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Garcia: Searching has not started for schools supt.

HOLYOKE – A published report on Monday erroneously reported that the Holyoke School Committee is “continuing to search for a superintendent.”

There is no such search, said Holyoke Mayor Joshua A. Garcia, who sought to clarify the report immediately.

The position of School Superintendent is one of the discussion topics the Holyoke School Committee will take up in October in its work to end state receivership. That discussion is part of the larger conversation about returning the City’s schools to local control.

In 2015, Holyoke’s schools were found to be underperforming and placed in state receivership. A Receiver/Superintendent was appointed to lead the school system. The first and second Receiver/Superintendents served for a period of time and moved on. In 2021, Holyoke native Anthony Soto was appointed the City’s third Receiver/Superintendent.

See **SCHOOLS**, page 11

Murals decorate walking bus route

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – Morgan School and Paper City Kids are working together with some other community organizations to decorate Morgan’s walking bus route along Sargeant Street with a variety of interactive murals.

This effort is led by Jessica Ahron, a guidance counselor at Morgan, who is working with Natasha Colon Ortiz from Paper City Kids.

By painting these murals Ahron and Colon Ortiz hope to be able to brighten up kids’ route to school and help add some excitement to the start of their day.

“I really wanted to set up the kids’ day in a positive way,” Colon Ortiz said.

“I think it’s a beautiful way to start the day and to make it more fun to want to go to school,” Ahron said.

Earlier this year Morgan School started the walking school bus route. The school wanted to continue to improve the bus route and encourage more kids to use it, so they began to try to brainstorm different ideas for the route.

Ahron was first called into the work in early winter. She was asked to help spread awareness about the bus and to

think about ways to make the route more fun and pleasant to walk.

The school applied for a grant for \$5,000 to fund this project and they were lucky enough to receive the funding.

Once they received the grant they began to plan out the details of the project.

“We’ve had so many meetings with the city and we did walking routes with them, Natasha did sketches, we realized that doing the murals on the sidewalk was a really good idea as that is owned by the city rather than building owners and since they’re walking down the street it would be a fun way to incorporate moving and healthy living,” Ahron said.

Before Ahron and Colon Ortiz got started in painting the murals, the city contributed to the project by ensuring the area was cleaned up and that the crosswalks were repainted.

From there they began to flesh out the ideas, and both Ahron and Colon Ortiz enjoyed seeing the project come together. Ahron was particularly grateful for Colon Ortiz’s creative contributions and for all the time she has put into the project.

“Natasha’s designs just brought it to life,” Ahron said.

See **MURALS**, page 12



Murals have been created along walking routes this summer.

Submitted photo

Puerto Rican heritage celebrated at Fiesta Patronales

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – Holyoke came together to celebrate their Puerto Rican heritage with their Fiesta Patronales.

This was Holyoke’s third year putting on their own Fiesta Patronales, as a homage to the Fiesta Patronales that happen throughout Puerto Rico to honor the patron saints of different towns.

“In Puerto Rico each town does a festival that commemorates one of the patron saints so we’re trying to commemorate that here in Holyoke because of the large number of Puerto Ricans here,” Director of the Festival Committee Melvin Sanchez said. “So we’re trying to do something similar here, not the same, but similar.”

The committee of the festival were proud to put this event together so that the people of Holyoke can have a chance to celebrate.

“It feels like we’re on the island,” Executive Director of Nueva Esperanza Kayla Rodriguez said. “So just that



People gathered at Holyoke’s Fiesta Patronales to enjoy the music and performers.

Turley photo by Quinn Suomala

connection to having something that is from the island and having it here, it is phenomenal. You feel connected and the tradition keeps living here in Holyoke...it feels like

we’re back home.”
“It gives our community something to do, it gives them something to look forward to, it’s a weekend of entertainment that they can come down with

their families and really enjoy themselves and listen to the different genres of music that we bring out,” Sanchez said.

See **FIESTA**, page 6

HCC to host Alzheimer’s Walk Oct. 20

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The Pioneer Valley Walk to End Alzheimer’s is planned for Sunday, Oct. 20 at 10 a.m. at Holyoke Community College.

This walk works to raise funds for the Alzheimer’s Association so that they can provide support for members of the community who have Alzheimer’s or know someone who does.

The association also provides support for people who are struggling with other forms of dementia, not just Alzheimer’s.

Walkers are welcome to show up at the walk anytime starting at 8:30 a.m. or after. There will be a variety of activities for people to do while waiting for the walk itself to begin.

“We usually have Boomer

See **WALK**, page 11

Wastewater discharged in the Connecticut River

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – Due to an overflow of eight of 10 combined sewer overflow systems, about 6,542,156 gallons of water have been released into the river last month.

The discharge has since stopped, but the wastewater treatment plant has encouraged the public to avoid going in the river for 48 hours following the discharge as there could be increased health risks from bacteria.

They do not want the public swimming, fishing or boating in the river for this period of time.

This overflow resulted from all of the rain that the area has received recently.

“It’s been like that since its concep-

tion and at certain flows it diverts out to the river,” Assistant Manager of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Scott Urban said.

This is a fairly uncommon occurrence that only happens during significant rain events according to Urban.

The city has done a lot of work in recent years to try to minimize how often this happens.

They have been doing sewer cleaning and more sewer maintenance. They have also added technology to help with levels in the sewers, so they can react faster to higher levels in the sewer and try to prevent these overflows.

They are also currently working on separating the sewer system from the rainwater system. This is a long-term process and it will be a significant fix for this issue.

“Right now the sewer is a combiner system, so rainwater and sewage are in the same pipe,” Urban said. “Separating would keep stormwater in one pipe and sewage would stay in its own other pipe.”

This would help to minimize the amount of water going into one area, and could prevent this issue entirely. So far the River Terrace area is on the path to have its system separated, and they hope to be able to continue such work as the funding comes their way.

They also hope to work to decrease or eliminate entirely the Jackson Street combined sewer overflow.

Urban reported that it has been increasingly difficult in recent years to prevent this kind of overflow due to an increasing intensity of storms.

“With these storms that are so sig-

nificant now, the weather does not help, it is difficult to work with,” Urban said.

Urban suggested that if the public would like to help mitigate the chances of this occurring, they try to minimize the amount of water they are using while it is raining.

“If you cannot shower while it is raining or discharge any other water into the sewer while it is raining to try to help the flows,” Urban said.

He appreciates any effort the public can make toward assisting in this issue.

Overall, Urban asks that the public understand that the wastewater treatment plant is working to try to prevent this issue and ensure the safety of the Holyoke community.

“We’re doing our best to try to alleviate it, we’re trying to make this a cleaner community,” Urban said.

City administration looking to start ‘PILOT’ tax policy

HOLYOKE – Mayor Joshua A. Garcia is contracting with a public policy consultant to help Holyoke initiate a formal Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) policy.

“Because we are a compassionate City, we are home to an exceptionally large number of tax-exempt nonprofits that offer a range of services to vulnerable populations,” Garcia said. “Along with group homes, human service providers, and treatment centers, we also host a number of educational institutions that receive City services but pay no property taxes.

“We have no quarrel with the importance of their missions,” he said. “All citizens, including the vulnerable populations these nonprofits serve, deserve

quality services from their government. But I can’t give quality services if I’m not collecting the necessary revenue to keep up with the need. I, too, have a mission. As Mayor, I’m responsible for public safety, public education, sewers, streetlights, drinking water, and safe roads, to name a few. Property taxes fund these services, either entirely or in part. Another part of my mission is to keep those taxes low so that people can afford to live here.

