhaps, that is where courage begins.

See you in the wild places, my friends.

**"Summertime And The Livin' Is Easy"**  
THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO THE  
**Annual Hibernian Traditional Summer Picnic**  
Sunday, August 24, 1pm-5pm *Rain or Shine*  
Hamel's Summit View Pavilion  
555 Northampton Street, Holyoke  
**Featuring The Healy's**  
Hamburgers hot dogs tossed salad potato salad dessert  
Coffee cash bar kids games raffle dancing  
Tickets are \$30 per person for adults & kids 16 & over • kids 10-15=\$15  
For reservations, Call by August 19th  
Call Fran Hennessey @ 413-785-5687 or Joe O'Connor @ 413-627-7148  
Presentation of the Maurice A. Donahue Memorial Scholarship  
Sponsored by the Hibernians of Hamden/Hampshire Counties  
AOH-holyoke.com

## GARDEN, from page 4

blends of seaweed and fish emulsion on the market that can be watered in or used as a foliar feed.

### Water, water, water

Be careful not to let your plants dry out. When you need to water the garden, remember to do so in the early morning, if possible, to avoid evaporation. Early eve-

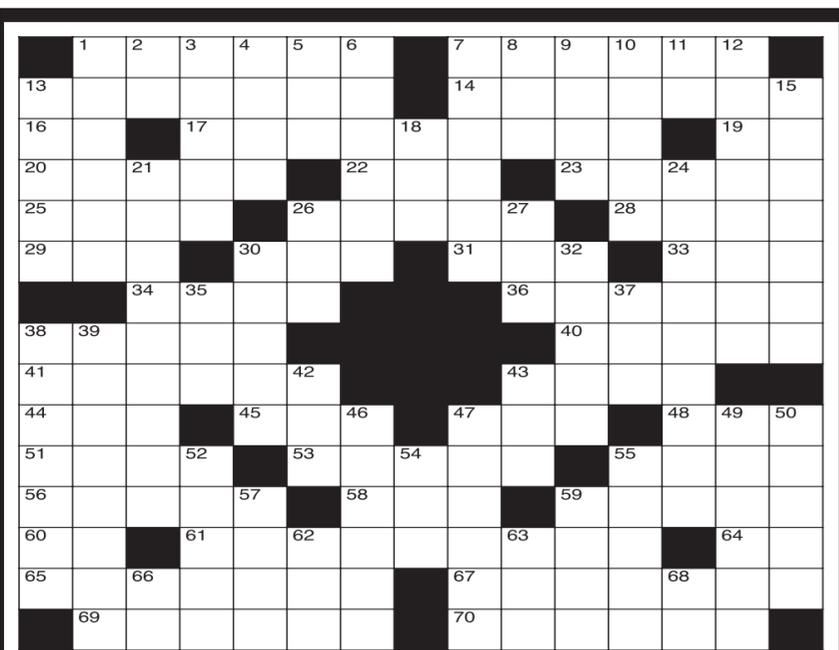
ning is another good option, but try to get the job done with enough time for the foliage to dry before darkness sets in.

Deep waterings twice a week are far better than numerous quick showers. The former will promote deep, penetrating roots and future drought tolerance.

Well-watered, well-fed and well-groomed annuals will reward you with beautiful bountiful blossoms for

another two months – well worth the effort indeed!

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 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.*



### CLUES ACROSS

1. Spiritual leaders
7. Salt
13. Fortified wine
14. Edible mollusk
16. They precede C
17. A way to compare
19. State lawyer
20. "Game of Thrones" actor Ciaran
22. Eighth month (abbr.)
23. Very willing
25. \_\_\_ ex machina
26. Satisfies
28. Mountain in New Zealand
29. A doctrine
30. Popular Dodge truck model
31. Dekagram
33. Naturally occurring solid
34. Company officer
36. Villains
38. Cricket frogs
40. One of the founders of

### CLUES DOWN

41. Endured
43. A female domestic
44. You can get stuck in one
45. Partner to feather
47. Passive optical network
48. French ballet dynasty
51. Employee stock ownership plan
53. Bottom layer
55. Sound
56. Yankee great Judge
58. Dickens character
59. Late beloved TNT sportscaster
60. South Dakota
61. Exposing human vice or folly to ridicule
64. Gold
65. Longtime Braves hurler Julio
67. Humor
69. Shawl
70. Hospital unit

### CLUES DOWN

1. Animal disease
2. Commercial
3. Necklace materials
4. Containers
5. Investment account
6. Colorado Heisman Trophy winner
7. Dipped down
8. Head injury category (abbr.)
9. Lay about
10. Intestinal
11. Not yes
12. Caused to be loved
13. Muslim spiritual leader
15. Showing sincere conviction
18. Not in a fraction
21. Number above the line in
24. Lawn pest
26. Pouch
27. Ancient language in India (abbr.)

30. Start over
32. Wild white flower
35. Fourteen
37. Visual way to interact with computer (abbr.)
38. Side by side and facing the same way
39. Religious conflicts
42. Touch lightly
43. "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
46. Violent seizure of property
47. One who supports the pope
49. Malaise
50. Body fluid
52. Inauthentic person
54. Title of respect
55. Chilean city
57. Japanese city
59. Silk garment
62. Draw from
63. Automobile
66. The man
68. Top government lawyer

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 8

### Blessed Sacrament Parish

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

### First Baptist Church

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

### Our Lady of the Cross Catholic Parish

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

## CHURCH DIRECTORY



# Your Community Church

### St. Peter's Lutheran Church

Rev. Debora Stein  
34 Jarvis Ave., Holyoke  
Office: (413) 536-3369  
Office: stpetershollyoke@gmail.com  
Pastor: revdebma@gmail.com  
Website: www.stpetershollyoke.org  
Social media: facebook.com/stpetershollyoke  
OFFICE HOURS:  
Monday - Wednesday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.,  
Thursday 2 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. (Call first)  
WORSHIP:  
Sundays at 9:30 a.m. (also on Facebook Live) & Thursdays at 7 p.m.  
Other: Prayers with Pastor - Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. - on Facebook Live.

