

## City honors PURPLE HEART veterans

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – Holyoke honored Purple Heart veterans by holding a flag raising at City Hall on Purple Heart Day, Aug. 7.

“On this day we unite in honoring the courageous men and women who have endured hardships and sacrifice for the sake of our nation,” Director of Veterans’ Services Jorge Santiago said.

This was Holyoke’s first flag raising in order to honor this holiday, and the ceremony was started by Santiago.

“I spoke to the mayor and said I wanted to raise a flag on Purple Heart day in order to honor the city residents that have a Purple Heart and to honor all veterans,” Santiago said. “So now we’re going to continue it every year from now on.”

Santiago hopes that continuing this flag raising ceremony every year will help to ensure that the veterans in Holyoke are honored for all of their work and sacrifices for our nation.

“We want to ensure that we keep their legacy alive, whether they’re here with us now or passed away, we always want to

talk about our veterans, they’ve done so much for our country” Santiago said.



Director of Veterans’ Services Jorge Santiago welcomed everyone to the Purple Heart flag raising and emphasized the importance of this ceremony.

Former President George Washington established the Purple Heart award on Aug. 7, 1782 to honor service members who were wounded or killed in action. Now over 1.8 million purple hearts have been awarded.

“The Purple Heart is the nation’s first and oldest military medal,” Mayor Joshua Garcia



Mayor Joshua Garcia greeted all of the attendees of the Purple Heart flag raising.

Santiago and Garcia hoped that this ceremony would not only allow Holyoke to honor all

Purple Heart veterans, but also that it would remind Holyokers of how they can support and show their gratitude to the veterans around them.

“As we celebrate the legacy of receiving this honor, let us reaffirm our unwavering support, admiration for our heroes,” Santiago said.

“Observing Purple Heart Day helps raise awareness of the impact of war on veterans and their families and to underscore the importance of providing them with the support and the resources they need to lead a fulfilling life after their service,” Garcia said.

Garcia emphasized how important it is to take time each day to show gratitude to the veterans who have fought for our nation.

“It is critical to always take a moment to reflect and simply say thank you to those who bear those scars [of war],” Garcia said.

City Councilor David Bartley also took the opportunity to remind the gathered attendees of the Purple Heart trail that Holyoke started that now goes all the way to Connecticut.

The Purple Heart Society came before the city council

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## Adults learn to take great photos

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Public Library hosted a program put on by Photographer Peter Glass who instructed adults in how to take great photos with their smartphones.

At the beginning of the class Glass provided the attendees with packets detailing all of the notes he would go over throughout the workshop, so

they could easily consult it after they left the class.

Glass emphasized throughout this course that smartphones can have very high quality cameras and with his course anyone would be able to take great photos.

“They’re all good cameras...it’s all how you take and edit the photograph,” Glass said.

Throughout the class Glass taught people about the basic

camera controls that would be helpful for them to know in order to take good photos.

The three key camera settings he covered were aperture, shutter speed and ISO.

Aperture, which is also called f-stop, is part of the lens. The larger the opening, the more light it lets in and the more shallow depth-of-field the photo has.

The depth-of-field is the area in front and in back of the subject of a photo that is in significant focus.

Shutter speed is how long the shutter of a camera stays open before it closes to take a photo. The longer it is open, the more light it lets in, thus allowing for longer exposure, though it blurs action.

Therefore, a shorter shutter speed is recommended for action shots and brighter days, while a slower shutter speed is recommended for still shots with less light.

Finally the ISO is how sensitive the camera is to the light coming into the lens. The higher the camera sensitivity, the less light the camera needs



Turley photos by Quinn Suomala

Adults gathered in the community room at Holyoke Public Library to attend a workshop on taking better photos with their smartphones.

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## Transfer approved as city negotiates wastewater contract

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The city council discussed a transfer of \$250,000 to the sewer fund in order to assist in the negotiations and work to get a new contract for the wastewater treatment plant.

Councilor Michael Sullivan had put in the request for this transfer, which broke down to \$200,000 from capital stabilization and \$50,000 from sewer stabilization to go to \$200,000 for sewer professional services and \$50,000 for sewer legal services.

These funds would go toward the work in taking up companies’ requests for proposals to take charge of the wastewater treatment plant, as the current contract is set to expire in September of 2025.

“This is a very complicated long term and a very important contract for the city and for the future,” Sullivan said. “What we have here is a timeframe to get an RFP out and we need both the legal and the technical help to get together a contract that’s really going to be appropriate.”

The new contract, according to Sullivan, will need to be quite different from the old one, as a lot has changed over the last 20 years since the old contract was put in place.

Sullivan urged his fellow city councilors to approve this transfer at this meeting as otherwise they would have to wait at least another 30 days for the transfer to be approved, as it would go to committee and then back to the council.

He emphasized that having those additional 30 days could be crucial for the work toward creating a new contract for the wastewater treatment plant.

“Right now the reason I am trying to push this forward tonight is it gives us another 30 days to work with this team to put together a really good contract,” Sullivan said.

The new contract could be a great opportunity for the city, and Sullivan and the others on the wastewater ad hoc committee would like to get an RFP out by December at the latest.

“What we’re thinking about in the new contract involves

See WASTEWATER, page 3

## Senator Velis to negotiate bill

BOSTON— As the State Legislature works to reconcile differences between versions of several different pieces of legislation passed by the Senate and the House, Sen. John C. Velis (D-Westfield) has been appointed by Senate President Karen Spilka to the Conference Committee tasked with negotiating a final compromise substance use disorder bill.

“The unfortunate truth is most people in our Commonwealth know someone who is struggling or has struggled with addiction, and it is absolutely heartbreaking how many loved ones we continue to lose to this disease,” said Velis, Senate chair of the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use, and Recovery. “The Senate and the House have both passed important legislation in this area that have a lot of similar topics, from increasing access to overdose reversal tools like Narcan, to expanding harm reduction programs, to establishing licensure and oversight for recovery coaches. We share a lot of common goals, and it’s my job as a member of this Conference Committee to ensure that we resolve the differences in approaches that we do have and get a final compromise bill that we can all agree on to the Governor’s desk.”

Measures that exist within both versions include: Require health insurance plans to cover opioid overdose reversal drugs without cost-sharing or prior authorization.; Mandate pharma-

cies in areas with high incidences of overdose to maintain a continuous supply of opioid overdose reversal drugs and notify DPH if the supply is insufficient.; Require substance use disorder treatment facilities to educate on and dispense at least two doses of opioid overdose reversal drugs to individuals upon discharge.; Mandate hospitals to educate on and prescribe or dispense at least two doses of opioid overdose reversal drugs to individuals with a history of opioid use or opioid use disorder upon discharge.; Establishing a Comprehensive Licensure Process for Recovery Coaches; Directs DPH to create a system for licensing recovery coaches and alcohol and drug counselors, which will improve oversight of the profession and encourage more comprehensive insurance coverage.; Requires insurers to cover recovery coach services without prior authorization.; Creates a route for recovery coaches certified under the current system to obtain licensure under the new requirements.; Directs the Bureau of Substance Addiction Services to establish a peer support program to provide mentorship to individuals working in the recovery space.

With different versions of the legislation being passed by both the Senate and the House, the differences between the bills need to be reconciled before a final version can be approved and sent to the Governor’s desk.



Turley photos by Quinn Suomala

The adults at the photography workshop focused on learning about improving the quality of photos on their phones.

### PHOTOS, from page 1

to take a picture. Having a higher sensitivity can cause more grain and more noise in a photo, so only use more if more light is needed.

After detailing these camera settings, Glass went into further detail of small tricks people can use to improve their photos, even breaking down some recommendations by type of phone.

These tricks included different ways to focus the camera, creating grids on the camera monitor and adjusting the white balance of the photos.

Additionally, Glass recommended some camera apps people could download to help them take better photographs.

For iPhones he recommended ProCamera, Halide Mark II and Camera +. For Android he recommended Open Camera, Camera FV-5 and Camera MX.

These apps offer more camera options than the default app on most smartphones and they often tend to have a manual setting, which allows people to have complete control over your camera.

“You can still increase the quality of your photographs without getting these apps, but if you want to take great photos, then you need the apps,” Glass said.

Glass decides on what he will discuss in class based on the level of the course. This course was introductory, so he made sure to cover the basics people would need in order to improve their photography.

“I’m just trying to impart information that will solve that problem,” he said.

Glass was pleased with how the event went and with how interactive the class was.

“People were very interactive, they asked questions, they thanked me quite a bit when it was over, so I was quite happy with the results,” Glass said.

Glass is a commercial stock photographer who has gotten more into teaching in recent years. He offers classes and workshops for beginning and advanced photographers.

If you would like to learn more about Glass’s class options, you can go to his website at <https://www.peterglass.com/>.

Glass is also an organizer for a photography workshop under the Meetup organization. To learn more about this workshop, go to the website at [www.meetup.com/connecticut-phootography-workshops](http://www.meetup.com/connecticut-phootography-workshops).

## Library hosting new adult chess club

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Public Library announced it will be hosting an adult chess club beginning Tuesday, Aug. 27 from 4 to 5 p.m. The

club will be held every Tuesday in the Community Room. There is no experience necessary and all adults are welcome to come play and learn the game.