“Many tax-exempt organizations acquire taxable properties and then file for exemptions, thereby removing that property from the tax rolls. It happens a lot, and each time it happens the flow of property tax revenue to the City is diminished. All the while, the cost of

City services goes up, salaries go up, fuel goes up, and road maintenance materials go up. What else goes up? Your property taxes.”

One of Mayor Garcia’s Citizen Advisory Councils — the Government Restructure working group — explored the subject of PILOTs and reached out to the Collins Center for Public Management, a state government entity affiliated with the University of Massachusetts-Boston. The Center submitted a proposal for a six-month, \$13,000 study that entails meetings with City officials; fact-gathering on the tax-exempt properties in Holyoke, research on existing PILOT programs in the Commonwealth, including those in Boston and Brookline, and an in-person

meeting with tax-exempt property owners. Two members of the project team, Stephen Cirillo and David Colton, have experience developing and negotiating PILOTs for the towns of Brookline and Easton.

On concluding their research and interviews, the Collins Center project team will present the City with options for a voluntary PILOT program. These options will include revenue projections.

In the past, Holyoke negotiated a small number of informal PILOT agreements, but the documentation for these agreements is scant. Garcia said he wants a formal, written policy complete with talking points and a formula for establishing a PILOT payment schedule for the City’s tax-exempt properties.

Hibernians invite all to annual summer picnic on Aug. 25

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

Tickets are \$35 per person for adults and children ages 16 and up;

Kids ages 5-10 are \$10; Kids ages 5-16 are 15.

For reservations by Tuesday Aug. 20, call Joe O’Connor at 413-627-7148 or Fran Hennessey at 413-785-5687 or aoh-holyoke.com

The Maurice A. Donahue Memorial Scholarship will be present-

ed to Kayla Williams of Chicopee.

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

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



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DPW board seeks bids for wastewater services

HOLYOKE – The City’s Board of Public Works on Monday, July 29, voted 2-1 to ask Mayor Joshua A. Garcia to invite proposals from companies interested in taking charge of Holyoke’s wastewater treatment services.

The existing 20-year contract expires Sept. 29, 2025. The City has never switched contractors since its initial contract with Aquarion Water Co. Aquarion was succeeded by United Water Resources, which was succeeded by Suez Water Inc., which was acquired by Veolia.

Representatives of Veolia, present at Monday’s meeting, said they would bid on the new contract.

DPW Board Chair Mary L. Monahan read a statement at Monday’s

meeting saying that opening up a competitive procurement process “is not a reflection on the performance of Veolia, the current contractor. In fact, I look forward to seeing Veolia’s submission in response to the RFP [Request for Proposals].”

Garcia said he felt the same way. “We’ll be looking proposals through a ‘green’ lens, both in terms of energy generation and the waste stream,” he said. “Wastewater management is a huge responsibility that I, as Mayor, take very seriously. We have to be certain that our systems are state of the art.”

Holyoke’s annual wastewater service fee for Fiscal 2024 is an estimated \$7.3 million. The final billing is affected by sewer breaks and other factors that could

add to the final bill.

Eighteen months ago, as the end of its 20-year contract for services approached, Monahan and Garcia collaborated to appoint an ad hoc committee of volunteers to explore two options: extend the contract with Veolia or open it up for bids. Ad hoc committee members were Andy Fiske, Brian Beauregard, Mike Sullivan, Mimi Panitch, and DPW Director Carl Rossi.

At Monday’s meeting, Beauregard read a statement describing the ad hoc committee’s mission and research.

“It is impossible to overestimate the importance of this matter,” Beauregard read. “Sanitation and handling of waste are among the most fundamental of all urban infrastructure. Always critical-

ly important, the challenges it presents have only grown as our society’s technological sophistication has increased, and our understanding of the health risks of industrial activities in the past has improved. With our new understanding has come emerging demands, such as the new requirement that wastewater systems address so-called “forever” chemicals in our waste streams.”

Beauregard underscored Monahan’s statement that seeking a range of aspiring operators doesn’t mean Veolia would be replaced. He said the committee’s “recommendation is not intended to imply any criticism of that operator or the excellent staff the City now works with.”

See DPW, page 9

HCC Fall 2024 ‘Registration Express’ event set for Aug. 24

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College will hold “Registration Express” for the fall 2024 semester on Sat., Aug. 24.

During Registration Express, prospective students can apply for admission, take the college placement test, meet with an academic adviser, register for classes, and set up financial aid — all in one day.

“Registration Express is designed to make it easy to become a student by providing all the resources to enroll in one place on one day, whether you are starting the process or finishing up the last few steps,” said Mark Hudgik, HCC dean of Strategic Recruitment Initiatives. “It will also be a great opportunity for prospective students to learn about MassEducate, the state’s new free community college program.”

Registration Express event will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the first floor of the Campus Center on the main campus at 303 Homestead Ave. Students who can’t attend that day or need additional time to finish their steps can also return for extended Admissions and Advising hours Aug. 26-29 from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Aug. 30 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Full-term, 14-week fall classes begin Tuesday, Sept. 3. HCC has two additional fall flex start dates: Sept. 16, for 12-week classes, and Oct. 28,

See REGISTRATION, page 8

Police Chief search committee to hold meeting

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

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

The Search Committee recently engaged the services of Public Safety Consultants LLC to assist the team. Public Safety Consultants provides a range of specialized services, including personnel management, to municipal fire and police departments in Massachusetts. One of the firm’s prin-

cipals, Russ Stevens, will participate in the listening session. He has 37 years of municipal and state law enforcement experience, retiring as Chief of Staff to the Connecticut State Police Colonel. Stevens holds a Master’s Degree in Criminal Justice and a Bachelor’s in Communication. He is a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigations National Academy and is currently the President of the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission.

Appointed to the Search Committee by Holyoke Mayor Joshua A. Garcia are Kelly Curran, the City’s Personnel Director, Ward 1 City Councilor Jenny Rivera (chair of the City Council’s Public Safety Committee), Holyoke Police Sargent Joseph Zurheide, Narcotics Intervention Officer Detective Dorothy Beben, Community Police Officer

Josh Colon and citizen participants, all members of the Police Relations Committee, Axel Fontanez, retired Holyoke Police Captain Alan Fletcher, Quilana Rivera, Colleen Chesmore, Rosanna Lopez, and Jennifer Keitt.

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

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

Velis lauds HERO Act: Measure headed for governor’s desk

BOSTON – Last Thursday morning, a final compromise version of An Act Honoring, Empowering and Recognizing Our Service Members and Veterans (HERO Act) officially passed the Massachusetts Legislature following weeks of negotiations led by Senator John C. Velis. The final compromise legislation is designed to boost support for hundreds of thousands of individuals across the state who have served or are currently serving in the United States military.

Among other pieces, the final legislation increases benefits for disabled veterans and Gold Star family members, bolsters new and existing initiatives for municipalities and businesses to support veterans, creates comprehensive services for active-duty service members and mil-

itary families, updates the Chapter 115 definition of a veteran to expand eligibility, and codifies medical, behavioral health, and dental benefits under state veterans benefits program.