### St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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

## Chakra dance sessions offered on Aug. 18

WESTFIELD – Join us Aug. 18 on the Stanley Park Acre Lawn next to the Pavilion Annex from 6 to 7 p.m. for two Chakra Dance sessions led by Harlene Simmons from All Natural Reiki.

Chakra dance is rhythm for your soul, a movement-based practice that combines dance, music, and visualization to balance and activate the body's seven energy centers, or chakras. This dance is to balance your Chakras (energy centers) and discover a deep-

ened connection to your true self and feeling of coming home.

Music for your Base Chakra : vibrational, connecting your body to earth

Music for your Sacral Chakra: sensual, connecting to your inner goddess or god

Music for your Solar Plexus Chakra : fiery & dynamic, strong defined movement.

Music for your Heart Chakra: uplifting, joyful softening of your heart.

Music for your Throat Chakra: more ethere-

al, chanting as you dance, expressing your inner truth.

Music for your Third Eye Chakra: High vibrations, opens up to intuitive guidance through dance.

Music for your Crown Chakra: opening to a feeling of oneness, connected to the divine.

Dress comfortably, easy, flowing clothes are recommended.

Donations to the Park of \$5 per person, per class, is suggested.

For more information on Chakra Dance classes

and all other Stanley Park events, check online at: [www.stanleypark.org](http://www.stanleypark.org).



## Free youth kayaking

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Rows is pleased to announce another great lineup of free summer programming to help our community get out and explore on the Connecticut River. From free all ages kayaking days to a free learn to row week for Holyoke, Chicopee and Springfield middle and high school students, there are endless options to enjoy the outdoors from our boathouse at Holyoke Rows, 25 Jones Ferry Rd, in Holyoke.

Holyoke Rows is pleased to announce Free

Summer Nights for Youth and Families that will take place Mondays/Wednesdays July 7 to Aug. 20 5:30 to 8 p.m. Children, youth, and families are invited to come down to the boathouse for free kayaking, fishing, and more. No registration needed, all equipment & instruction provided. Enjoy the outdoors from our boathouse at Holyoke Rows, 25 Jones Ferry Rd, in Holyoke. This program is offered as part of the Massachusetts DCR Summer Nights grant program.

## Friends of public library holding golf tournament

CHICOPEE – Get ready to tee off at our Annual Golf Tournament!

Join us for a day of food, fun and friendly competition on the greens. Get your foursome together and register early for discounts.

The tournament takes place on Sunday, Sept. 28, at the Chicopee Country Club with a 12:30 p.m.

shotgun start.

Registration is \$140 and includes golf, cart, swag bag, lunch and dinner

For an early registration discount of \$130, register by Aug. 15

To learn more, call 413-594-1800 X116, email [friendsofpl@hotmail.com](mailto:friendsofpl@hotmail.com) or visit <https://friends-of-the-chicopee-public-library.square.site/>.

## Stanley Park announces annual fundraiser

AGAWAM – Stanley Park is pleased to invite the community to its Annual Fundraiser on Saturday, Sept. 13 at 5 p.m. in the Beveridge Pavilion. This cherished event helps sustain the Park's natural beauty, facilities, and free public programs.

The evening will feature hors d'oeuvres, a buffet dinner, dessert, a cash bar, and show-stopping entertainment from Howl2Go Dueling Pianos—a high-energy,

interactive, request-driven musical experience where two pianists battle it out with your favorite songs and a healthy dose of humor.

Returning this year is an exciting online auction with an added raffle, filled with must-have prizes you won't want to miss out on, including an hour-long scenic plane ride for three, a week-long Cape Cod vacation, gift certificates to your favorite local businesses, museum passes, and much more.

Follow Stanley Park on Facebook for exclusive previews of auction and raffle items leading up to the event.

Seats are limited, so don't wait—reserve yours now at <https://auctria.events/ivorykeysandmelodies> and enjoy a memorable night while making a lasting difference for Stanley Park.

Please call the Development Office at 413-568-9312 x108 or email [development@stanleypark.org](mailto:development@stanleypark.org) with any questions.

## Commerce holding 50th Class Reunion

SPRINGFIELD – The High School of Commerce Class of 75 is holding their 50th class reunion.

It will take place at the Storowton Tavern, West Springfield, MA, on Saturday August 30, 2025 at 6 p.m.

Contact Janet at [jan0826@comcast.net](mailto:jan0826@comcast.net) to learn more.

### UNION, from page 1

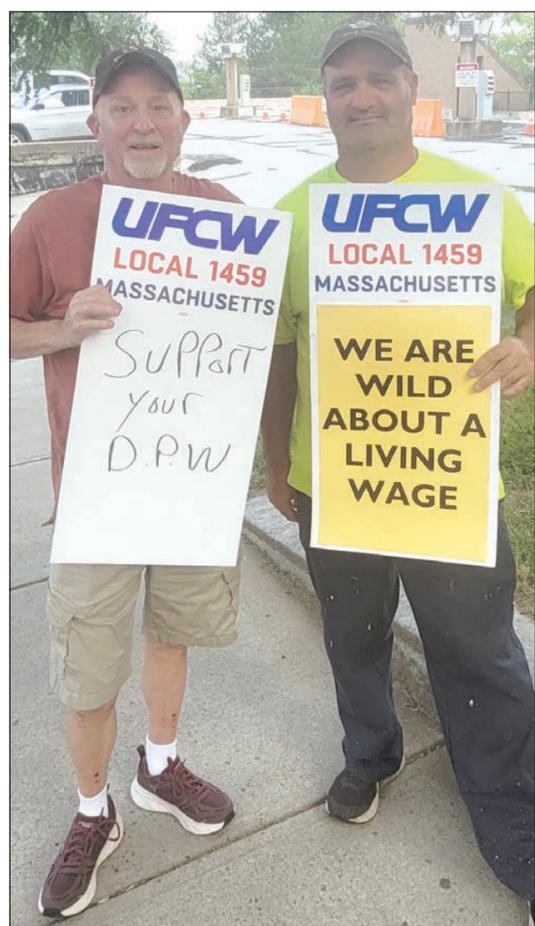
row. We'll keep all updated. In the meantime, please put out your trash and recycling as scheduled. We apologize for this inconvenience." And then responded on Wednesday by still citing that staffing issues remain a tough obstacle, but 'progress is being made'.