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## Holyoke High School class of '69 reunion

HOLYOKE— The Holyoke High School Class of 1969 will be holding its 55th reunion on Saturday, Oct. 5, at the

Knights of Columbus Hall, 250 Westfield Road. The reunion party will begin at 5:30 p.m. with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, followed by dinner

at 7 p.m. Dinner, raffle, and cash bar, along with entertainment by Moose and the Hightops, will be provided. Tickets are \$45. The Reunion Committee has worked to locate as many classmates as possible. To be sure everyone is invited or have questions, please contact Janice Shewchuk (413-530-9524), Marc Joyce (413-575-0597), or [holyokehighclassof1969@gmail.com](mailto:holyokehighclassof1969@gmail.com).

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# Search continues for new police chief

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The police department is continuing the search for the new police chief and they are welcoming the community to an upcoming listening session.

This public listening session will take place on Tuesday, Aug. 27 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Holyoke Media. The public is encouraged to attend and put in their input about what they want in a new police chief.

“The police chief is a public servant and serves the Holyoke community so we think their input is extremely important when looking for the next chief,” Personnel Director Kelly Curran said.

The search committee for the new police chief consists of Curran, City Councilor Jenny Rivera, Police Sergeant Joseph Zurheide, Narcotics Intervention Officer Detective Dorothy Beben and Community Police Officer Josh Colon.

Members of the Police Relations Committee Axel Fontanez, retired Holyoke Police

Captain Alan Fletcher, Quilana Rivera, Colleen

Chesmore, Rosanna Lopez and Jennifer Keitt are also on the search committee.

All of the members of the search committee were appointed by Mayor Joshua Garcia.

To ensure that they are getting the best candidates possible for the position, the search committee hired the services of Public Safety Consultants LLC.

According to a recent press release, this group provides a range of specialized services, including personnel management, to municipal fire and police departments in Massachusetts.

Also according to the press release, one of the firm’s principals, Russ Stevens, will be present at the upcoming public listening session.

Stevens has 37 years of municipal and state law enforcement experience, retiring as Chief of Staff to the Connecticut State Police Colonel and he has a Master’s Degree in Criminal Justice and a Bachelor’s in Communication.

He is also a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigations National Academy and is currently the President of the Massachusetts Police

Accreditation Commission.

Additionally, in an effort to seek out further public input, the city has put up a survey so the Holyoke community can weigh in on what qualities they would like to see in their future police chief.

The survey includes questions such as: “What do you see as challenges in the City of Holyoke that you believe the new Chief of Police should address in their first year on the job?” and “What are desired leadership skills and qualities the next Chief of Police should possess?”

The hope is that this survey will help the search committee by providing them guidance in what the community wants to see out of a police chief.

“I encourage everyone to either submit their input to the survey or to come see us at the public session,” Curran said.

The survey can be found by going to this link <https://www.holyoke.org/city-seeking-community-input-on-police-chief-search/>. The link is located on the Holyoke.org site on the home page under the news section.

For those interested in learning about the job requirements for a police chief, they can go to the Holyoke website at <https://www.holyoke.org/personnel-employment-opportunities/>.

This job application will close on Aug. 31, following which the committee will review the candidates and the information submitted by the public about what they want in a police chief.

Using that information, the search committee will craft questions and go through the candidates.

The top three candidates will go to Mayor Joshua Garcia and then they will be interviewed in publically in the city council chambers.

Curran expects that this whole process will be complete around mid October.

The search for a new police chief began when former Police Chief David Pratt announced his retirement at a press conference on May 3.

Pratt had worked in the police department for over 30 years, and he was proud of the work he has been able to do to push the department forward. However, he felt that it was time

for him to retire.

“It’s mostly about family,” Pratt had said. “I’ve been doing this for 31 plus years in Holyoke alone, not to mention my earlier years, and policing is a tough career and it’s hard on your families and friends as much as it’s hard on you for doing it.”

As the search committee looks for a new police chief, Isaias Cruz has stepped up as the interim police chief.

Cruz assured the people of Holyoke that they are in good hands while he is in this position.

“I’ve been preparing for the last three years as a captain, working alongside with the chief,” he had said. “I’ve already had the experience working in patrol, working as a detective, so the operation part of it is the easy part...I’m pretty confident that I can lead this department and that I have the abilities to do so.”

Cruz does intend to go out for the permanent position of police chief, as he feels his experience in and knowledge of the department will help the department to continue their growth and progress.

## Springfield Technical High School Every Class Reunion September 28

SPRINGFIELD - The spirit and comradery of Springfield’s Tech High School is alive and well as they gear up for another exciting reunion on Saturday, Sept. 28 at the Elks Lodge #61 at 440 Tiffany Street from noon to 6:00 pm. The reunion is open to ALL TECH CLASSES and friends.

An outside barbecue will be held rain or shine under the lodge’s pavilion and a special tent. The BBQ will include hot dogs, hamburgers, sausage and peppers, salads, dessert and more. Cash bar. Free parking and handicap accessible.

A fun-filled afternoon will include a live band and dancing, cornhole and bocce games, raffles and time to reminisce with friends over the years and make new friends as well. Donations will be accepted for raffle prizes.

According to committee chair Mike Borecki, “Last year we had a terrific turnout of over 300 people and we anticipate a larger group this year. We’re thrilled that the Tech Spirit is alive and well and look forward to many years to come”.

Seating is limited and tickets are \$25 each. All are on a first come, first served basis. Open seating. For tickets call Mike Borecki ’72 at 413-351-6572, Dawn Duncan ’71 at 413-896-3930, Paul Montefusco ’69 at 413-596-6607, or Matt Villamaino ’67 at 413-896-2206. We’re always looking for volunteers. If interested, contact Mike Borecki.

Located on Elliot Street in Springfield, MA Technical High School was founded in 1906 and closed in 1986.

## WASTEWATER, from page 1

things that were never there before, regulatory concerns, environmental concerns, financial and societal needs and expectations of what happens in a wastewater treatment plant,” Sullivan said.

Sullivan mentioned that through this contract there could be opportunities for great economic development, job creation, green energy, addressing climate change threats and expanded funding options that can come the city’s way.

“We really need to throw some resources at this and buy ourselves as much time as possible,” Sullivan said.

Additionally, Sullivan said that this \$250,000 was the ceiling for how much this process would cost, and even then he did not expect to spend the full \$250,000, he and the others on the wastewater ad hoc committee had just set this amount in case it was needed.

“That is the ceiling and we don’t expect it to reach that ceiling, we like the security,” Sullivan said.

However, some councilors were hesitant to push for this to be approved without having had a full discussion in committee first, due to the size of the transfer.

“Saving 30 days I don’t think is justification for, as Mike said, a \$180 million contract,” Councilor David Bartley said.

“We just sent a 30,000 expense to a committee relative to a citizens’ ballot initiative because we were concerned about the expense and I really think we have to do our due diligence and understand our parameters and what we’re going to get for the \$250,000 and what the future costs related to it might be,” Councilor Linda Vacon said. “I just think we need to do it the right way.”

These councilors wanted the matter to be sent to the finance committee so they could go over the details thoroughly before approving the transfer.

Councilor Patti Divine cautioned them against doing so, as the next finance committee was not until Sept. 12 and there was already a full agenda.

Divine encouraged councilors to pass the item, as based on what Sullivan had said and meetings Divine had attended, this was the best step forward.

“I really think, based on that meeting that I went to...this is the right thing to do and to do it as soon as possible,” Divine said.

With this in mind, the council took a vote on the matter. The transfer needed a 2/3 majority in order to pass.

The council voted 7-4 ,with Councilors Bartley, Howard Greaney, Carmen Occasio and Vacon voting no.

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Editorial

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 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

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# 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](mailto: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.



Guest Column

# A question that will encourage blooms for a non-blooming peony

A reader wrote in with this question for the Garden Lady regarding Peony culture: "I hope you can offer some suggestions for me. I have a couple peonies that my mother-in-law gave me. I just kind of put them in the back of our property. They are sad in that they do have foliage but no flowers. I want to transplant. My question is, where do I plant them and at what time of the year?"

You are in luck! Peonies are best planted in the fall, September or October in our area.

This timing will give the plants an opportunity to develop a healthy stand of feeder roots before the ground freezes. Choose a location that receives six or more hours of sun a day.

Without knowing the exact size of your plants or if you will be able to lift and move the whole clump, it's hard to advise on the exact size of the hole. Just make sure there is ample room around the plant so that the roots will be able to extend out easily.

If your soil is average, the addition of a balanced fertilizer may be all that is necessary at planting. Soils that are lean should be improved prior to planting by amending the hole with roughly equal parts good soil and aged compost or manure.

Peonies prefer a pH of 6.0-7.0, a wide enough range to accommodate most home garden situations. If your soil is more acidic than that, bring up your pH by adding lime.

Peonies fertilized at planting time require no additional food until the following fall. Bear in mind that too much nitrogen will encourage lots of leaves but few roots and flowers, and I know you are looking forward to flowers!