“Massachusetts has a long history of prioritizing the needs of our veterans and service members and I am thrilled that the HERO Act is on its way to the Governor’s desk to continue this tradition. The final legislation is a product of collaboration—taking the strongest elements from the Governor’s original bill, the House’s bill, and the Senate’s own diligent work—to create a comprehensive package that will expand services and resources for veterans, active duty service members, and military families throughout the Commonwealth,” stated Senator

John C. Velis (D-Westfield), Chair of the Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs and lead Senate negotiator on the final bill. “Less than one half of one percent of our nation bravely raises their right hand and pledges to defend our nation no matter the costs. We must always remember, recognize, and honor these sacrifices however we can, and passage of this legislation is an important step towards fulfilling that mission.”

The final compromise legislation includes the following policy measures among others:

Veteran Benefits, Opportunities, and Protections

- Increases annuity for 100% disabled

See HERO, page 8



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Guest Column

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters
By Russell Gloor



Will my wife get a spousal benefit from me?

Dear Rusty:

I will be turning 70 (yikes) this coming November. I will begin taking my Social Security benefit at that time. My age 70 SS benefit will be approximately \$4,500 per month. My spouse (who is currently 74) began receiving her SS benefits about 10 years ago before her Full Retirement Age. She receives approximately \$1,900 per month.

My question is, based on my expected SS monthly benefit of approximately \$4,500, would my spouse be eligible for an increase in her monthly SS benefit? I've read some articles about this topic, but none of them seem to be on point so I thought I'd reach out to you.

Signed: Seeking Answers

Dear Seeking:

Congratulations on choosing a claiming strategy, which will maximize your Social Security. Waiting until age 70 to claim guarantees you will get the most you can personally receive for the rest of your life, along with annual Cost of Living Adjustments. But the spouse benefits available to your wife when you claim are not based on your age 70 amount. Rather, spouse benefits are calculated using Full Retirement Age amounts. Here's what that means:

If your age 70 benefit will be about \$4,500 then your FRA amount was likely around \$3,450. If your wife claimed at, say, 64, then her FRA entitlement would probably have been around \$2,200. Your wife will only get a spousal boost if 50% of your

See SECURITY, page 5

Election letters to the editor welcome

The Holyoke Sun welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Holyoke Sun, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to thesun@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Friday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

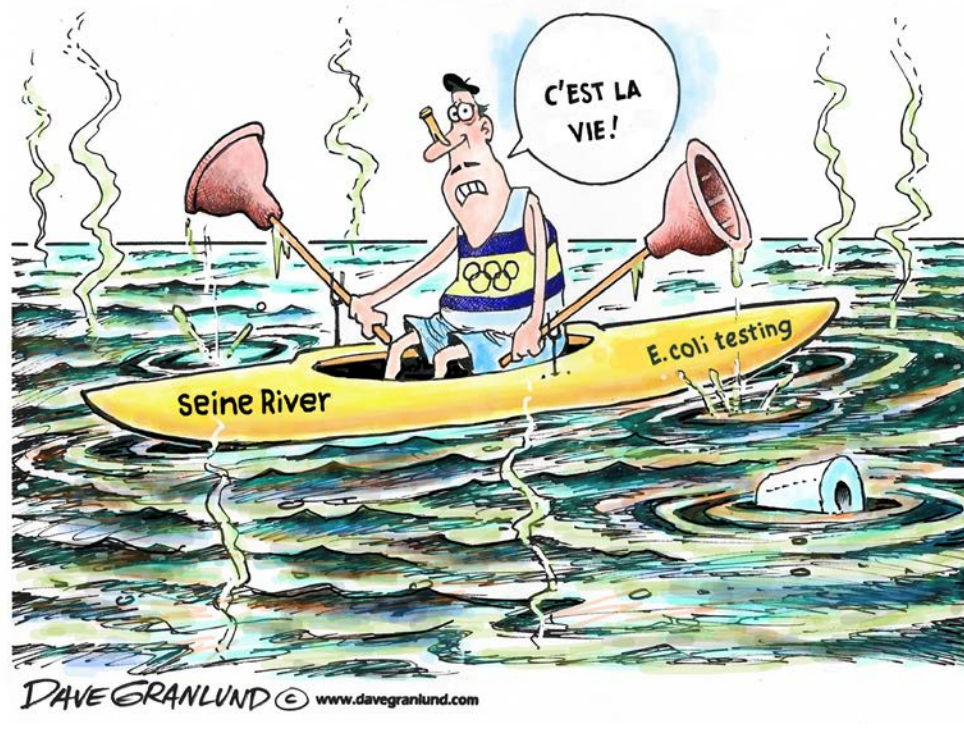
For more information, call 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

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

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

2024 Paris OLYMPICS...



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Guest Column

in my
BACKYARD
By Ellenor Downer

My daughter, Paula and family along with their dog JoJo experienced an unusual bird sighting.

Last week my daughter, Paula and family were running on the rail trail from the covered bridge to the Gilbertville mill. She said, "A hawk dropped a dead pigeon into the woods about ten feet away from us. JoJo thought it was a food delivery for him. I couldn't tell what kind of hawk it was, but it didn't seem big enough for a red-tailed."

It was rusty/brown color on wings and back and barred feathers on underside. They didn't see it come back for the poor pigeon.

Since it was smaller than a red-tailed hawk, I think it might be a sharp-shinned hawk. The sharp-shinned hawk is 11 inches long and has rounded wings with a long narrow tail. It has heaving streaking on the breast and belly. It has reddish brown barring. The adult is blue gray above. The



Sharp-shinned hawk

immature is dark brown above, lighter brown below and keeps that plumage for one year.

Sharp-shinned hawks feed by catching small birds in midair and carrying them off to eat. They also may hunt around bird feed-

See BACKYARD, page 5

Maintenance tips for flowering annuals

in the
Garden
by Roberta McQuaid



Recently, we've had a lot of heat and humidity, and a fair share of downpours, too. There are many times that I don't feel like going out into the flower garden. But then, sometimes around 7 or 8 o'clock at night, after it has cooled down a bit, I'll get out there like a woman on a mission.

Read on for a reminder of important tasks you should consider tackling this month to keep your annuals blooming through to the first frost!

I deadhead. A lot. Deadheading is a fun term used to describe 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, flow-

er 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.

Some annuals start to get a leggy appearance about now. Others may have brown tips.

These plants require more drastic measures to bring back youthful good looks. Consider shearing them back.

Usually you can look within the plant and find healthy, green growth. Cut calendulas, pansies and snapdragon back to that point. Plants like 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.

I feed, feed, feed them, especially if lower leaves start to yellow. It means flowering plants are hungry for nitrogen.

See GARDEN, page 5

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the Sun
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Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions. Libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks or defamation of character are not allowed.

Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

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

SECURITY, from page 4

FRA amount (not your age 70 amount) is more than her own FRA entitlement. From what you've shared, 50% of your FRA amount would be about \$1,750, which is less than your wife's FRA entitlement and her current age 64 amount, which means that she would not be eligible for a spousal boost to her own amount from you.

Spouse benefits can be tricky, because they're based on FRA entitlements, regardless of the age at

which benefits are actually claimed. That is not so, however, for surviving spouse benefits. If you were to predecease your wife, her benefit would be your entire \$4,500 amount, instead of her own smaller current amount. Surviving spouse benefits are based on the amount each of you are currently receiving, not on your amounts at your full retirement age.

I hope this answers your question, but we're always here if you need any further assistance.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affil-

iated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

GARDEN, from page 4

If flowering has slowed, phosphorus may be in low supply. Annuals planted in soilless mix of containers or "reused" soil in raised beds will especially need a boost.