Adams noted that the public's reaction was one of continued support while confessing that one city councilor, who wasn't named, offered support as well.

In response to the informational picket, Holyoke Mayor Joshua A. Garcia penned a statement to provide a voice and update from the City Council on where negotiations stand.

"I want to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our Department of Public Works employees. They are vital to keeping Holyoke safe, clean, and functioning smoothly. I understand their concerns and respect their right to advocate for fair wages and working conditions.

As always, I am committed to working toward a fair and equitable contract that recognizes their contributions while also being mindful of our city's financial responsibilities. For years, I've supported fair contracts for all union workers, and I will continue to do so — balancing



Submitted photos

FCW workers protest outside the Aug. 5 Holyoke City Council.

the needs of our employees with the realities of our budget and the taxpayers we serve.

Our administration is actively engaged in discussions with union representatives to reach an agreement that is fair, sus-

tainable, and respectful of everyone involved. I believe we can find common ground that supports our workers and protects the interests of our residents. I appreciate their patience and dedication as we work through this process."

### JAIL, from page 1

injured," Gulluni said.

The incident caused a panic at the mall when the incident happened, with many people fleeing the mall when the gunshots were heard. No one else was injured but the suspect in the incident.

In the days following the incident, James Soos, a spokesperson of Pyramid Management, which owns the mall, issued a statement on behalf of the mall:

"The safety and well-being of our guests, tenants, and employees remain our highest priority at Holyoke Mall. We are committed to providing a secure and welcoming environment, and we continue to take proactive steps to strengthen safety protocols throughout the property. In close collaboration with local law enforcement agencies, these measures are continually reviewed and enhanced to meet evolving safety needs, including our Parental Escort Policy, which has been in

place for several years. In addition, Holyoke Mall regularly conducts emergency preparedness drills, training sessions, and risk assessments to ensure our team is equipped to respond swiftly and effectively in any situation. We also encourage guests to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity to mall security or local authorities. We remain steadfast in our efforts to foster a safe, family-friendly environment for all who visit, work, and shop at Holyoke Mall."

### MAYOR, from page 1

install one of Massachusetts' largest utility batteries (6 MWh) to handle peak demand. Affordable clean energy attracted MIT-backed ventures like Massachusetts Green High Performance Computing Center and Sublime Systems to Holyoke. Clean energy investment has improved Holyoke's quality of life and kept energy costs low.

In a letter to the Mayor, NREC Executive Director Kristin Rode praised Holyoke's progress and Mayor Garcia's community-centered approach:

"Your dedication to your community and the innovative solutions you're implementing make you a natural fit for recognition during Massachusetts Clean Energy Week. Your leadership in Holyoke has caught our attention as truly excep-

tional. We understand that Western Massachusetts is often left out of the spotlight when it comes to statewide recognition, and we want to change that narrative. From what we have learned about your innovative approaches to municipal leadership and community development, you represent exactly the kind of community centered leadership that deserves to be celebrated and shared with mayors across the Commonwealth."

Mayor Garcia has also negotiated upgrades critical to Holyoke's wastewater treatment system, replacing outdated infrastructure with energy-efficient, environmentally sound technology. One of these is separating the existing combined sewer flows within Holyoke's River Terrace area. By leveraging clean energy savings and working closely with state and federal agencies, his administration secured

funding to reduce long-term operating costs and improve water quality. These improvements not only align with Holyoke's sustainability goals but also position the city as a model for green municipal operations across Massachusetts.

"I appreciate Kristin's kind thoughts about our work to 'change the narrative'. That is exactly my greatest hope, every day for Holyoke, for all our people — to change past perceptions and narratives. This industrial city is again being known as a place of so many possibilities," said Garcia.

The Northeast Renewable Energy Coalition will visit Holyoke in early August to tour the City and learn more about these projects and initiatives.

"This nomination is an unequivocal testament to every Holyoke resident's shared commitment to a stronger future," Garcia said.



Playground improvements have been made using CPA funds.



CPA money has also been used for the redesign at Jones Point Park.

Submitted photos

### CPA, from page 1

coming to the YMCA. And that's just a few of the total xx projects funded so far as part of the CPA program.

To learn more about these and other funded projects, visit: [holyokeycpa.org](http://holyokeycpa.org)

Since its adoption, Holyoke's CPA has delivered over \$4.5 million dollars in community improvements at a modest cost to residents. In 2024 the average CPA surcharge for a single-family home was \$48, while the city received a match of over \$100,000 from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The CPAC is composed of representatives from the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, Housing Authority, and Historical Commission, along with appointed community members.

# SPORTS

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## Rivalry renewed as PeoplesBank takes title over St. Joe's

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

HOLYOKE – The Tri-County Baseball League will be celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2029.

PeoplesBank, who has been the best team in the league during the past thirty years, swept St. Joseph's in this year's best of three championship series.

"Feels great to win another championship. It's our goal every summer," said PeoplesBank player/manager Joe Ferry. "We just enjoy playing baseball with each other. Our chemistry is a key to our success. I can't thank the players enough."