For that reason, choose a fertilizer that is lower in nitrogen than the other nutrients. After the third season fertilize after blooming, as well as in the fall.

An established peony is drought resistant, but if spring rains are scarce, a weekly watering will also help to promote good flowers.

Heavy peony flowers, especially the old-fashioned types will no doubt bow down to the ground in the wind and rain unless staked. I usually pick some for the vase in the bud stage in an attempt to avoid this task, but nevertheless it makes the plant nice and tidy and should be accomplished.

Middle weight bamboo stakes inserted into the ground on the outer edge of the plant cut to three-quarters its height, work well. Run two rows of twine or jute at one third and two thirds up the bamboo, respectively.

Simply start by tying a knot on one stake, wrapping around the next and tightening as you go. If green bamboo and jute are used the staking will hardly be visible, especially if you don't tighten so much that it looks unnatural.

One year my peony buds wilted and dried up just prior to bloom. The culprit was botrytis.

Good hygiene can reduce the risk of this fungus invading your garden. Each fall simply cut the stems of herbaceous peonies down to the ground.

Haul them off to the trash, don't compost. If watering is necessary, do so early in the morning and water at the plant's base rather than overhead to keep foliage dry.

Any stems that show signs of wilting should be cut away and thrown in the trash as well. Disinfect clippers in between cuts.

I hope that this additional information will help you to achieve the long-awaited flowers that you are hoping for! It may take a year or two for transplanted peonies to get adjusted and do their thing, but once set they will bloom happily for decades!

*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](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.*



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Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

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

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# Committee reveals Lavelle as 2025 parade marshal

HOLYOKE— The St. Patrick's Committee of Holyoke announced that its 72nd Grand Marshal is James M. Lavelle. The Grand Marshal is the highest local honor given to a person who has distinguished themselves as a loyal person to their career, their family, and to their Irish ancestry.

Lavelle and his wife, Elizabeth "Liza", are the proud parents to four grown children: Hugh, Grace, Owen, and John. Son of the late Bernard and Mary Lavelle, James is a Holyoke native where he and his 8 siblings grew up in the Oakdale neighborhood. The Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade and their proud Irish ancestry runs deep with the Lavelle family. Lavelle's father, Bernard "Bernie" M. Lavelle, Jr. was a very active member of the St. Patrick's Committee having led the Parade as Grand Marshal in 1988 and Lavelle's daughter, Grace, was a member



Submitted Photo  
The St. Patrick's Committee of Holyoke announced that its 72nd Grand Marshal is James M. Lavelle.

of the Grand Colleen Court in 2016.

Lavelle is the General Manager of Holyoke Gas and Electric which provides gas, electric,

and telecommunications services to its customers. Through Lavelle's leadership, HG&E has implemented innovative projects, such as the acquisition of the Holyoke Dam and Canal system and the development of solar and energy storage, which not only benefit customers and the environment but have also been recognized through several achievements, including the 2021 & 2023 Utility Transformation Leaderboard by the Smart Electric Power Alliance.

Lavelle is a graduate of Holyoke High School and the University of Massachusetts where he received a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering and a master's degree in business administration. Lavelle serves on the boards of several professional associations including as director of the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company, Municipal Electric Association

of Massachusetts, Northeast Public Power Association, PeoplesBank, Holyoke Chamber of Commerce and as Director and President of the Holyoke Solar Cooperative and Massachusetts Clean Energy Cooperative.

Lavelle also enjoys giving back to his community having served as a Trustee for Holyoke Community College, on the Finance Committee of St. Jerome Parish, the Board for the Greater Holyoke YMCA, and as coach for Holyoke Youth Football and Holyoke YMCA Basketball. "I am excited that we are honoring Holyoke native, James Lavelle, as Grand Marshal," said John Beaulieu, parade president. "His dedication to his family, his career and his community are well known and I'm grateful to the Grand Marshal's Selection Committee for choosing him with this most esteemed honor. I look forward to having James Lavelle and his

family lead the 72nd Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade on March 23, 2025."

"I am very grateful to be recognized by the Parade Committee and truly honored to be asked to lead the 72nd Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade," said Lavelle. "The Parade Committee does such a wonderful job producing the Parade and related events that have such a positive impact on Holyoke and the region and I am thrilled to be asked to be part of it. I look forward to following in my father's footsteps and marching in the Parade with my family."

Lavelle will be honored at the Grand Marshal's Reception on Friday, Jan. 17, 2025, at the Log Cabin in Holyoke. For more details or to purchase tickets to the reception, please contact Stephanie Joyce (stef0816@comcast.net).



Submitted Photo

## Historic plaques available through new program

HOLYOKE— The Holyoke Historical Commission, in collaboration with Holyoke High Dean Campus Carpentry Shop, is proud to announce the launch of their Historic Plaque Sign

The Holyoke Historical Commission, in collaboration with Holyoke High Dean Campus Carpentry Shop, is proud to announce the launch of their Historic Plaque Sign Program.

Program, aimed at preserving and celebrating the rich history of the community.

This program will provide plaques for residential properties that hold significant historical value, allowing residents and visitors to learn about the historical homes that have influenced

our neighborhood. By recognizing and highlighting the city's heritage in this way, hope to foster a greater appreciation for the shared history and encourage a sense of pride in our community. For questions, contact the Holyoke Historical Commission via email: HHCC@holyoke.org.

## Dinnall appointed to HCC Board of Trustees

HOLYOKE — Sonia E. Dinnall, the new superintendent of Springfield Public Schools, has been appointed to the Holyoke Community College Board of Trustees by Gov. Maura Healey.

Dinnall's term will run until March 1, 2027.

Dinnall was named superintendent of Springfield Public Schools in May and is the first woman to hold that position. She previously served as the principal of the Springfield High School of Commerce, executive director of college and career readiness for Hartford Public Schools, and supervisor of student support services for Springfield Public Schools. She started her career in education as an eighth-grade science teacher in Forest Park Middle School.

"Throughout my 34-year career in education, the vast majority has been dedicated to fostering the integration of secondary and post-secondary education," said Dinnall, who lives in Springfield. "As a member of the HCC Board of Trustees, I am eager to contribute my knowledge and skills to enhance and strengthen the connection between

our secondary and post-secondary institutions. My ultimate goal is to improve student outcomes and institutional success."

Dinnall holds a Ph.D. in educational leadership from Lesley University, a master's degree in psychology from Westfield State, a master's degree in education from the University of Massachusetts, and a bachelor's degree in biology and psychology from Westfield.

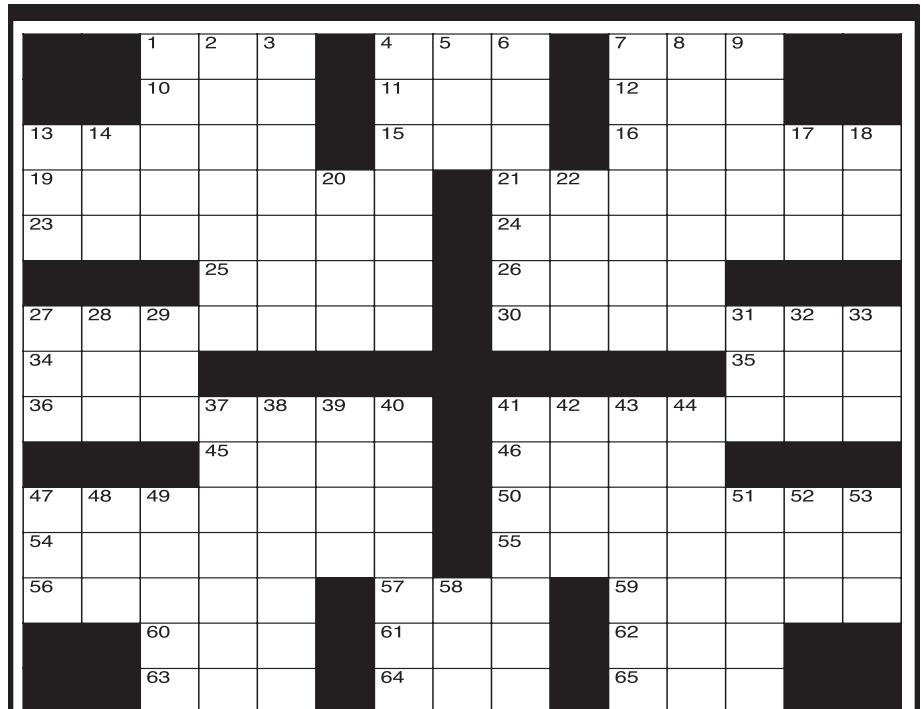
"The HCC community is excited to have Dr. Dinnall join the Board of Trustees of Holyoke Community College," said HCC President George Timmons. "She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience, and I look forward to collaborating with her to increase and improve students' success from secondary schools to HCC. Dr. Dinnall is a welcome addition to a board of trustees committed to enhancing the college and removing barriers to student success."

Dinnall will attend her first HCC board meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 27.