You can use a balanced, water soluble, liquid feed 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 blends of seaweed and fish emulsions on the market that can be watered in or sprayed on the surface of the leaves as a foliar feed.

If Mother Nature decides to delay the deluges, don't forget to water your plants. I know this task is not nearly as much fun as it was when they were first installed, but don't stop now!

Sometimes plants show signs of a nutrient deficiency, especially a nitrogen deficiency simply because they haven't had a drink. When you water the garden, remember to do so longer but less often to encourage deep, penetrating roots.

Watering at the soil line either early in the day or after the sun has set are your best options.

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

BACKYARD, from page 4

ers. A plump pigeon would be quite heavy for this smaller hawk and probably that is why it dropped it.

The female lays three to eight whitish eggs with dark marks in a platform nest of sticks lined with bark, placed in a tree. They inhabit mixed deciduous and coniferous woods in summer and winters in woods and near bird feeders.

They make a rapid series of high "kek kek kek kek" notes given during



Hummingbird

alarm. The largest number of sharp-shinned hawks are seen on spring and fall migrations as it flies alone the coasts or mountain ridges.

Hummingbirds

I saw at least two ruby throated hummingbirds feeding on the flowers on my hostas and on the tall phlox in my yard. I knew it was two different birds because I saw them at the same time and the flowers are located about 15 feet away from each other. Usually, hummingbird moths come for nectar at the tall phlox, but I have not seen one yet.

Wild turkeys

Wild turkeys are a common site and I often see them when driving. Usually, there are several turkeys and sometimes I see poults with the adults.

Foxes

Tuesday night I saw two foxes and in different towns. The first fox was smaller than the second one. I saw its eyes reflect in my headlights near

Deacon Allen Drive on Barre Road. The second fox was a bit larger and I saw it on Depot Road in Barre near the Oakham line. Both looked healthy and had good coats of fur.

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 or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.



Fox

Announce Your Wedding or Engagement
Share Your Joy!



Your wedding or engagement announcement will be included in our Bridal Guide, out September 30, 2024 for FREE!

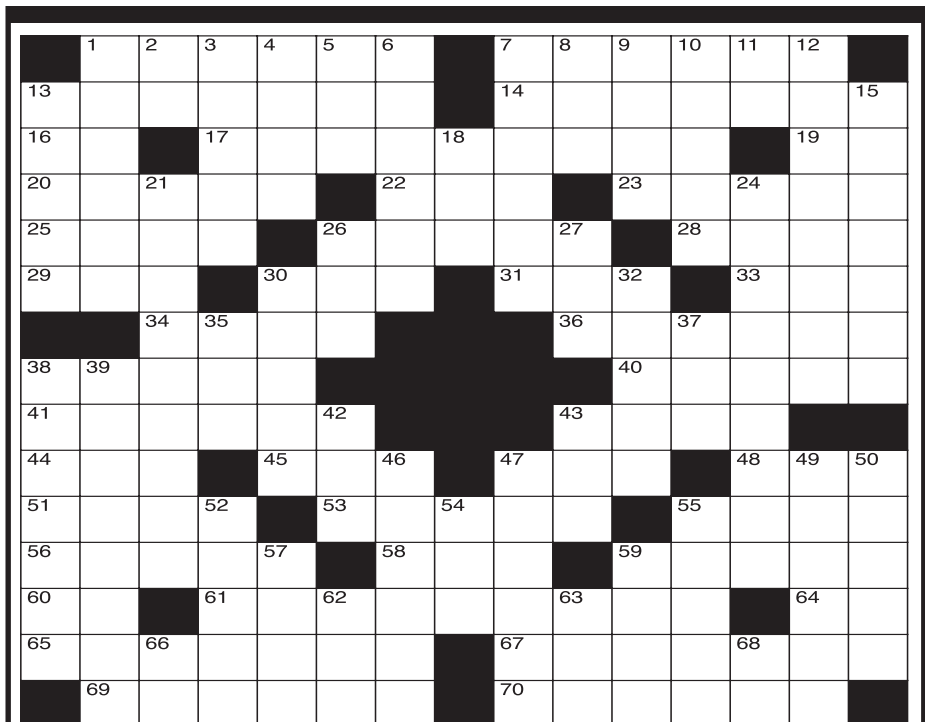
Bridal GUIDE

Be sure to include the following with photograph. Deadline September 4, 2024:

Bride's Name: _____
 Bride's Town Residence: _____
 Groom's Name: _____
 Groom's Town Residence: _____
 Wedding Date: _____
 Wedding Location: _____

EMAIL TO: JAMIE@TURLEY.COM
BRIDAL GUIDE
 800.824.6548 | www.turley.com

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



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Spiritual leaders
- 7. A solution
- 13. Fortified wine
- 14. Edible mollusk
- 16. Blood group
- 17. A way to compare
- 19. Gov't lawyer
- 20. Actor Ciaran
- 22. Calendar month
- 23. Very willing
- 25. ___ ex Machina
- 26. Satisfies
- 28. Type of berry
- 29. Distinctive practice
- 30. Popular pickup truck model
- 31. Dekagram
- 33. Naturally occurring solid material
- 34. Company officer
- 36. Villains
- 38. Cricket frogs
- 40. German founder of psychology
- 41. Endured
- 43. A female domestic
- 44. A situation you can be in
- 45. Cigarette (slang)
- 47. Fiber optic network (abbr.)
- 48. Belgian composer Walter
- 51. Employee stock ownership plan
- 53. Belonging to the bottom layer
- 55. Musical or vocal sound
- 56. Yankees' great Judge
- 58. Dickens character
- 59. Beloved late sportscaster Craig
- 60. South Dakota
- 61. Exposing human vice or folly to ridicule
- 64. Atomic #79
- 65. Former Braves pitcher Julio
- 67. Humor
- 69. Shawl
- 70. Hospital unit

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Animal disease
- 2. Commercial
- 3. Arts and crafts supplies
- 4. Containers
- 5. Investment vehicle
- 6. A way to greet in a friendly way
- 7. Bulged downward
- 8. "A Day Without" singer
- 9. Lay about
- 10. Intestinal
- 11. Negative
- 12. Caused to be loved
- 13. Prominent in Islamic eschatology
- 15. Sincere
- 18. Not in
- 21. Number above the line in a fraction
- 24. Bill Murray chased one
- 26. Pouch
- 27. Swedish krona
- 30. Start over
- 32. Wild white or yellow flower
- 35. Fourteen
- 37. Visual way of interacting with a computer (abbr.)
- 38. Up-to-date
- 39. Campaigns
- 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. Central Japanese city
- 59. Garment
- 62. Draw from
- 63. Automobile
- 66. The man
- 68. Top government lawyer

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 9

In The News



Raul Castillo Castro and Patrick Beaudry from Sublime Systems gave out information to the community.



Director for Golden Years Alex B. enjoyed the festival.



Hope for Holyoke was presented to give information and support to attendees of the Fiesta Patronales.



One of the performing bands began to get ready on stage.



Technical Sergeant Kayla Gallagher and Volunteer Julia Vargas helped to represent the Massachusetts Air National Guard.



Staff Sergeants Valery Franco and Madelyn Lonczak enjoyed the festival and represented the Massachusetts Air National Guard.



There were a variety of vendors at Holyoke's Fiesta Patronales.



Many different community organizations gathered at the Fiesta Patronales to provide information to the event attendees.