Ferry, who started both games against St. Joe's in left field, was aided by assistant coach Rey Rivera, who had three base hits and an RBI in game two.

PeoplesBank has captured the championship title in each of the past twelve seasons and a total of twenty times since 1995.

PeoplesBank and St. Joseph's both finished the 2025 regular season with ten victories.

"Our season was a success and great bonds were created," said St. Joe's player/manager Brian Hayes. "We had a team composed of mostly college players this year."

PeoplesBank, who was the top-seeded team, advanced into the finals after sweeping fourth-seeded Teddy Bear Pools & Spas in the semifinals.

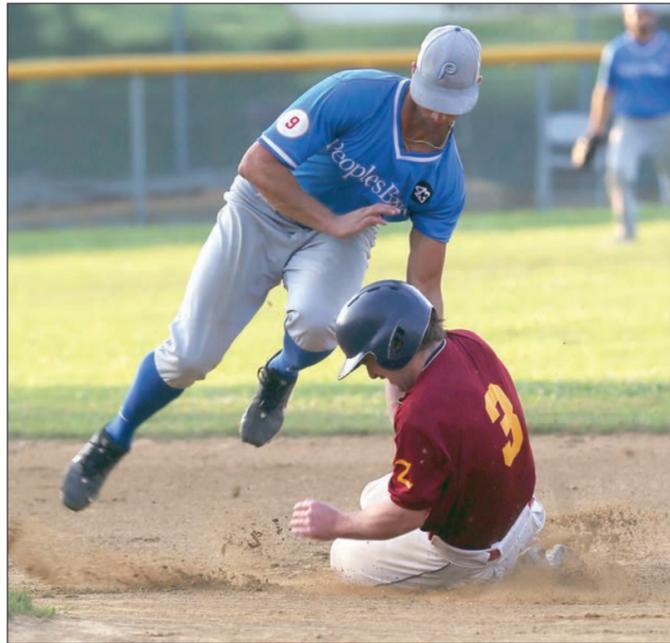
Second-seeded St. Joseph's needed three games to eliminate third-seeded bankESB in the semifinal round.

The Bankers scored seven runs on seven base hits in the bottom of the first inning enroute to a 10-0 victory in game one of the championship series last Monday night. The contest ended after 4 1/2 innings due to the ten run mercy rule.

It was also PeoplesBank last game of the season at Mackenzie Stadium in Holyoke.

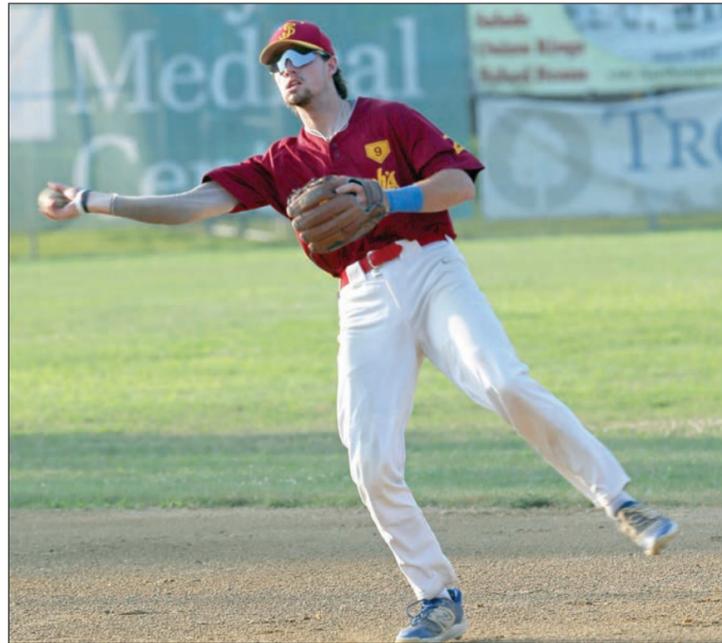
"We just love playing games on this field," said Ferry following game one. "We played very well in tonight's, but as Kobe Bryant, who was my favorite athlete growing up once said, 'the jobs not finished'."

PeoplesBank finished the job twenty four hours later with a 10-7 win in an



Dave Clark gets the out at second.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Nate Carrill makes an off-balance play.

old fashion slugfest at St. Joe's Field in Thorndike.

The winning pitcher in game one was lefthander James Flahive, who's side-armed. He allowed only two base hits and issued two walks in his final start of the 2025 campaign.

"Jimmy has been the best pitcher in the league during the past four or five years," Ferry said. "I don't ever recall him losing a game since he put on a Peoplesbank jersey."

St. Joe's shortstop Devin Slattery, who was an outstanding three-sport athlete at Ware High School, drew a walk with one-out in the top of the first inning. After the next batter flied out to right, Slattery was thrown out trying to steal second base by catcher Pete Hogan.

Centerfielder Seth Allen hit a ground ball up the middle into centerfield for a single leading off the bottom of the first inning against St. Joe's righthander Jack Feltovic.

Then Hogan walked before second baseman Dave Clark launched a 3-run homer that landed beneath the giant scoreboard in left field.

Following back-to-back singles by first baseman Kyle Platner and right fielder Cam Rivest, DH Johnny Gegetskas delivered an RBI single to left giving the home team a 4-0 advantage.

Another run crossed the plate following a sacrifice fly to left by shortstop



Sam Allen swings for PeoplesBank.



James Flahive delivers a pitch home in the championship series.