## Yoga classes offered at NAMI

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

This series will be 4 weeks starting on Monday July 29 and continuing August 5, August 12, and concluding on August 19. Come celebrate Kateri's Third Anniversary, July 29, with a free yoga class. The remaining three classes are available for just \$30. Partial proceeds go to NAMI-WM. Pre-registration is required. To Register email Kateri at: mindfulnessyogawithkateri721@gmail.com



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|---|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>CLUES ACROSS</b>                         | 30. Immobile                                | <b>CLUES DOWN</b>                 | vehicle                                |
| 1. Major American automaker (abbr.)         | 34. Pie __ mode                             | 1. Policemen (French)             | 32. Fall behind                        |
| 4. Pressure measurement                     | 35. Moved quickly                           | 2. Toy dog                        | 33. Midway between northeast and east  |
| 7. Two-year-old sheep                       | 36. Passenger's place on a motorbike        | 3. Inflamed colon disease         | 37. Head pain                          |
| 10. Indigenous person from Laos or Thailand | 41. A way through                           | 4. Can't move                     | 38. Popular sport in England and India |
| 11. Up in the air (abbr.)                   | 45. Former US Secretary of Education Duncan | 5. Helps little firms             | 39. King Charles's sister              |
| 12. Actress de Armas                        | 46. Leader                                  | 6. Lists of names, subjects, etc. | 40. Boat race                          |
| 13. Not moving                              | 47. Flowing                                 | 7. Takes down                     | 41. About fish                         |
| 15. Cool!                                   | 50. Greetings                               | 8. Makes possible                 | 42. Mailservant                        |
| 16. Bog arum genus                          | 54. Remedy                                  | 9. Wife of Julius Constantius     | 43. Able to be marketed                |
| 19. Perceptible by touch                    | 55. Soft lightweight fabric                 | 13. Engine additive               | 44. Tinier                             |
| 21. Type of test                            | 56. Building material                       | 14. Arctic explorers (abbr.)      | 47. Parts per billion (abbr.)          |
| 23. Monetary units                          | 57. Sea bream                               | 17. Written account               | 48. Paddle                             |
| 24. Collection of various things            | 59. A way to cause to be swollen            | 18. Consumed                      | 4.9 Oneness                            |
| 25. Sum of five and one                     | 60. One and only                            | 20. Something the first shall be  | 51. Bitter chemical                    |
| 26. Type of sword                           | 61. People get one in summer                | 22. No (slang)                    | 52. Not around                         |
| 27. Hates                                   | 62. Wreath                                  | 27. Gov't lawyers                 | 53. Very fast airplane                 |
|   | 63. Thus far                                | 28. Peyton's little brother       | 58. Swiss river                        |
|   | 64. They __                                 | 29. Small amount                  |  |
|   | 65. Sea eagle                               | 31. Investment                    |  |

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 6

# Girl Scouts receive grant from Davis Foundation

HOLYOKE – Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts (GSCWM) is pleased to announce the continued investment by the Irene E. & George A. Davis Foundation through a \$15,000 grant in support of ‘It’s A Girls World’, one of the community-based programs it offers.

The after-school program engages Hampden County girls in grades K-6 in STEM, Financial Literacy, and Health & Personal Wellness topics.

“We are extraordinarily grateful to be recognized by the Irene E. & George A. Davis Foundation as an organization seeking to improve the quality of lives of girls in our community”, said Theresa Lynn, GSCWM CEO. “Introducing middle school girls to STEM careers they might not have known existed or showing them what a budget looks like; helping elementary school kids craft prototypes for inventions or simply introducing them to the joy of discovering new things, hinting at where their strengths and skills lie, enables members to realize their own potential and gain critical skills they will carry throughout their lives. It is made possible by this generous support.”

The Girl Scout Leadership Experience is a collection of engaging, challenging, and fun activities for girls to develop a strong sense of self, display positive values, seek challenges, learn from setbacks, form and maintain healthy relationships, and learn to identify and solve problems in their community. The generous support of contributors such as the Irene E. & George A. Davis Foundation makes this possible.

The Irene E. & George A. Davis Foundation supports a variety of nonprofit organizations seeking to improve the quality of lives for those living in Hampden County.

## Annual Communion Breakfast to be held Sept. 29

HOLYOKE— Saint Jerome Parish is hosting its annual Communion Breakfast on Sunday, Sept. 29 at 9 a.m., at the Pope John Paul II Social Center on the Mater Dolorosa Campus. The guest speaker is Sr. Joan Magnani, Ministry Coordinator at Jericho, The Bureau for Exceptional Children and Adults. Tickets are \$20 per person and may be purchased at all weekend Masses at St. Jerome’s from Sept. 7 through Sept. 15 for by contacting the Parish Office (413.532.6381).

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## Holyoke CPA Committee seeking applicants

HOLYOKE —The City of Holyoke Community Preservation Act Committee is pleased to announce the opening of their FY25 grant cycle. Potential applicants are invited to submit eligibility determination forms from Aug. 15 through Sept. 15. The CPA was created by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 2000 and adopted by the City of Holyoke in 2016. Its purpose is

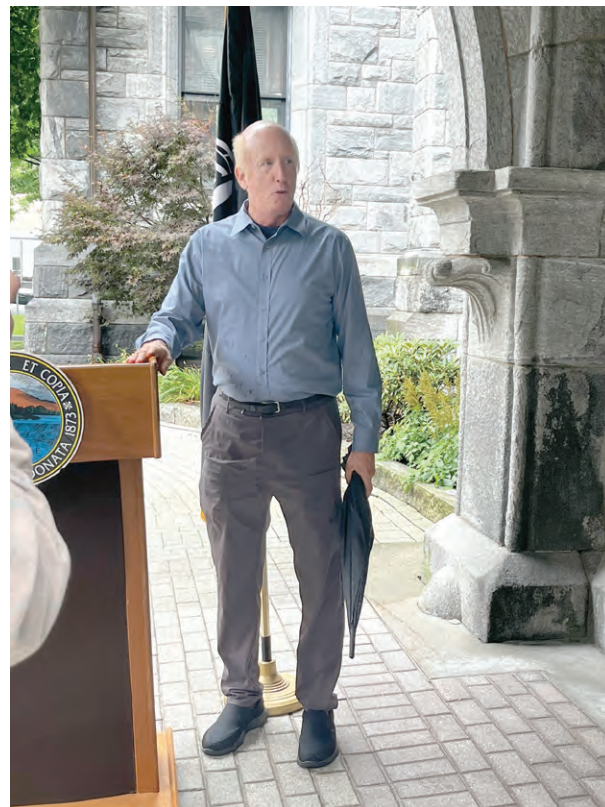
to support Historic Preservation, Recreation/ Open Space and Community Housing within Holyoke. The Holyoke CPA has funded a variety of popular projects throughout the City including the new Miracle League Playground, the restoration of the stained-glass windows at City Hall, Lady Liberty and the Korean Conflict Memorial at Veterans Park and many others. Since adoption, the

Holyoke CPC has disbursed over \$4.2 million dollars to preserve Holyoke’s character and improve quality of life.

Please visit the website at [www.HolyokeCPAC.org](http://www.HolyokeCPAC.org) for more information. Potential applicants are encouraged to contact CPC Administrator Amy Landau at [Landaua@holyokey.org](mailto:Landaua@holyokey.org) with questions and for support in the application process.



Mayor Joshua Garcia emphasized how important it is to stop and honor veterans every day, not just on special holidays.



City Councilor David Bartley shared the origin story of the Purple Heart Trail throughout Holyoke.



Event attendees gathered around to raise the Purple Heart flag.

Turley photos by Quinn Suomala

## PURPLE HEART, from page 1

about ten years ago to welcome the council as a part of the society.

From there a few councilors, including Bartley, wanted to do something in return. From there they developed the Purple Heart Trail, which went from the South Hadley bridge on Route 202 to the Westfield line.

This idea continued to catch on and soon Westfield, Granby and Southwick caught on, so the trail goes from Granby through to Connecticut as a way to honor all of the veterans in those areas.

This flag raising was a great way for Holyoke to continue to honor all of the veterans in the community who have received Purple Hearts, and Holyoke plans to keep this ceremony alive for years to come.



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USDA INSP. FRESH CUTLETS PORK SIRLOIN..... <b>\$2<sup>49</sup></b> lb	CUT FREE WHOLE OR HALF	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST 10 LB BAG..... <b>\$2<sup>33</sup></b> lb
USDA INSP. FROZEN BONELESS CENTER CUT PORK LOIN... <b>\$1<sup>99</sup></b> lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF SHOULDER LONDON BROIL..... <b>\$4<sup>99</sup></b> lb	USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN THIGHS 10 LB BAG..... <b>\$1<sup>55</sup></b> lb
SLICED IN OUR DELI HOT HAM..... <b>\$2<sup>99</sup></b> lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN OCEAN GOURMET STUFFED CLAMS 20 OZ..... <b>\$6<sup>99</sup></b> ea	USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN RAW EASY PEEL SHRIMP 31/40 COUNT 2 LB BAG..... <b>\$8<sup>88</sup></b> ea
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# SPORTS

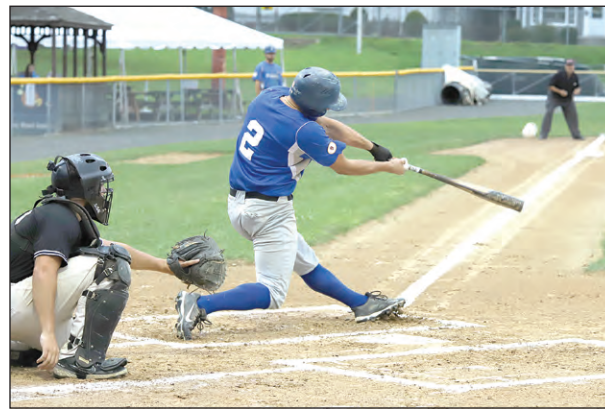
## Bankers take 11th consecutive playoff title



Seth Allen looks to get things going for PeoplesBank.