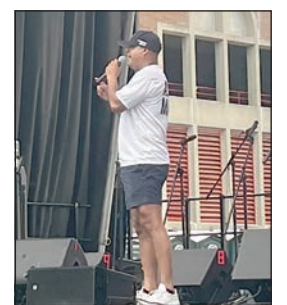


People gathered around the stage in order to enjoy the music.

Turley photos by Quinn Suomala



Holyoke presented the Queens of the Fiesta Patronales.



Mayor Joshua Garcia welcomed all attendees to the Fiesta Patronales.

FIESTA, from page 1

This year's event went on from Aug. 1 through Aug. 4 and it was packed with music and entertainment for all in attendance.

There were a variety of different performers, including Milly Quezada, Luis Figueroa, Henry Aguayo and Frankie Rivera Jr.

Rodriguez is proud of the collection of artists she and the others on the festival committee have managed to bring to perform.

"Every year we're trying to bring bigger artists and more artists so I expect to see it grow," Rodriguez said. "I think we're going to grow out of this venue and need to find a bigger spot."

Additionally, there were over 30 different food and miscellaneous vendors as well as over 15 different community organizations that offered up information about their work.

Many of the vendors were local, as local vendors were prioritized throughout vendor selection.

"Just having them tell us that this is the event that they make money for the whole year, it feels good," Rodriguez said.

This event was free to attend for the people of Holyoke, which Rodriguez and Sanchez took pride in. They loved seeing people come around, enjoy the atmosphere, dance to the music and support local businesses by getting food from vendors.

Over the last three years, Rodriguez and Sanchez have enjoyed seeing the festival grow. In the first year there were about twenty thousand people who attended.

It was estimated that last year about thirty thousand people came to the festival. This year it was even larger.

Rodriguez and Sanchez were glad to see all of the work they had put into the festival pay off with the turnout.

"I'm super proud to be a part of this committee and a part of this planning," Rodriguez said. "It has been stressful but also rewarding to just know that it was all worth it."

They both also felt that the festival had improved this year all around from last year.

This event takes a year to plan. As soon as the festival ends for the year, the committee begins planning for the next one.

They work to review the work they have done for the festival that year so that they can build and improve on it for the next year.

"The first week after we have a meeting just to see what went well and what we can improve on and then from there we start the planning," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez was grateful for all of the work that Sanchez had put in as the director of the committee.

"He is the brains behind this, he is the one that keeps control, he is the heart of this committee, without him we would go crazy," Rodriguez said. "He keeps us together, he keeps us grounded, he motivates us to keep going. So, definitely shout-out to him."

Sanchez was adamant that he could

not have done his job without the support from the committee by his side.

"We have a fantastic committee," Sanchez said. "I couldn't do this without them all doing their parts. None of us could do this individually and I think the team has been amazing to get this done."

He was also grateful for Nueva Esperanza and their support throughout the process of putting this together.

Mayor Joshua Garcia, the department heads of the city and many other members of the community were also instrumental in putting this festival on.

"This event really is a community event," Sanchez said. "From DPW, from the fire department, to the ambulance service to the police department, the licensing department, the health department all of them have been incredible, they all have been supportive and accommodating."

The parade committee works hard throughout the year to do their own fundraising and they are grateful to all of the sponsors who helped to put this festival on.

SPORTS

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SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

www.sports.turley.com



Katie Cummings chases down a loose ball.



Donna Viel punts the ball away.



Michelle Carney socks away a clearing kick.

Summer soccer concludes for Celtics

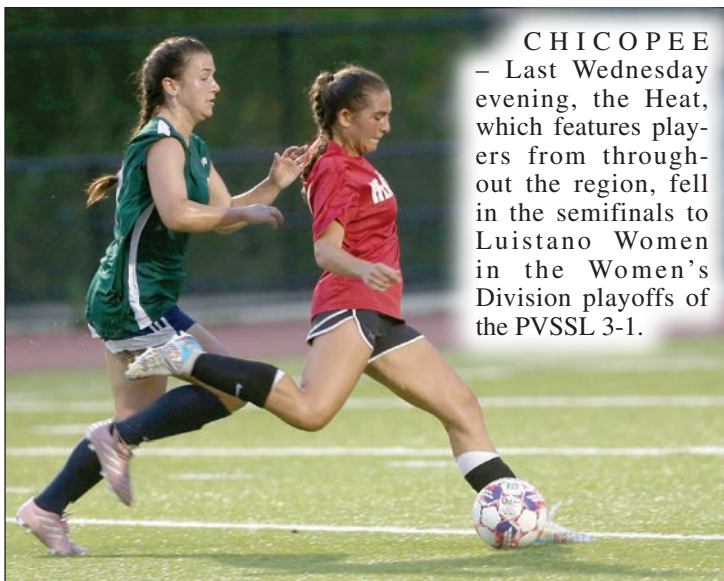
HOLYOKE – Last week, the Celtic United FC adult women’s soccer team finished up the regular season. Celtic went 5-4-3 on the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer season and placed seventh, getting edged out of the six-team playoffs.



Alyssa Szymczyk makes a throw-in.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Heat falls in semifinals



Emily Ottomaniello, of Agawam, makes her way up the field for the Heat.

CHICOPEE – Last Wednesday evening, the Heat, which features players from throughout the region, fell in the semifinals to Luistano Women in the Women’s Division playoffs of the PVSSL 3-1.



Gwen Duggan, of Palmer, looks to get around a Monson player.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Kelly Callahan, of Monson, punts the ball away.

Here for Beer scores playoff upset

MONSON – Facing the higher-seeded Monson Mustangs last Monday in the PVSSL Women’s Division quarterfinals, Here for Beer scored a 4-3 upset at Rogers Field.

They would make it all the way to the finals before falling to the Lusitano Women last

Friday night. Highlights from that matchup will be in next week’s edition.



Kassandra Liquori sends a pass away.



Samara Robles looks to make a save in goal.



Mackenzie Shean, of Agawam, fights to keep the ball.



Joanna Mull, of Belchertown, makes her way up the field.



Paige Marjanski, of South Hadley goes for the header.

Barnett leads way at Thompson Speedway

THOMPSON, CT – Although early rains made for a shortened practice schedule on Thursday, Thompson Speedway lit-up the night for the final round of Thursday Night Thunder this season. Dominance was the word to describe Thursday's racing action at Thompson Speedway with the night starting off under the command of the fan-favorite Street Stock class. Former multi-time track champion 'Leadfoot' Larry Barnett led the 20-lap main event for the Street Stocks from the drop of the green flag to the twin checkered flags for his first win of the season. While 'Leadfoot' dominated up front, all eyes were on Ryan Waterman as he charged from eighth-place to third in the fast-paced feature event.

The dominance continued in the AZ Roofing SK Light Modified ranks. While Nick Hovey led from the point, point lead-

er Tyler Chapman came to the front for a side-by-side battle with plenty of sparks. Chapman would pull up bumper to bumper before getting loose on the outside groove again and again, finally getting just the right push off to claim his fourth win of the year over Hovey and Meghan Fuller.

The Mini Stock showcase saw one of the fiercest battles of the night between defending champion and point leader Jarred Roy and Ryan Pomposelli. The two fought tooth and nail across the 0.625-mile Thompson Speedway with Roy making his final pass with just two laps remaining to claim his fourth win of the year with Pomposelli taking second and Kevin Moore turning around a tough-luck season for third.

The growing Thompson Sunoco Modified division was once again under

the control of young Jon Puleo. The Mr. Rooter Plumbing machine was on rails for the Twisted Tea Midsummer 50-lap main event on Thursday with the young-gun never leaving the lead position. Puleo took down his third win of the season followed by Keith Rocco and leading rookie Isaiah Newcomb at the line.