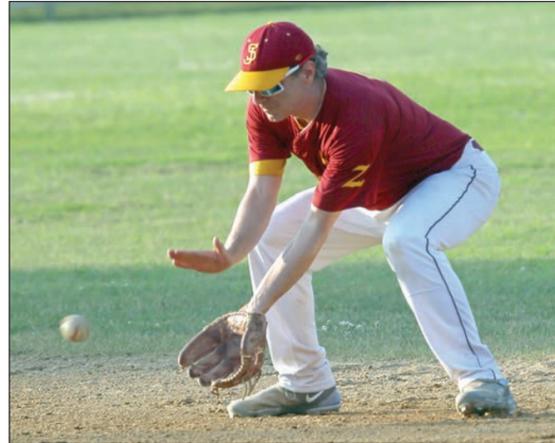
Brandon Magni makes a play for St. Joe's.

Sam Allen.

After catching the ball, St. Joe's left fielder Jacob Petrin threw the ball to third baseman Brandon Magni, who tagged out the runner

who was trying to advance to third base on the play.

Shortstop Seth Allen, who's Sam's twin brother, capped off the opening frame by hitting a two run double



Greg Vouros fields a grounder to second.

off the left field fence.

"We kept passing the bat and put a lot of pressure on them in the first inning," Ferry said. "We had some hard hits and a couple of

walks in that inning. We also batted around in the first inning of last year's finals. I capped the inning off with a

See RIVALRY, page 8

## Central takes silver, West bronze in field hockey Bay State Games

FITCHBURG – Utilizing the turf fields at Game On Sports Complex, the Bay State Games for field hockey were held, featuring teams from Western and Central Massachusetts, both of which have had great success in the sport in past Bay State Games competitions. The games, which were held the weekend of July 11 to 13, started off with a strong 3-0 victory from Central over the Metro/Northeast team.

Western Mass. got into the action right after, taking on a Central team that has just played a few hours earlier. But Central was equal to the task and scored a 4-2 win

over West.

West then had its second game of the day, facing off with the Coastal team, and rebounding with a 4-3 win.

On Saturday, July 12, West fell for a second time 4-1 against the Southeast team while Central also suffered a loss, falling 5-2 against Southeast.

Both teams would rebound with wins later in the day. Central beat Coastal 5-3 while West shut out Metro/Northeast with a 4-0 decision. That put the West team in the bronze medal game on Sunday, July 13.

West would defeat Coastal in a rematch of their second game of the tourna-

ment, winning 3-2. Central made the gold medal game, but suffered a 2-0 shutout against the Southeast team.

This year, representing Central Mass. in the games were Quabbin High School's Makenzie Casey and Tantasqua's Sophia Bochiechio.

Tantasqua's Dessa Demears played for the Western Mass. team, while Anna Taylor and Kendall Placzek represented Minnechaug Regional.

Agawam High School placed four players on the team. Alyssa DaSilva, Finnola Mahoney, Olivia Govoni, and Lily Charest represented the Brownies.

## Patnode, Brousseau take modified wins

WINCHESTER, N.H. - Todd Patnode and Andrew Brousseau each won a Modified feature on the high banks of Monadnock Speedway Saturday, July 26, the potent pair each roaring to victory on New England's fastest quarter-mile oval.

Andrea St. Amour was awarded the Pure Stocks win after a post-race inspection penalized Kyle Begos, and Erik Smith was victorious in the Super Street main event.

Young Gun Hunter Duquette continued his summer of success, scoring his fourth 2025 feature win. And while top 604 Modified point man Brian Robie came up short of winning for the fifth time this season, he still had a strong night all the same.

Todd Patnode and Brian Chapin led the Allstates Materials Group 604 Modifieds to the green in round one of the open-wheeled rocket ships twin 35-lap main events. Patnode jumped all over the opening lead, bringing teen blaster Ty Leclerc – launching from row two – with him.

The Swanzey competitor, a past speedway champion and winner of volumes of both Modified and Pro Stock main events here, would be sorely tested but would never bend en route to ending a two-season personal drought on the high banks.

Robie, charging from row four, got up for second on lap 13, yielded it back to rookie phenom Ty Leclerc on lap 20, and the battle

was on, as Leclerc, Robie, and Chapin fought tooth-and-nail for the number two spot. Leclerc prevailed for a career-best runner-up finish, and Robie nudged past Chapin to steal third on the final lap.

In the nightcap 35, Brousseau started up front and never looked back. The second-generation hot shoe survived several strong restart bids by Colton Martin to stay on top as he blasted to his second win of the summer.

In a post-race inspection, 604 Modified competitor Brian Chapin was disqualified from both features as result of not complying to the engine rules of having a

See WINS, page 8

# Pirates indoor football season comes to the end

LOWELL – Pirates quarterback Taulia Tagovailoa made the first start of his Indoor Football League career. The Bay Area Panthers, the best team in the league, proved to be a little too much for the former Maryland Terrapin and the rest of the Pirates as Bay Area defeated Massachusetts 45-30 at the Tsongas Center. The Panthers secured home-field advantage throughout the upcoming playoffs, finishing the year with a 13-3 record. The Pirates ended the 2025 campaign with a mark of 7-9.

The Panthers wasted little time showing Tagovailoa the ropes as defensive back Joe Foucha intercepted his first throw on the second play of the game. On the next play, Bay Area quarterback Josh Jones threw a 31-yard touchdown pass to Tyrese

Chambers for a 7-0 lead. The rookie's indoctrination continued as the next drive ended the same way. After a 13-yard run by Tagovailoa to set up a first and ten at the Panthers' 13-yard line, his second pass of the night, intended for Dontay Demus, was picked off again by Foucha. For Foucha, it was his seventh interception of the season. Panthers backup quarterback Liam Thompson then came on to lead Bay Area on a seven-play, 40-yard drive that ended with Trey Goodman taking a pitchout and scoring on a two-yard run for a 14-0 lead with 5:13 to play in the first quarter.