HOLYOKE – PeoplesBank of the Tri-County Baseball League continues to field one of the best rosters in Western Massachusetts. Last Tuesday evening, the Bankers would capture their 11th consecutive championship with a two-

game sweep of Hilltown Tents, ending with an 8-3 win last Tuesday night. The Bankers had an unusual playoff path, having to wait nearly two weeks after the end of the regular season to compete in the playoffs. The quarterfinal series went through several postponements following the end of the regular season. When the Bankers finally came to play, they rounded off four wins in five days to take the semifinals and finals. The Bankers defeated St. Joe's, their longtime rivals, in the semifinals.



Dave Clark connects on a home run to left in the first inning.



Pete Hogan hustles down the first.



Jimmy Flahive delivers a pitch home.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli  
Joe Ferry fields a base hit to left.

## Here for Beer comes up short in PVSSL finals

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Six of the ten women teams in the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League qualified for the playoffs.

The Lusitano Women and Here for Beer finished the regular season with 6-4-2 records and a coin flip was held to determine their playoff seeds. The two squads wound up facing each other in the championship match.

The fifth-seeded Lusitano Women took home the championship trophy for the first time since 2019 with a 3-0 shutout victory over the sixth-seeded Here for Beer at historic Lusitano Stadium, last Friday night.

“We’ve always made the playoffs, but it feels really good to win the championship game for the first time in five years,” said Lusitano Women player/coach Taylor Jordan. “We’re an experienced team this year, and



Lindsey Marjanski, of South Hadley, makes her way up the field.

everyone showed up ready to play in tonight’s match.”

Jordan shared the coaching duties with Stephanie Goncalves.

The Lusitano Ladies, who play their home matches at Lusitano Stadium, advanced into the finals after defeating the fourth-seeded Western Mass.

Extremes, 1-0, in the quarterfinals, and the second-seeded Heat, 3-1, in the semifinals.

“We won our first two playoff matches on the road. We just wanted to end the season by playing another game on our home field,” Jordan said. “It’s always very special to play a match here.”



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com  
Mackenzie Shean of Agawam dribbles up the field.

Back in 2019, the Lusitano Women celebrated a 3-0 victory over the Xtremes in the championship match. The previous year, they lost by the same score to Here for Beer in the finals.

Following the last Friday’s championship match, Julia Farnham, who’s a third year

member of the Lusitano Women, received the M.V.P. award.

“I didn’t score any of the goals or had an assist, but I did help my teammates set up the goals,” said Farnham, who’s a midfielder. “It feels great to win

See SOCCER, page 8

# Conte leads way in Owls golf tourney

WESTFIELD – Sunny skies met the 33 registered foursomes for the 18th annual Owl Club Tournament at Crestview Country Club in Agawam, Mass. on Monday.

The tournament is a key fundraiser for Westfield State athletics with alumni, sponsors, families and university coaches and staff all participating to net more than \$21,000 to support Owls' athletics. Westfield Bank again served as the lead sponsor of the event.

Westfield State president Linda Thompson welcomed the players at dinner and thanked them for the support of the University and Owls athletics. She mentioned her increased focus on the success of the Owls athletic teams and their role in university life, and reminded players that the University will be celebrating its 185th anniversary this fall with a gala event as part of the homecoming week-

end on Oct. 18.

Westfield State director of athletics Richard Lenfest, Jr. formally introduced Westfield State's new head football coach Lou Conte, Jr., as the guest of honor at the tournament's post-round dinner, sponsored by Westfield Gas and Electric and Whip City Fiber.

"Coach K and Coach Marino I held in high regard as a young man," said Conte in his remarks about the Owls previous two head coaches, both in attendance at the tournament. "I knew what I wanted to do, I wanted to coach football ... They were kings to me, and to be able to follow in the footsteps of the path that they laid out, both individually and together, and I am so appreciative, and so lucky to be here. I'm so excited for the season and there are many great things here that makes it feel like the right move for us."

Conte, an Agawam native, noted that he and his wife and children were excited to be able to set down roots in Western Mass again after stints coaching at Lenoir-Rhyne and the Citadel in South Carolina.

Players played in the scramble format at Crestview, former home of the LPGA's Friendly's classic and a qualifying site for the PGA's Travelers Championship. Players received lunch, sponsored by College Hype Sportswear and Screenprinting, and competed in variety of contests on the course, including long drive, pot of gold, a putting contest, shot for a \$5,000 hole in one prize, and contested closest-to-the-pin on multiple holes. Carts were sponsored by the Follett Campus Bookstore.

The Owls 2023 MASCAC Champion women's soccer team helped out as volunteers on the course, running sever-

al of the contests and staffing the players' Oasis on the course, which was sponsored by Pepsi and Commercial Distributing. Part of the proceeds from the event will help support women's soccer's season-opening trip to the Nashville, Tenn. area for a multi-day tournament.

Conte's big day continued as his foursome won the tournament's open division with a remarkable score of 17-under par.

"I hope his playbook is as good as his scorecard," joked tournament director Dave Caspole, the Owls associate director of athletics, in announcing the winners.

A foursome headed by Conte's father, Lou Sr., topped the senior division with a 16-under score.

Westfield State athletic trainers Cheryl Lee Sccecina and Katie Sylvain were part of the winning coed foursome with a

score of nine-under.

Other honors went to baseball alumnus Jack Mosko '78 who won the putting contest, hockey alumnus Chad Lesage '78 who topped the long drive, and Deb Murphy p'17 who topped the women's long drive. Closest to the pin honors went to Tom Mathis, Jake Hough, and former Owls men's basketball guard Austin Joseph '18. Retired Owls cross country coach and Owls Hall of Famer Bill Devine '73 won the pot of gold drawing after hitting the green in regulation on the 11th hole.

The tournament is annually contested the first Monday in August, as the Owls ramp up for their teams to arrive for fall pre-season. Conte's football team will be the first ones back on campus beginning Aug. 13.

# West wins Bronze in Bay State Games

WALTHAM – The Western Mass. representative in the Bay State Games for boys soccer captured the bronze last month. Here is a look at a couple of their matchups during the games.

West played a strong game offensively against Metro, winning 4-1, scoring four goals. Imran Daher (Roxbury, Boston Latin Academy) was the

only Metro player that was able to get a goal against West. Daniel Martin (Easthampton, Hampshire Reg HS) had a good game. Martin made two goals and assisted another. Martin assisted Thomas Wadas (Ludlow, Ludlow HS). Alex Hensch (Longmeadow, Longmeadow HS) assisted Owen Miller (South Hampton,

Hampshire Reg HS) on West's third goal of the game.

West would lose to Northeast 3-1. Northeast only allowed one goal this game. It was made in the first half by Jack Walsh (East Longmeadow, East Longmeadow HS). Northeast didn't trail for long, they responded to Walsh with three goals of their own. These goals

were scored by Alexander Faiella (Littleton, Littleton HS), Andre Groberio (Wenham, Hamilton-Wenham Reg HS), Jayden Dullea (Shrewsbury, Shrewsbury HS).

West would defeat Coastal 2-1. Coastal was able to hold West off until the second half of the game. During the first half, Landen Freitas (Fall River,

B.M.C. Durfee HS) of Coastal scored a goal which Michael Gallagher (Longmeadow, Wilbraham & Monson Academy) of West responded to with one of his own. West's second goal was scored by Ayden St. Martin (South Hampton, Hampshire Reg HS).



Hannah Duggan, of Palmer, goes for a header.



Emily Landry, of Agawam, heads past midfield.



Here for Beer were the Women's Division runners-up.



Macie Bolton, of Belchertown, crosses the field with the ball.

## SOCCKER, from page 7

a championship game for the first time in the three years that I've been playing for this soccer team."

Farnham lives in Amherst, and played soccer at Vassar College, which is in Poughkeepsie, New York. She led her college soccer team in minutes last fall as a senior.

Here for Beer, who plays their home matches at South Hadley High School, advanced into the finals after posting a pair of road victories. They beat the third-seeded Monson Mustangs, 4-3, in the quarterfinals, and upset the top-seeded Westside Sports Shop, 2-0, in the semis. Westside Sports Shop had won the last three women's championship titles.

"We began the season well before suffering a couple of injuries," said Here for Beer player/coach Cassie Ashwell. "I never thought that we would make it to the finals this year, but we knocked out the top-seeded team in the semifinals. It was a fun season."