The Late Models rounded out Thursday's showcase. A final show of dominance saw former Late Model track champion Brian Tagg lead all 25-laps on the field for his first win at Thompson Speedway this season with defending track champion Nick Johnson coming home second followed by Kulwicki Driver Development Program (KDDP) finalist Derek Gluchacki in third.

Thompson Speedway returns to Wednesday night racing action in less than two weeks on Wednesday, August 7 for the

Tripoint Showdown 50-lap main event for the Thompson Sunoco Modifieds. The Late Models, AZ Roofing SK Light Modifieds, Street Stocks and Mini Stocks make it a five division card with a 6:00pm Post Time on Wednesday, August 7.

For more information about the American-Canadian Tour, contact the ACT offices at (802) 244-6963, media@actour.com, or visit www.actour.com. You can also get updates on Facebook and Twitter at @ACTTour.

For technical information concerning all PASS divisions, and for media or marketing questions, please contact passrac@roadrunner.com or visit www.proallstarsseries.com. Don't forget to "Like" the Pro All Stars Series on Facebook or follow on Twitter @PASSSLM14 to keep up with breaking news as it happens.

Springfield Thunderbirds sign three for upcoming season

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds announced today that they have signed goaltender Cam Johnson, as well as forwards Tarun Fizer and Reece Newkirk, to one-year AHL contracts.

Johnson, 30, has been the backstop for each of the Florida Everblades' three consecutive Kelly Cup championships. In 63 career playoff games in the ECHL, Johnson has a sparkling 47-13-3 record, 11 shutouts, a 1.97 goals-against average,

and a .928 save percentage. He was the June M. Kelly Award winner as ECHL playoff MVP in 2022 and 2023. The former University of North Dakota National Champion also has 53 games of AHL experience with the Binghamton Devils and Cleveland Monsters.

Fizer, 23, is entering his third full professional season. As a rookie with the ECHL's Utah Grizzlies in 2022-23, the Chestermere, AB native scored 50 points

(27g, 23a) in 62 games. Last season, he skated in 30 games for the Belleville Senators, posting two goals and three assists. He also chipped in 10 points (4g, 6a) in 10 games for the ECHL's Allen Americans. Before turning pro, Fizer skated in five WHL seasons for the Victoria Royals. In 2021-22, he captained the Royals and put up 51 points (17g, 34a) in just 35 games.

Newkirk, 23, is set to begin his fourth

professional season. Originally a fifth-round pick by the New York Islanders in the 2019 NHL Draft, Newkirk has skated in 45 AHL games with Bridgeport, putting up 10 points (2g, 8a). In 102 ECHL games with the Worcester Railers, the Moose Jaw, SK native has 78 points (37g, 41). Before turning pro, Newkirk starred with the WHL's Portland Winterhawks, where he accumulated 162 points (69g, 93a) in 205 games.

► In The News

HERO, from page 3

veterans and Gold Star Spouses/Parents to \$2,500

- Increases tax credit for businesses hiring a veteran to \$2,500 to support veteran employment
- Increases access to Active-Duty Buyback program for veterans in public service
- Expands eligibility for Chapter 115 state veterans' benefits program
- Streamlines Chapter 115 benefits appeals process and allows municipalities to disburse veterans' benefits through direct deposit instead of mail
- Ensures that outpatient behavioral health treatment is reimbursable under Chapter 115 program
- Provides municipalities with path to double current veteran property tax exemptions and/or tie annual property tax exemption increases to inflation
- Requires veterans' benefits notice to be provided to employers to ensure awareness of benefits
- Protects Massachusetts veterans from predatory "claim sharks" that charge hefty fees and target veterans seeking

assistance filing claims for federal veteran benefits

- Services and Resources for Service-Members and Military Families
- Establishes a state military spouse liaison to conduct outreach and support military spouses in Massachusetts
- Requires school districts to provide specific supports to military-connected students
- Increases access to childcare on military installations by accepted US Department of Defense Childcare provider licenses
- Allows for a military medic equivalency waiver for veterans seeking state EMT certification
- Requires DCF to enter into memorandums of understanding with the military to improve reporting for child abuse incidents
- Expanded Recognitions of Military Service
- Requires annual proclamation and lighting of bridges across the Commonwealth on Memorial Day in recognition of Gold Star families
- Requires state flags to be flown at half-staff for military service events,

including when a Massachusetts service-member is killed in active duty

- Ensures awareness and accessibility for Medal of Liberty for next of kin of Massachusetts service-members
 - Ensures US Space Force, including unit at Hanscom Air Base in Massachusetts, is appropriately recognized and defined in state law
- "We have a responsibility to support and empower every person who has served and sacrificed for our nation once they return home—as well as their families," said Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland). "We are a Commonwealth that has the deepest respect and gratitude to our veterans, and the HERO Act doubles down on that commitment to our service members by delivering the support that they and their families deserve. I'm deeply grateful to Senator John Velis for his work and sustained leadership on this issue, all of the conferees, and to Speaker Mariano and our partners in the House for their efforts to get this important legislation over the finish line."
- A compromise having passed the Legislature, the bill now goes to the Governor's desk for her signature.

REGISTRATION, from page 3

for 7-week classes.

Those who can't make it in person during Registration Express week will be able to connect with registration advisers via Zoom or visit campus another day. HCC Admissions and Advising offices on the first floor of the Campus Center are open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. (4:30 p.m. on Fridays).

For more information and instructions about accessing Registration Express via Zoom, please visit our Registration Express pages on the HCC website at hcc.edu/regexpress or contact HCC Admissions at 413-552-2321 / admissions@hcc.edu.



LOWER PRICES TO BOOST YOUR BUDGET! **INFLATION** **PRICE BUSTERS** **PRICES IN RED ARE AT OR BELOW LAST YEAR'S PRICES!**

<p>USDA INSP. FROZEN BONE-IN CENTER CUT PORK LOIN CHOPS..... \$2.49 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH COUNTRYSTYLE PORK RIBS \$2.49 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN ST. LOUIS PORK RIBS \$2.22 lb</p> <p>SLICED IN OUR DELI ROAST BEEF \$7.99 lb</p> <p>IN OUR DELI LAND O' LAKES SLICED AMERICAN CHEESE 3 LB \$8.99 ea</p> <p>GREAT ON THE GRILL</p> <p>USDA INSP. STORE MADE BONELESS ITALIAN MARINATED 1/2 CHICKEN..... \$2.99 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. STORE MADE KABOBS WITH VEGGIES \$5.49 lb</p> <p>CHICKEN... \$5.49 lb BEEF... \$7.99 lb</p>	<p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF STRIPLOIN CUT FREE \$6.99 lb WHOLE OR HALF</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN PORTERHOUSE or T'BONE STEAKS \$8.88 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY 80% LEAN GROUND BEEF \$3.79 lb 7 LB BAG</p>	<p>USDA INSP. BEEF BACK RIBS \$2.79 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH WHOLE CHICKEN TWIN PAK..... \$1.49 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS 10 LB BAG 77¢ lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN CHOCOLATE SILK PIE 23 OZ..... \$5.99 ea</p> <p>USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN COOKED SHRIMP 21/25 COUNT 2 LB BAG..... \$9.99 ea</p>
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90 Meat Outlet 90 Avocado St. Springfield 413-737-1288 www.90meat.com

HOURS: Mon. - Wed. 8-4
Thurs. 8-6 • Fri. 8-6 • Sat. 8-3

We reserve the right to limit quantities.