The Pirates then picked up the pace as Pooka Williams Jr. returned the ensuing kickoff 46 yards to the three-yard line. On the next play, the top run-

ning back in the IFL scored his 11th rushing touchdown of the season to put the Pirates down by seven. The Massachusetts defense then stepped up, as on the next possession, defensive lineman Michael Mason pressured Thompson in his own end zone. Mason was held on the play as Thompson was called for intentional grounding. The result of the play was a safety, making the score 14 to 9 as the first quarter ended.

With the ball to start the second quarter, Massachusetts attempted a 46-yard field goal that was missed by Josh Gable. Thompson and the Panthers seized the opportunity as the quarterback scored on a nine-yard run for a 21-9 advantage.

The Bay Area defense then made a statement, as after an 18-yard run by

Tagovailoa to set up first and goal at the seven, they pushed the Pirates back to the 24. The Pirates attempted a 39-yard field goal, but the snap never got back to the holder. After the turnover on downs, the Panthers need four plays to go 24 yards for a score. Thompson connected with Chambers for his second touchdown reception of the game with a ten-yard pass for a 28-9 advantage.

The Bay Area defense then made a statement, as after an 18-yard run by Tagovailoa to set up first and goal at the seven, they pushed the Pirates back to the 24. The Pirates attempted a 39-yard field goal, but the snap never got back to the holder. After the turnover on downs, the Panthers need four plays to go 24 yards for a score. Thompson connected

with Chambers for his second touchdown reception of the game with a ten-yard pass for a 28-9 advantage.

Tagovailoa then engineered a seven-play, 18-yard drive for a score that was highlighted by a leaping catch by Steven McBride as he vaulted into the stands for a nine-yard reception. Then, on fourth and goal from the one, the rookie quarterback recorded his first IFL touchdown pass as Teo Redding's catch made the score 28-15 at halftime.

The teams exchanged touchdowns in the third quarter as Thompson completed a six-play, 44-yard march to the goal line with a five-yard run for his second score of the game that pushed the score to 34-15. Tagovailoa answered with a six-yard scoring run for his first career rushing touch-

down as the Pirates trailed 34-22.

After a missed field goal from 34 yards by the Panthers' Axel Perez, the Bay Area defense pressured Tagovailoa. On a third and 11, Jonathan Ross rushed the passer and was held in the end zone, which resulted in the second safety of the game. The third quarter ended 36-22 with Bay Area on top.

In the final quarter, Thompson scored his third rushing touchdown of the night on a three-yard run, and Perez added the point after and a "Deuce", giving the Panthers a 45-22 lead. Tagovailoa added his second rushing touchdown of the night on a nifty 19-yard run for the game's final points. His two-point conversion pass to Demus made the score 45-30.

## RIVALRY, from page 7

bases loaded triple in that game."

St. Joe's DH Pat Fitzgibbons drew a walk leading off the second inning, but he was thrown out trying to steal by Hogan.

PeoplesBank scored three more runs in the third inning.

Clark, who was hit-by-a-pitch in the second inning, knocked home the first run of the frame with a double to left. Platner followed with a two-run double to right.

Trailing, 10-0, St. Joe's

began the fourth inning with a line-drive single by Petrin, who was thrown out trying to steal second base. Slattery also singled, but the next batter grounded into a 6-4-3 inning ending double play.

St. Joe's standard two runs on base in the top of the fifth, as PeoplesBank took a 1-0 lead in the series.

The Bankers jumped out a 7-0 lead in game two before St. Joe's battled with five runs in the bottom of the fourth inning.

Center fielder Aaron Little knocked home two runs with a double

and right fielder Colby Harrington contributed with an RBI single. The other two runs crossed the plate following errors.

The Bankers, who were led offensively by third baseman Cam MacDonald with two hits and two RBIs, responded with three runs in the sixth inning giving the visitors a 10-5 advantage.

St. Joe's scored two more runs in the bottom of the sixth inning.

Danny Gaines was the winning pitcher in game two, which capped off another memorable season for PeoplesBank.

## WINS, from page 7

sealed engine.

Erik Smith had raced to many near misses in Twin State Truck Services Super Street features this summer but had never quite sealed the deal. Saturday, he put all that behind him, as the Green Mountain State hat shoe roared to victory.

Smith's win didn't come easily though. Had he extended his arm out the window, he could have high-fived points leader Dylan Zullo almost all the way, as the high-flying Claremont speedster rode in his shadow from start to finish.

With JD Stockwell finishing at Zullo's bumper in third, Zullo finished the night still a handful of points atop the leader board. Zach Zalinski and Hillary Renaud were close behind in Saturday's nose-to-tail top five finish.

In the Pure Stocks, Kyle Begos led the field from the green to the checkers. Defending track Pure Stock champ Andrea St. Amour trailed Begos and ended in second on the night with Markus O'Neil in third. In a post-race inspection, Begos was penalized to ninth place finish for a camber rule violation.

Hunter Duquette wired

the Doug's Auto Body Young Gun feature to earn his fourth victory lap of the season. Heat race winner Ella Grabowski was second, and Sofia Rego, aboard a loner ride, came home third.

In Senior Tour Auto Racers support card events, Chris Jarrett, aboard his 1970 Pinto open-wheeled entry, topped the STAR Sportsmen, with Ken Archambault second and Skip Stearns third. Windham, Maine's Alan Zemla was victorious in the STAR Modifieds, leading a trio of vintage coupe racers under the checkers, just ahead of Dennis Desautels and Skip Swiantek.