Ashwell, who was selected as the M.V.P. of the 2018 championship match, shares the coaching duties with Gina Lord.

Ashwell is normally a midfielder, but she was the starting goalkeeper in this year's finals.

"Our starting goalie, Sue Jenney, suffered an ACL injury during the regular season. Our backup goalie, Kelly Callahan, suffered a season ending injury in our semifinal match on Wednesday," Ashwell said. "I've never been a goalie before the other night. I was our starting goalie in tonight's game and it's the first time I've played a full game at that position. You just need to have a different mindset being a goalie than a field player. I just needed to step up for my team."

The Lusitano Ladies took a 1-0 lead following a free kick goal during the eighth minute.

Ada Siepman, who plays soccer at Mount Holyoke College, fired a high shot that Ashwell couldn't save. The ball landed in the right corner of the net.

"I tried my best to make the save on their first goal," Ashwell said. "I just hesitated a little bit and the ball got past me."

Two minutes later, Lauren Cantin delivered a pass from the left side to Trystin Burger, who finished off the play by scoring the Lusitano Women's second goal.

Burger also played soccer at Granby High School and AIC.

The final 30 minutes of the opening half was evenly played.

Here for Beer best scoring chance came on a shot attempt during the 18th minute of the first half from Lauren Majanski, who graduated from South Hadley High School.

The Lusitano Women built a 3-0 lead following a goal by Jordan Chatman with about twenty minutes remaining in regulation.

The Lusitano Ladies will be looking to defend their PVSSL women's championship title a year from now.



## Quabbin League seeking to start this fall

The Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League is looking to start an eight-game fall program for the over-28 population. The league, which plays a spring/summer regular season with six teams for 15 games followed by playoffs, is hoping to continue the fun into the fall with a short eight-game schedule for interested players.

Preliminary details are still being worked on, but the league is looking to have four teams with six “regular season” games followed by a semifinal in the seventh week, and a final/consolation game in the eighth week.

The league will be a bit more informal than the regular spring/summer league with the goal being for players to have fun playing more baseball, work on field and batting skills through more innings in the field and extra at-bats, or potentially working on or trying out

pitching.

As has been traditional in other fall leagues, the Quabbin League will likely be wood-bat only for the fall.

There is an interest form and survey interested players can fill out at [www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org](http://www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org). The league is open to all current Quabbin league players as well as players from other leagues who are age 28 and over during the calendar year of 2024.

The league will look to keep the cost very low for the league with preliminary indications having the league in the \$40-50 range to play eight games.

Games will likely be held in the West Springfield, Agawam, Southwick area and are likely to be held on Sunday mornings, though a few games may be held at alternate times. Games are scheduled to begin in September after Labor Day.

## Actions picks up at Thompson Speedway

THOMPSON, CT — What started out as a gloomy day in the quiet corner of Connecticut turned sunny for the teams, fans and supporters of the 5/8-mile Thompson Speedway. Track championship action started with the AZ Roofing SK Light Modified division under the command of John O’Sullivan and Rob Schultz. O’Sullivan quickly took charge on the bottom groove with Schultz sliding back on the outside. Launching into a four-car race saw Meg Fuller, Tyler Chapman and Nick Hovey join O’Sullivan under a blanket at the front.

Fuller stole the lead before a hard-charging Chapman took over on lap five as Nick Hovey stalked from behind. The extra-distance feature saw the three leaders run nose-to-tail before a mid-race caution for the spinning Rob Schultz set up a dash between Chapman and Hovey. The two leaders turned sour in turn two, spinning off the treacherous turn and leaving Fuller the lead for the restart with eleven laps remaining. In just five laps, Hovey and Chapman returned to the front as Hovey tried his best to claim the win but Tyler Chapman took down his fifth win in a row at Thompson with John O’Sullivan taking third.

The Mini Stocks were next on the field with Rick LaFlesh and Steve Michalski in command under the green flag. LaFlesh led the early goings before Kevin Moore powered through on the bottom to lead lap 4 with defending champ Jarred Roy patiently making his way to the front. After battling LaFlesh for second place lap after lap, Roy finally made his way into the runner-up spot with five laps remaining and set his sights on Moore. Side-by-side under the white flag, both former champions gave it all they had but it would be Kevin Moore at the line to snap Jarred Roy’s four-race wins streak with Ryan Pomposelli joining the podium in third.

Moving on to the Street Stocks, rookie Austin Flanagan and Icebreaker winner Al Stone III brought the fan-favorite division to the initial green with trouble

early for Ryan Waterman and Scott Souza as they dragged across the length of the backstretch wall. After rookie Flanagan led lap one, Stone powered back to the lead with Scott Sundeen, Corey Fanning and ‘Leadfoot’ Larry Barnett following him on the bottom. Fanning used a strong run through turns one and two to launch under Stone and lead lap seven.

The Thompson Late Models jumped on the highbanks for their 25-lap feature with Ryan Morgan and Derek Gluchacki leading the charge into turn one. Kulwicki Driver Development Program (KDDP) finalist Gluchacki led the early circuits with Jake ‘The Jet’ Johnson trying to track him down as Connor Souza made a physical battle in his fight to third-place. Three wide with former champions Morgan and Nick Johnson, Souza battled hard to join the top-three. The physicality continued to the lap 10 caution with Souza sent to the rear for contact that sent Morgan around in turn two. One final late race caution for rookie Kyle Gero’s dust-up in turn three set up a final chase to the checkers with Derek Gluchacki becoming the first repeat Late Model winner at the Big-T with Jake Johnson and Matt Lowinski-Loh rounding out the podium.

The Tripoint Showdown 50-lap main event for the Thompson Sunoco Modifieds rounded out the evening’s program under the lead of Danny Cates and Josh Carey. Cates led from the start as Jon Puleo motored into second with Kieth Rocco looking to come from the back of the pack. Puleo and Cates would swap lanes over and over again with crossovers galore as Rocco watched from two car lengths back in the catbird seat. The first caution would slow the field as Derek Ramstrom smacked the turn one wall with Puleo getting the restart jump on Cates. Cates and Josh Carey would suffer the same fate on lap 27, slamming into the turn one wall. Jon Puleo would take off on the restart and lead down to the wire with Keith Rocco and Isaiah Newcomb rounding out the podium three.

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 [ssadvis@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvis@amacfoundation.org). Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

### **SOCIAL SECURITY**, from page 4

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

## Gulls win NECBL title

NEWPORT, RI – The final game of the 2024 season was one for the history books, as the Newport Gulls capped off their 2024 campaign with a bang in extra innings for an 8-7 victory following the continuation of game two on a sunny Saturday evening at Cardines Field.

In the bottom of the second, the Gulls struck first as Tyler Hare (Wofford) crushed a solo home run to right center to put the Gulls up 1-0 early. However, the Mainers responded immediately in the top of the third. The Mainers tied the game on an error and then Jackson Tucker (St. John’s) hit an RBI double to put the Mainers up 2-1.

In the bottom of the fourth, the Gulls put up a crooked number to take the lead 6-2. Dixon Williams (Eastern Carolina) crushed a two-run home run to the thrill of his teammates. After that, Matt Ossenfort (NC State) crushed his own three-run home run to add a cushion for the Gulls.

Meanwhile on the mound, Gulls starter Kade Shatwell (Oklahoma City) brought the energy for the team. Shatwell pitched 6.1 strong innings,

allowing just three earned runs with eight strikeouts, pumping up his teammates. However, after Shatwell came out, the Mainers marched back. In the top of the seventh, Devan Bade (Binghamton) hit a two-run single to cut the deficit to 6-4, then in the top of the eighth, Caleb Shpur (UConn) came through for the Mainers, tying the game with a two-run home run to even the score. Later in that same inning, the Mainers took the lead 7-6 on a single by CJ Willis (Quinnipiac), turning the tide once again in favor of Sanford.

Down to their final three outs, the Gulls sent Hare to the plate with one out and Hare delivered, crushing his second home run of the night into the right field netting to tie the score at seven apiece and force extra innings.

In the tenth, Drew Delucia (Franklin Pierce) did his job for the Gulls, keeping the Mainers off the board and giving the team a chance to walk it off. In the bottom half of the inning, the Gulls did just that. Williams came through with the game-winning RBI single, walking it off 8-7 to clinch the Fay Vincent Sr. Cup for the Gulls.

## Girl Scouts receive grant from Davis Foundation

HOLYOKE – Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts (GSCWM) is pleased to announce the continued investment by the Irene E. & George A. Davis Foundation through a \$15,000 grant in support of ‘It’s A Girls World’, one of the community-based programs it offers.

The after-school program engages Hampden County girls in grades K-6 in STEM, Financial Literacy, and Health & Personal Wellness topics.

“We are extraordinarily grateful to be recognized by the Irene E. & George A. Davis Foundation as an organization seeking to improve the quality of lives of girls in our community”, said Theresa Lynn, GSCWM CEO. “Introducing middle school girls to STEM careers they might not have known existed or showing them what a budget looks like; helping elementary school kids craft prototypes for inventions or simply introducing them to the

joy of discovering new things, hinting at where their strengths and skills lie, enables members to realize their own potential and gain critical skills they will carry throughout their lives. It is made possible by this generous support.”