SALE DATES: 8/8/24-8/15/24 BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE

Tuesday Night
6:30pm
Pitch Night
\$5.00 per person

Thank You
To Our Patrons & Wishing Our Members & Their Families a Happy Summer!

There is a lot more coming in September, so keep your eyes open!

AMERICAN LEGION POST 325
22 Sycamore Street, Holyoke, MA
Find us on Facebook Paper City Post 325

**2025-03SD
Request for Quotes
New Exterior Staircase
Railings with Minor
Concrete and
Granite Stair Repairs**

The Holyoke School Department is soliciting proposals for new railings fabricated and installed on the exterior set of stairs with minor concrete and granite stair repairs located at Lawrence School 156 Chestnut Street Holyoke MA 01040.

Full documents can be requested by emailing sweeney@holyoke.org. Documents are available on 8/5/2024 after 10:00 AM. A recommended, non-mandatory site visit will be held on 8/12/24 at 10:00 AM at Lawrence School, 156 Chestnut Street Holyoke, MA 01040.

Quote Submissions are due **NO LATER THAN 2:00 PM on 8/21/2024**, quotes will be accepted electronically by email to sweeney@holyoke.org. The City of Holyoke follows all applicable state, federal and local purchasing laws, and reserves the right to reject any and all quotes. 08/09/2024

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD24P1521EA
Estate of:
Timothy Carl Abbott, Sr.
Date of Death: 06/14/2024
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 Timothy Carl Abbott, Jr. of Granby, 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: **Timothy Carl Abbott, Jr. of Granby, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/04/2024.** This is NOT a hearing date,

but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION
UNDER THE
MASSACHUSETTS
UNIFORM PROBATE
CODE (MUPC)**

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: August 07, 2024
Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate
08/09/2024

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD23P0766EA
Estate of:
Thomas P Budnick
Date of Death: 05/15/2022
CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
FORMAL
APPOINTMENT OF
SUCCESSOR PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE**

To all interested persons:
A Petition has been filed by: **Fay T Halsall** of Palmer, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order that **David G Nichols** of Palmer, MA be appointed as Successor Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

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 09/05/2024.** This is NOT a hearing date,

ing 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 date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

The estate is being administered under formal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but recipients are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: August 01, 2024
Rosemary A. Saccomani, Register of Probate
08/09/2024

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD24C0221CA
In the matter of:
Kayla Marie Degon
CITATION ON PETITION
TO CHANGE NAME**

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Kayla Marie Degon** of Holyoke, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: **Kira Marie Batchelor**

IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 08/21/2024.**

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: July 24, 2024
Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate
08/09/2024

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and**

**Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD24P1350EA
Estate of:
Henry Dominic Falcetti
Also known as:
Henry D. Falcetti
Date of Death: 06/25/2022
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR FORMAL
ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by **Thomas D. Falcetti** 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: **Thomas D. Falcetti** 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 08/28/2024.** This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION
UNDER THE
MASSACHUSETTS
UNIFORM PROBATE
CODE (MUPC)**

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: July 31, 2024
Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate
08/09/2024

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD24C0231CA
In the matter of:
Paul Anthony Francis
CITATION ON PETITION
TO CHANGE NAME**

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

Skykin Earth

IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 08/26/2024.**

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: July 29, 2024
Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate
08/09/2024

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD24P1623GD
In the interests of
Stevliany's Alia Lopez Ortiz
of Holyoke, MA
Minor**

**NOTICE AND ORDER:
Petition for Appointment
of Guardian of a Minor
NOTICE TO ALL
INTERESTED PARTIES**

1. Hearing Date/Time: A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on **08/02/2024** by **Abigail Ortiz** of Springfield, MA will be held **09/09/2024 08:30 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing**. Located: **4th Floor, 50 State Street, Springfield, MA 01103.**

2. Response to Petition: You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to:

File the original with the Court; and

Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

3. Counsel for the Minor: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel

be appointed for the minor.

4. Counsel for Parents: If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.

5. Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests. Date: August 2, 2024

Rosemary A. Saccomani, Register of Probate
08/09/2024

**CITY OF HOLYOKE
PURCHASING
DEPARTMENT
INVITATION FOR BIDS
2025-05SD
PLAYSTRUCTURE
INSTALLATION
& SITE WORK
AT MORGAN SCHOOL
SEALED BIDS ARE DUE
BY 2:00 PM ON
AUGUST 28, 2024
EMAIL SUBMISSIONS
WILL NOT BE
ACCEPTED**

The City of Holyoke invites sealed bids from qualified individuals or firms for the Holyoke Public Schools for exterior site work and play structure assembly at Morgan School 596 South Bridge Street, Holyoke, MA.

Documents will be available from the City of Holyoke's Purchasing Office, 536 Dwight Street, Room 3, Holyoke, MA 01040 beginning at 10:00AM on Wednesday August 7, 2024.

Bid documents may be requested via email to sweeney@holyoke.org or in person at the City of Holyoke's Purchasing Office. The deadline to submit bid proposals is August 28, 2024, by 2:00PM, at which time all bids received will be publicly opened in compliance with Chapter 30B and the City of Holyoke's Ordinances. No electronic Submissions will be accepted. **THE CITY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS. This project is funded in part by Federal Funds. Respondents will be verified for eligibility and must comply with all Federal requirements including Part 200.**

08/09/2024

DPW, from page 3

Nevertheless, he continued, "We believe this contract would attract significant interest from most or all of the industry's most important and technologically sophisticated firms, and it would thus allow Holyoke to learn from, and to compare proposals from, a multitude of experts in the field."

DPW Board member Joseph Kietner made the motion to recommend an RFP. Member Libby Hernandez seconded the motion. Kietner and Monahan voted in favor, Hernandez opposed.



The Holyoke Sun
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

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

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

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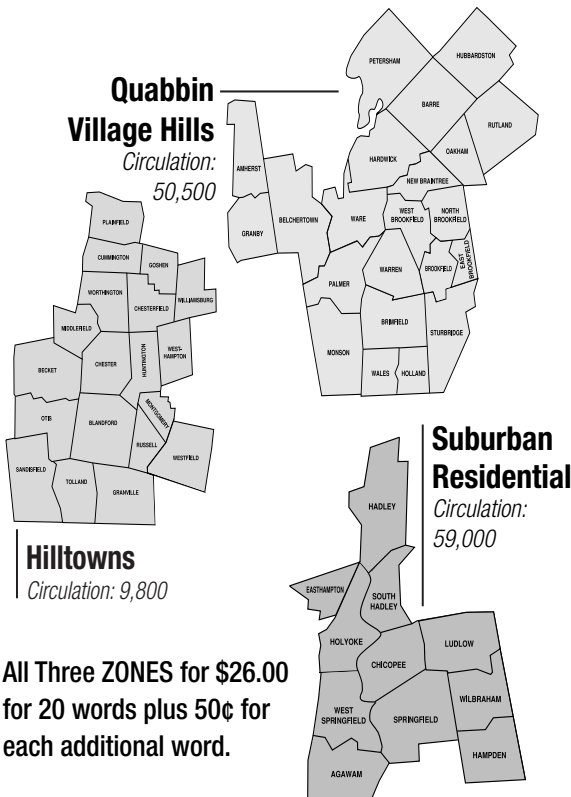
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PVTA is seeking a full-time Senior Accountant to manage the general accounting and trial balance functions. This position will assist with the implementing all accounting systems following accounting control procedures, and ensure that all related supporting documentation is processed accordingly. Must have at least 5 years of hands-on accounting experience in a General Accountant or Controller role and be proficient with Excel and various accounting software applications. Normal schedule is M-F, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., with occasional evenings. Salary is \$1,538-\$1,730/week depending on experience with excellent benefits package including health, dental, 457b, and defined pension. Please review qualification and job requirements under Careers at www.pvta.com. Please upload cover letter and resume via our website or email to humanresources@pvtransit.com. EEO/DF.