## Public Notices

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Hampden Probate and Family Court**  
**50 State Street**  
**Springfield, MA 01103**  
**(413)748-7758**  
**Docket No.**  
**HD24P2605EA**  
**Estate of:**  
**Jorge Ramon Diaz**  
**Also known as:**  
**Jorge R Diaz**  
**Date of Death: 09/23/2024**  
**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 Myriam Diaz 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: **Myriam Diaz 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 08/27/2025. 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 29, 2025, 2025

**Rosemary A Saccomani**, Register of Probate  
 08/08/2025

### CITY OF HOLYOKE PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Holyoke Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, August 26, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.com ID: 836 3939 8493; Call in \*67 646 558 8656 to hear a Special Permit to exceed fence height (Sec**

4.6.3.2) for Florence Bank submitted by Holyoke Retail, LLC located at 1504 Northampton Street. (105-00-012, -013, -059) (2025-24)

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

APPLICANT: Holyoke Retail, LLC  
 PLANNING BOARD: Mimi Panitch, Chairperson  
 08/08, 08/15/2025

### Invitation to Bidders IFB 2026-006 HPS

The Holyoke Public Schools is looking to replace the existing Hi-Bay400-watt Metal Halide lamps with LED Corn Cob bulbs at Dean Technical High School. The work will take place in the following shop locations by bypassing the ballast, rewiring in place a wire mogul base lamp holder to the line voltage conductors and replacing the existing Hi-Bay 400-watt Metal Halide lamps with LED corn cob bulbs. The contractor is to supply all labor and material including lifts and permits. Plans are available starting on 8/6/2025 electronically by requesting from [morrowj@holyoke.org](mailto:morrowj@holyoke.org) or in person at no charge from the purchasing office. Bids will be received until **8/22/25 at 2PM** at which time they will be opened and publically read. The City of Holyoke follows all applicable Public Purchasing laws including but not limited to MGL 30B, CH 149, CFR 200, etc. Prevailing wages must be paid and a copy of the prevailing wage rates will be a part of this bid. No late

or electronic submissions will be accepted. The city reserves the right to reject any and all bids if in the city's best interest.  
 08/08/2025

**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.**  
**HD25P1494EA**  
**Estate of:**  
**David F. O'Sullivan**  
**Also known as:**  
**David Francis O'Sullivan**  
**Date of Death: 06/19/2025**  
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:  
 A Petition for S/A - Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by **Meghan O'Sullivan of Carlisle, 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: **Meghan O'Sullivan of Carlisle, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
 Date: August 04, 2025

**Rosemary A Saccomani**, Register of Probate  
 08/08/2025

### 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.**  
**HD25C0234CA**  
**In the matter of:**  
**Ciria Lopez Perez**  
**CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME**

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Ciria Lopez Perez of Holyoke, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: **Siria Lopez Perez**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
 Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance

**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 08/25/2025. 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: August 04, 2025

**Rosemary A Saccomani**, Register of Probate  
 08/08/2025

**at: Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 08/18/2025.**

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 21, 2025

**Rosemary A Saccomani**, Register of Probate  
 08/08/2025

### Request for Qualifications RFQ 2026-005DPW Wastewater Contract Compliance

The City of Holyoke Department of Public Works is soliciting qualifications from professional engineering consulting firms for Wastewater Contract Compliance Management specific to the contract between the City of Holyoke and Veolia Water North America-Northeast LLC for the Facility Operation and Maintenance for Wastewater Treatment Plant, Collection, Stormwater, CSO, Flood Control Systems and Industrial Pretreatment Program Facilities. This contract is effective October 1, 2025, and is a ten-year term plus one additional five-year optional extension.

This RFQ, issued under the provisions of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the City of Holyoke, invites firms to submit their qualifications and plan to provide the services described. Subject to approval by the City, the contract term is one year, renewable up to two additional years, which will be mutually agreed upon based on vendor performance and availability of funding. Annual funding for this service is \$100,000 provided through the Wastewater Long Term Service Agreement annual fee.

Documents are available starting on 8/4/2025 at 10AM electronically by requesting from [morrowj@holyoke.org](mailto:morrowj@holyoke.org) an electronic copy of the recently executed contract between the city and Veolia will be sent to planholders. **SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE 9/9/25 at 2PM** no electronic submissions allowed. The city reserves the right to reject any and all submissions if in the City's best interest.  
 08/08/2025

*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 \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

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



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**AUG. 8-9. NOS POTBELLY STOVE.** 1937, wood/coal, 52" ceiling fan, garage door opener, collectible Hess and Tonka trucks. Asking top dollar, will discuss prices. 10am-4pm, 114 Hendrick St., Chicopee.

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### LANDSCAPING

#### A+ ROZELL'S LANDSCAPING & BOBCAT SERVICE

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Extreme Brush Cutting!  
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Lawn/Arborvitae Installed  
Loam, Stone, Mulch, Sand  
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frenchyn@gmail.com

## CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

FRIDAY AT NOON

## SERVICES

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Work done at your home.

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Our Classifieds Get Results!

## SERVICES



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**CUSTODIAN POSITION AVAILABLE** cleaning with our team. Experience preferred but will train. Retirees welcome. Call Pride Cleaning Contractors, 413-283-7087.

**HELP WANTED FOR A BUSY BREAKFAST LUNCH RESTAURANT.**

**Weekday Dishwasher**, great hours, good pay for hardworking person. Please come by and fill out application. **Partners Restaurant, 485 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills.**

**HOUSEKEEPER.** Monday and Friday, 5 hours each day. Duties include cleaning, ironing, washing. Send resume to **PO Box 8, Hampden, MA 01036.**

**LINE COOK.** Fast order wanted for fun, busy family Breakfast and Lunch Restaurant. Good pay, weekends and weekdays. Fulltime. Please come by and fill out application. **Partners Restaurant, 485 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills.**

**NEIGHBORLY CLEANING & CARE** is looking for mature, responsible adults with own transportation, experience and references for a housekeeping position. Hours 7:30- 2:30. Call Nancy today (413)267-4297 or (413) 544-0864.