The Girl Scout Leadership Experience is a collection of engaging, challenging, and fun activities for girls to develop a strong sense of self, display positive values, seek challenges, learn from setbacks, form and maintain healthy relationships, and learn to identify and solve problems in their community. The generous support of contributors such as the Irene E. & George A. Davis Foundation makes this possible.

The Irene E. & George A. Davis Foundation supports a variety of non-profit organizations seeking to improve the quality of lives for those living in Hampden County.

## Hibernians holding annual summer picnic

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](http://aoh-holyoke.com)

The Maurice A. Donahue Memorial Scholarship will be presented to Kayla Williams of Chicopee.

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

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

### **NEWS & FEATURES**

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue’s relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for The Sun, please email [thesun@turley.com](mailto:thesun@turley.com).

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[www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com)

# Public Notices

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758**

**Docket No. HD24P1292EA  
Estate of:**

**Wayne M Bilger  
Also known as:  
Wayne Mark Bilger  
Date of Death: 07/09/2022  
CITATION ON PETITION  
FOR SALE OF REAL  
ESTATE BY A PERSONAL  
REPRESENTATIVE**

To all interested persons: A Petition for Sale of Real Estate has been filed by: **Maryann Laflam** of Williamsburg, MA requesting that the court authorize the Personal Representative to sell the decedent's real estate at a private sale.

**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 08/29/2024.**

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.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: August 09, 2024  
**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
08/16/2024

**2025-08SD  
Request for Quotes  
Dean HS Block Wall and Cap Repair**

The Holyoke School Department is soliciting proposals for the repair of the mortar joints and replacing the CMU block wall and cap as needed along the entire length of the wall at Dean Technical High School located at 1045 Main Street, Holyoke, MA 01040.

Full documents can be requested by emailing [sweeneye@holyoke.org](mailto:sweeneye@holyoke.org). Documents are available on 8/14/2024 after 10:00 AM.

A recommended, non-mandatory site visit will be held on 8/19/24 at 10:00 AM at Dean Technical HS, 1045 Main Street Holyoke, MA 01040.

Quote Submissions are due **NO LATER THAN 2:00 PM on 8/28/2024**, quotes will

be accepted electronically by email to [sweeneye@holyoke.org](mailto:sweeneye@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.  
08/16/2024

**Invitation to Bid  
2025-09DPW  
FY25 Hot Mix Asphalt Paving and Related Work—Holyoke, MA (REBID)  
SEALED BIDS ARE DUE BY 2:00 PM ON 9/4/2024.  
EMAIL SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**

The City of Holyoke invites sealed bids from qualified contractors for FY25 Hot Mix Asphalt Paving and Related Work at various locations in the city in accordance with Contract Documents prepared by the City. In general, the work consists of the milling and paving of approximately 21,000 linear feet of roadway, including line striping.

Beginning at 10:00 AM on August 14, 2024, all project documents will be available from the City of Holyoke Purchasing Department in electronic format only. Submit requests for documents to [sweeneye@holyoke.org](mailto:sweeneye@holyoke.org) between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM. Requests shall include firm name and address, contact name and title, email address, and telephone number.

The deadline to submit bid proposals is **September 4, 2024, by 2:00PM**, at which time all bids received will be publicly opened in compliance with M.G.L. Chapter 149, Sections 44A-44J and the City of Holyoke's Ordinances. The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

NOTE: MassDOT pre-qualification of contractors with the class of work as, PAVEMENT SURFACING, for this project with an estimated value of \$2,000,000.00 will be required.  
08/16/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758**

**Docket No. HD17P1183EA  
Estate of:  
Mary P Ripa  
Date of Death: 05/07/2017  
CITATION ON  
PETITION FOR ORDER  
OF COMPLETE  
SETTLEMENT**

A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by **Peter F Brady** of Westfield, MA request-

ing that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including a determination of testacy and heirs at law and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/11/2024.**

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.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: August 07, 2024  
**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
08/16/2024

**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. HD24C0251CA  
In the matter of:  
Jesusa Rodriguez  
aka Susana Nazario  
Rodriguez  
aka Susana Nazario  
aka Jesusa Nazario  
CITATION ON PETITION  
TO CHANGE NAME**

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Jesusa Rodriguez aka Susana Nazario Rodriguez aka Jesusa Nazario of Holyoke, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

**Susana Nazario  
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 09/04/2024.**

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: August 07, 2024  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
08/16/2024

**City of Holyoke  
Notice of Public Hearing**

The Holyoke License Board will be holding a Public Hearing on Wednesday, September 4, 2024, at 5:15 pm. You can join via Zoom.com; ID 885 2208 8943; CALL IN: \*67 646 558 8656 or in person at Holyoke Media 1 Court Plaza, regarding the application for a **Multiple Amendments Application for Air-dell Inc. DBA The ClubHouse at 209A South St.**, pursuant to M.G.L. Ch.138.

Applicant:  
Christian Airoidi  
License Board:  
Anthony Luciano,  
Chairman  
08/16, 08/23/2024

**LEGAL NOTICE  
CITY OF HOLYOKE  
GAS & ELECTRIC  
DEPARTMENT  
#2 AWG EPR CU  
UNDERGROUND CABLE  
- REBID**

Sealed bids for the above-named contract will be received by Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept. until **2:00 p.m. August 29, 2024**, at the Office of the Manager, 99 Suffolk St., Holyoke, MA 01040, at which time proposals will be publicly opened and read.

Additional information may be obtained from:  
**Chi Wong**  
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept.  
99 Suffolk St  
Holyoke, MA 01040  
[cwong@hged.com](mailto:cwong@hged.com)  
(413) 335-0148

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

Please mark sealed envelopes "**Bid for #2 AWG EPR Cu Underground Cable - Rebid**" and address them to: **James M. Lavelle, Manager** Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept. 99 Suffolk St. Holyoke, MA 01040  
08/16/2024

**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. HD24A0091AD  
In the matter of:  
Alisha Yazmin Peraza  
Moran  
CITATION  
G.L. c. 210, §6**

**COTTAGE STREET COMMONS  
AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPPORTUNITY:**

Three two bedroom apartments and two one bedroom apartments available for rent in the newly constructed Cottage Street Commons, 49 Cottage Street, Easthampton MA. Utilities are not included. One bedroom units are \$1,351.00 per month with a \$167.00 monthly utility allowance, and two bedroom units are \$1,682.00 per month with a \$215.00 monthly utility allowance. Income eligibility, as defined by HUD pursuant to section 3 of the 42 U.S.C. 1437 (the Housing Act of 1937), is as follows:

Household Size	Maximum Income 80% AMI
1	\$55,800
2	\$63,800
3	\$71,750
4	\$79,700
5	\$86,100
6	\$92,500

Located in the center of Easthampton's Cultural District, with off street parking and handicapped accessible. Walk to shops, restaurants the Nashawannuck Pond Boardwalk and more. First, Last, and Security deposit required. No pets (unless a service animal) and it is a smoke free building.

All reasonable accommodations shall be offered, and all applicants shall be considered regardless of race, color, disability, religion, sex, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, genetic information, ancestry, children, marital status, or public assistance reciprocity.

**Please contact: Valley Apartment Rentals at 203 Northampton Street, Easthampton, MA, 01027, (413) 203-2260, TTY/TTD number 711, or [valleyapartmentrentals@gmail.com](mailto:valleyapartmentrentals@gmail.com), for information and applications.**

Applications may be picked up in person, emailed, or sent by mail. Applications may be submitted by mail, fax, or e-mail.

Applications can be downloaded by going to: [www.NorthamptonHousing.org/CottageStreetCommons](http://www.NorthamptonHousing.org/CottageStreetCommons)

Translation Assistance available at no cost upon request. No preference shall be given to those who pick up applications in person.

All qualified applicants shall be selected based upon a lottery process.

**Applications must be submitted by  
Tuesday, October 15, 2024**

A hybrid informational meeting will be held at the Cliffview Manor Community Room, 36 Lussier Circle, Easthampton, MA 01027 on Sep 10, 2024 04:00PM

**Join Zoom Meeting**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81749250630?pwd=Carzg7RXta22L2RSny8jpeG62jHKWn.1>

**Meeting ID: 817 4925 0630 Passcode: 0910**

Attendance at this meeting is not mandatory for participation in the lottery process  
08/16/2024

TO:  
any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth.

A petition has been presented to said court by:

**George Luis Reyes of Springfield, MA  
Cristina Yazmin Reyes Moran of Springfield, MA**

requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to **Alisha Yazmin Reyes Moran**

If you object to this adoption you are entitled to the appointment of an attorney if you are an indigent person.

An indigent person is defined by SJC Rule 3.10. The definition includes but is not limited to persons receiving TAFDC, EACDC, pover-

ty related veteran's benefits, Medicaid, and SSI. The Court will determine if you are indigent. Contact an Assistant Judicial Case Manager or Adoption Clerk of the Court on or before the date listed below to obtain the necessary forms.

**IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT Springfield ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON: 08/26/2024**

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: July 18, 2024

**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
08/16/2024

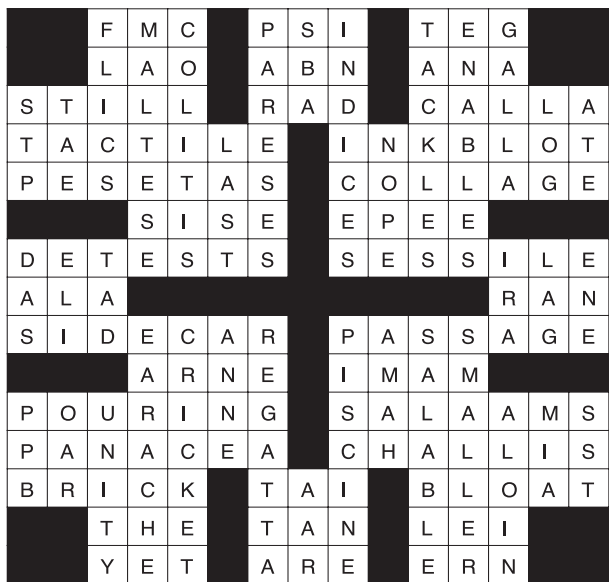
*The Holyoke Sun*  
**OBITUARY POLICY**

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](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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*Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.*

**visit [www.publicnotices.turley.com](http://www.publicnotices.turley.com)**

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Indian Orchard, MA

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**JENKINS ROOFING** specializing in residential roofs & repairs, chimney repairs. Hampden, MA - **413-566-5596/413-433-5073.** Lic. #105950CSL. Fully insured.

## RUBBISH REMOVAL

**BOB ROBILLARD'S RUBBISH REMOVAL** Attics, Cellars, Garages cleaned, Pools/Hot Tubs Removed. Family owned/operated since 1950 **(413)537-5090**

## TREE WORK

**AAA-TROM'S TREE SERVICE** Residential removal of trees, Free estimates, Fully insured W/Workman's Comp. Remove them before the wind takes them down. Call **413-283-6374.**

**DL & G TREE SERVICE-** Everything from tree pruning, tree removal, stump grinding, storm damage and brush chipping. Honest and Dependable. Fully insured. Now offering a Senior Citizen and Veteran discount. Call today for free estimate **(413)478-4212**

## SERVICES

### TUNE-UPS

#### LAWNMOWER TUNE UP & REPAIR

**A&M TUNE-UPS**  
Push Lawnmowers, Riding Mowers and Small Engine Repair.  
*Work done at your home.*

**FREE PICKUP OF UNWANTED LAWN EQUIPMENT**  
**Call Mike (413) 348-7967**

## STUMP GRINDING

**DL & G STUMP GRINDING** Grinding stumps of all sizes, insured & certified. Senior discounts. Call Dave **413-478-4212.**

## HELP WANTED

The Trustees of the Otis Library seek applicants for a **Library Director Position.** The position pays \$21-\$25 per hour commensurate with experience. The Director can expect to work between 25-30 hours per week. An application packet is available by emailing [otislibrary@cwmar.org](mailto:otislibrary@cwmar.org) or at the **Otis Library at 48 North Main Road, Otis, MA 01253. (413) 269-0109.** The application deadline is **September 13, 2024.** *The Otis Library Board of Trustees is an equal opportunity employer.*

## REAL ESTATE

### FOR RENT



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

**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.

**THREE RIVERS - 2ND FLOOR.** 3 Bedrooms, 1 bath, off-street parking, washer dryer hook-up. 1st, last and security. \$1300. No pets. **(413)544-9012 or (413)668-8348**

## 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.

**Classified Advertising DEADLINE**

**MONDAY AT NOON**

## FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 or call: 413-283-8393

DEADLINES: **MONDAY AT NOON**

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price \$26.00
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# \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amount of charge: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Quabbin Village Hills**  
Circulation: 50,500

**Hilltowns**  
Circulation: 9,800

**Suburban Residential**  
Circulation: 59,000

All Three ZONES for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word.

**GREAT VALUE!**  
**ALL 3 ZONES NOW FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!**

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

## BBB Scam Alert:

# This phishing scam claims a process server is looking for you

**Paula Fleming**

[pfleming@boston.bbb.org](mailto:pfleming@boston.bbb.org)  
BBB Eastern MA, ME, RI & VT --

Many scams start with an intimidating phone call. A “debt collector” needs you to pay immediately. Or a “police officer” claims to have a warrant for your arrest. The latest variation involves a phony “process server” and a non-existent court case against you. BBB Scam Tracker continues to receive reports of this phishing scam. Here’s how to spot it.

### How the scam works

You receive a call, or several calls, from an unknown or blocked number from a person claiming to be a process server. They might say there is a lien on your home or someone is taking you to court over unpaid medical bills or another matter. The caller may also claim you or a family member are a “person of interest in an important matter that requires immediate attention,” and federal law prohibits the caller from sharing any additional information. Similarly, in other cases, the scammer may be secretive, saying they can’t reveal details until your papers are served.

Next, they’ll ask you to “confirm” sensitive personal information about yourself, such as your date of birth, address, or

Social Security number. When you’re hesitant to give out this information, they stress the urgency of the matter - after all, this is a court matter! If you ask too many questions about who is making a complaint or what company the process server works for, the scammer will get angry and sometimes threaten more action against you. The caller may also try to scare you further by asking if you will be home or at work within the next hour since they will be arriving soon to serve you papers, get your signature on legal documents, and demand to see your forms of identification.

Sometimes, the “process server” may be phishing for information about your family members. According to a report on BBB Scam Tracker, one consumer shared, “Previously left me a voicemail about a lawsuit against my grandmother using her full government name a few weeks ago. Today they called again and asked if I knew the person, to which I said no, and then asked if I was (my full government name), to which I also said no. The person continued to be very pushy until they finally decided to end the call.”

The people behind this scam don’t have any legal papers to deliver, they want to get their hands on your personal information to commit identity

theft.

BBB Scam Tracker sees many reports about process server phishing scams. One consumer recently shared their experience, “I received a call from a private number, claiming to be a “process server” stating they had papers regarding a lien on my home...I checked with my police department, and town, i have no liens on my home.” Another person shared, “A fake process server called my mom and she called them back. They used my maiden name which I have not had in over 20 years about a county matter from a county not local to me saying they had papers to serve [and] they wanted to validate my information. My mom hung up but it scared her.”

### How to avoid phishing scams

**Be wary of scare tactics and unsolicited phone calls.** Scammers love to threaten people with legal action or hefty fines, scaring them into giving up their personal information and money. They hope fear will make you act without thinking. Always remember that representatives of a reputable business or legal office will be polite and civil, even in a serious situation. They won’t pressure you to act immediately “or else.”

**Search your local court website.** If you think there’s a chance someone has filed a lawsuit against you, check your local court’s website. Search your name to see if any lawsuit has been filed. If nothing comes up, you’re in the clear.

**The scammer may have some personal information. Don’t give them more.** Scammers may have some of your personal information already from a previous phishing scam, a data breach, or some other source. If you’re speaking with the scammer, you may even notice that the information is out of date. For example, they may use your maiden name or a previous address or workplace. Even if the information is out of date, they may use these stolen details to get even more information from you. For example, they might read your Social Security number and then ask you to “confirm” your date of birth. If they read off out-of-date information, they may trick you into providing current information. Even if someone already has a few details, don’t give them any further information unless you are sure you’re dealing with someone you trust. Be careful when responding to questions that require a simple “yes” or “no” response, since the “Can you hear me?” scam is still around, too.

**Don’t give out personal information about family members, either.** BBB Scam Tracker reports also share that these scammers are calling people to inquire about family members. If someone is asking you to validate information about another individual, hang up the phone. Afterwards, it’s a good idea to notify the family member about the call you received. That way, they can be on the lookout for other scams and take action to protect their personal and financial information if it’s at risk or has been stolen.

### For more information

Reading up on phishing and impostor scams can help you spot a con before it’s too late. Watch out for jury duty scams, too, which also use impostor tactics and threatening phone calls to scam people into paying up.

You may also visit BBB’s Spot a Scam page for tips on recognizing scam tactics.

If a scammer contacts you, report your experience to BBB.org/ScamTracker. Your report can help us boost consumer awareness and make scammers’ tactics less effective.

**Affordable Home Ownership In Holyoke**  
**OneHolyoke Lottery for Qualified Purchasers**

OneHolyoke CDC is offering three income-restricted duplex homes for sale; sale price \$225,000 each:

**\$225,000**

- 278 Pine Street
- 291 Walnut Street
- 299 Walnut Street

Homes have approximately 2,800 square feet; 2 to 3 bedrooms per unit, porches

Successful applicants must be income-qualified (not exceeding 80% of Area Median Income (AMI). Once qualified, applicants will enter a lottery with bidders randomly selected by OneHolyoke. Successful applicants must agree to occupancy terms—in addition to being income qualified owner must occupy the home for 10 years.

**For more information or to apply go to:**

OneHolyoke.org  
Or call (413) 533-7101

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