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WALK, from page 1

from the Thunderbirds and our sponsors give out swag and information, we have refreshments," Manager of the Walk Shuna Dandy said. "It's just a nice chance for everyone to mingle."

This year's refreshment sponsor is Tandem Bagel Company, so there will be different bagels available for people to enjoy.

Also part of the walk is having the Promise Garden Ceremony and Promise Garden Flowers. Everyone who registers receives a pinwheel flower of a variety of colors. Each color represents a different connection to Alzheimer's and dementia.

The person is able to decorate the flower how they desire and then place it in the garden.

Additionally, there is usually a zumba warm-up before the walk that anyone is welcome to join.

There is also an opening ceremony that will happen around 9:45 a.m. before the walk itself officially kicks off.

The walk circles around the campus at HCC, though the track at HCC will also be open for anyone who would like a shorter and flatter walking route.

Dandy and the others involved in organizing the walk look forward to it each year.

"It's just a really nice chance and it is really inspiring to see the entire local community come together," Dandy said. "You realize you're not alone. Sometimes the disease can be so isolating...it's nice to know you're not alone doing that."

Everyone is welcome to come and get involved in this event.

"Even if they don't want to walk they can just come for the day and hang-

out, or if they're not able to walk that day they can still make a donation or register and fundraise for the event and it goes to support the cause," Dandy said.

There is no registration fee for the walk and all the money that is raised during the walk goes to the Alzheimer's Association to support their work.

The association provides support for many community members. They provide care and support services for anyone facing Alzheimer's or dementia of any form.

They offer a variety of resources, including a 24/7 call line available to offer support for people with Alzheimer's or dementia or anyone who knows someone with those diseases. The number can be reached at 1-800-272-3900.

"You can call anytime day or night, you can call at 7 o'clock on Christmas morning and someone is there to answer the call," Dandy said. "And they will be a trained professional able to help if you have a crisis or if you have a question."

They also offer a free dementia care consultation program. It allows families or the person affected by Alzheimer's or dementia to completely plan out their care plan.

"Most of our programs and services that we offer to families are available at no cost to them, which is why the walk fundraising is so important as it allows us to continue to do that," Dandy said.

Additionally, they offer education programs, support groups, they hold a conference for professionals each year and they fund research projects.

To learn more about the walk itself, go to the website at act.alz.org/pioneervalley. To learn more about the Alzheimer's Association, go to their website at alz.org/manh.

SCHOOLS, from page 1

Last March, the acting State Education Commissioner told the School Committee that "We are officially entering the transition process to return to local control." State education officials and the School Committee have been meeting for the past five months to develop a plan that spells out details and a timeline for a return to local control. One

of those details is the superintendent's position.

Garcia, who is chair of the School Committee, said the full committee at the October meeting will decide whether to keep the superintendent they have when local control is restored or open up a search. Garcia was clear that the decision is not his alone to make. He also was clear that there is no search under way at this time.

Send Us Your Autumn Event Information

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

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Deadline for Calendar submissions is August 12.

Community Autumn Events

Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

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Event Name _____

Date/Time _____

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Description _____

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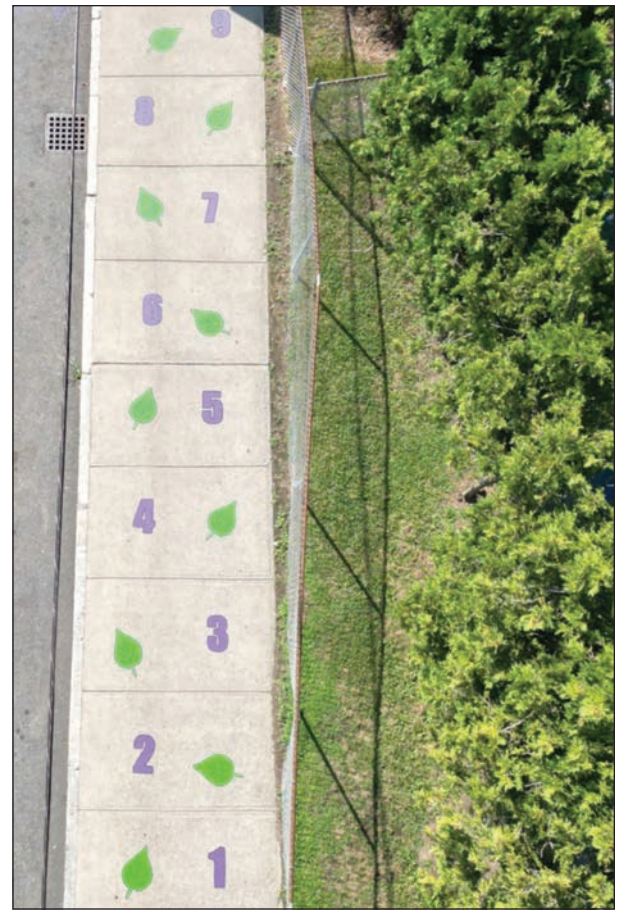
***Be sure to indicate "Autumn Event" in the subject line of your email.**



Morgan School and Paper City Kids have been working together to create a more enjoyable walking route.



The hope is it will create a positive vibe when school begins. Submitted photos



The project was made possible with a \$5,000 grant secured by Morgan School.

MURALS, from page 1

"I don't know how we could've done this without Natasha."

Already Colon Ortiz has painted several murals, including an alphabet caterpillar, number leaves, a "floor is lava" zone and a zombie run zone.

All of the murals will be fun for the kids to play along and they can learn as they have fun, practicing their letters and numbers.

"I wanted it to be interactive because they're walking to school,"

Colon Ortiz said. "Mornings can be very tough and I figured if I can have them interact, even if they're in their head saying the alphabet or their numbers... they're getting ready, they're mentally preparing themselves and setting themselves up for success when they enter school."

Colon Ortiz and Ahron plan for the murals to be completed around Sept. 9.

On Sept. 7 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. there will be a community event for kids to come out and help to complete a mural of a school bus, which will be the final mural on this walking route.

At this event there will be food and fun for all who come out. Colon Ortiz and Ahron encourage anyone interested to come and participate, they want the kids to have a hand in creating these beautiful murals.

"My biggest goal in life is to really bring art into the community and have the community be part of it," Colon Ortiz said. "It brings vibrancy, art, fun and interaction into the community."

"I want the kids to have a sense of control and empowerment to be able to say, 'I did that' or 'this is my route walking to school,'" Ahron said. "Instead of

having something put upon them, I want them to feel like they were part of the creative process."

Colon Ortiz and Ahron have also enjoyed seeing this project grow within the community, as the murals are not just for the kids at Morgan but for anyone walking by.

"It has blossomed and transformed into something not just for Morgan and the students of our walking school bus but something for the community to actually go and visit," Ahron said. "They can walk, have fun and look at all the beautiful art pieces."

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