**SERVERS WANTED**  
Inquire at **Girly's Grill, 1315 Park St., Palmer, MA 01069** or call 413-284-0005.

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

**CHICOPEE - LARGE BEDROOM APT.** no pets, hot water. 1st/last/secure. Call 413-297-1513. 18 Mount Carmel Ave.

## FOR RENT



All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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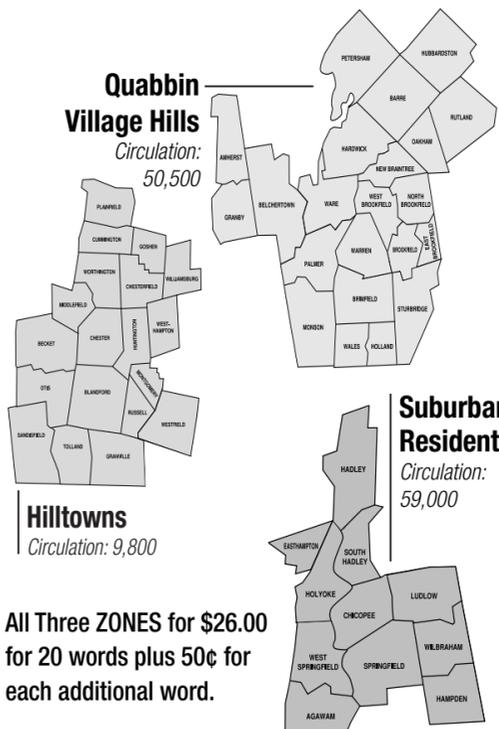
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CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
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13	14	15	16
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21	Base Price \$26.50	22	Base Price \$27.00
23	Base Price \$27.50	24	Base Price \$28.00
25	Base Price \$28.50	26	Base Price \$29.00
27	Base Price \$29.50	28	Base Price \$30.00
29	Base Price \$30.50	30	Base Price \$31.00
31	Base Price \$31.50	32	Base Price \$32.00
33	Base Price \$32.50	34	Base Price \$33.00
35	Base Price \$33.50	36	Base Price \$34.00
37	Base Price \$34.50	38	Base Price \$35.00
39	Base Price \$35.50	40	Base Price \$36.00

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of Weeks: \_\_\_\_\_ X per week rate = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Credit Card:  MasterCard  VISA  Discover  Cash  Check# \_\_\_\_\_  
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OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

## FESTIVAL CELEBRATES PUERTO RICAN HERITAGE



Heritage State Park was lined with food trucks, vendors and people awaiting to enjoy the entertainment lineup.



Judy Torres, the "Queen of Freestyle," performed Saturday night.

Turley photo by Kara Walsh-Vey

## Better Business Bureau warns: Beware of rental unit scams

If you are considering a move and need to rent, watch out for a new twist on fake rental ads. According to multiple BBB Scam Tracker reports, scammers use fake tenant credit checks to trick potential renters into compromising sensitive personal information.

### How the scam works

You find a good deal on an apartment while browsing rental listings online. When you call the number to inquire, the owner asks you to complete a credit check before you can see the place. If you agree, they'll send you a link to a website where you can get the credit check done.

The website may look professional, but it's all part of a scam. After you enter your sensitive information and pay for the credit check, the "landlord" will disappear. Your credit card information could be compromised, and you could even be at risk for identity theft.

One consumer in

California reported paying for the credit check as part of the application, then tried to cancel after they "put all of our personal information on there... there is no phone number on a form to request for someone to contact you and no one ever does." They lost \$100, had to cancel their card, and are now worried about identity theft.

Another consumer in Connecticut reported they filled out the application and paid, but "No credit check was made until after 35 days after I called email and texted numerous times regarding my refund for service not provided... lesson learned I will always look at reviews as if I did, I would not have lost my \$100..." - again, leave the name out since we never know if the scammer is spoofing a name.

Another consumer reported the following experience: "I gave my name, address, and social security number to obtain my credit score from this website. I was



asked to take a screenshot of my score and send it to the same address that emailed me the link. Afterward, I was sent an email with a showing time, but the house number was not listed on this email or on the listing on Craigslist." Afterward,

the consumer was unable to reach anyone about the apartment. Their calls and emails went unanswered.

### How to avoid credit check rental scams

• **Be wary of lower-than-usual prices.** If

the rent for an apartment is well below the going market rate, consider it a red flag. Scammers love to draw people in with claims that sound too good to be true.

• **Do research.** Search the listing online, as well as the associated phone number and email address. If you find another listing for the same property in a different city, you've spotted a scam. Reverse image searches can be helpful, too, as can searching the alleged landlord's name along with the word "scam." These searches only take a few minutes and are well worth the effort. Also, search BBB Scam Tracker for any recent reports.

• **Always see the property in person.** Many rental scams involve listings for properties that don't exist. Something is fishy if the renter refuses to let you know where the apartment is before you complete a credit check or pay them a deposit. Be wary, too, if you are given

the address of a home with a for sale sign in the yard. You might not be in contact with the actual owners.

• **Verify the property owner's information.** Contact a licensed real estate agent to see who owns a property, or check the county property appraiser's website. Ask the landlord for a copy of their ID to verify they are who they claim to be before you offer up sensitive personal information like your social security number for a credit check. If the landlord refuses or gets upset, you could be dealing with a scammer. Check BBB.org for trusted property owners.

• **Be cautious about credit check websites.** If you need a credit check, always use reputable sources, such as those recommended by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (U.S.) or the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada. Also, check to see if the website is secure. Learn how to identify a fake website.

## 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 10, 2025.**

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

**Deadline for Calendar submissions is August 11.**

## Community Autumn Events

Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

**FREE Calendar Listings Reaching over 200,000 Readers in the Pioneer Valley**

Event Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date/Time \_\_\_\_\_

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Description \_\_\_\_\_

Cost \_\_\_\_\_

Contact name & phone number for more information \_\_\_\_\_

### MAIL YOUR LISTING INFORMATION TO:

**Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069**  
or email\* them to: **jamie@turley.com**

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