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# HOLYOKE the Sun

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## American Legion hosts a National Night Out celebration

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – National Night Out is an event held across the nation in order to connect the police department with their community. Holyoke's American Legion decided to host a celebration of their own on Monday, Aug. 7.

The band Dog Walker performed live music while the event attendees got to enjoy the lovely free food, cooked by American Legion worker Lisa Gariepy.

"I love the band we have tonight...it's always fun to see people up there dancing and everyone chit chatting at the tables, it does my heart good," Gariepy said.

A portion of the funds raised from the event will go to the Soldier's Home Commissary fund or the St. Paul Church Veterans' Lunch Program, two places the legion normally works to support through their events.

"When we do a small fundraiser like this we usually give a donation to the Soldier's Home Commissary fund or the St. Paul Church Veterans' Lunch

Program," Gariepy explained.

Gariepy was inspired to host a National Night Out evening at the Legion by the other cities and towns in the area hosting their own.

"When I saw [that Chicopee was hosting one] I thought it was a great idea and figured we should do one here," she said.

While this event was geared to honoring the police department and the veterans, the true goal was to bring together members of the Holyoke community.

"That's what it's all about, getting people out of their houses, to come to socialize, be with other people and have a good time," Gariepy said. "A lot of people live alone and if they don't have a reason to go out, they won't. So, hopefully this will get them down here, get them fed and they'll go home in a good mood."

Gariepy's wish came true. Everyone present at the event enjoyed the food and music, having fun on an otherwise gloomy evening due to the rainy weather outside.

"It's not even about the money tonight, it was about getting to see a room full of happy



Turley photos by Quinn Suomala

People gather around the bar at the American Legion to enjoy their National Night Out celebration.

people," Gariepy said.

The legion is currently raising funds in order to get a new sprinkler system. While they are waiting to hear back from the state and the city on the funds they will be provided, they are hoping to raise \$30,000. Any donation to help them reach this

goal is greatly appreciated.

To make a donation, go to <https://www.gofundme.com/f/tgrtje-veterans-need-your-help>.

"We're hopeful that we'll have enough to get this project off the ground," Gariepy said.

The legion has fun events planned for people to enjoy

Sunday through Friday. This includes pitch night on Mondays, taco Tuesdays and "bike night" with live music on Fridays. They also have an upcoming pig roast night planned for Sept. 16. Tickets for the night will be available at the

See NIGHT OUT, page 12

## Candidate makes city ballot, primary set for Sept. 26

HOLYOKE – In an update to a published report two weeks ago, a candidate for Holyoke School Committee was omitted. Rosalee Tensley Williams, the current Ward 2 member, was not included in the list of candidates whose nomination papers were certified. She appears to be unopposed for her seat according to the current list of candidates on the City Clerk's website. The primary election is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 26 and will be needed to narrow a couple of races for city council. There are more than two candidates for a couple of the ward seats, including Ward 7, which will be vacated by current Council President Todd McGee at the end of this term. McGee has chosen not to seek re-election.

There is also a possible primary for the Ward 2 seat, which is occupied by Wilmer Puellomota. At least two people have had their papers certified according to the city website, and two others took out papers.

There are challenges for  
See BALLOT, page 6

## New Valley Springs Behavioral Health Hospital opens

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – Baystate Health and Lifepoint Health partnered together in order to build a new behavioral health hospital at 45 Lower Westfield Road in Holyoke. This new hospital, called Valley Springs Behavioral Health Hospital, was celebrated at a ribbon cutting ceremony on Monday, Aug. 14.

"Today we're here to see a vision become reality: a state-of-the-art contemporary behavioral health hospital," President and CEO of Baystate Health Mark Keroack remarked at the ceremony.

This new hospital is 122,000 square feet with 150 private and semi-private rooms for adults and children. The entire building was designed to meet both the wants and needs of the patients within. With a gymnasium for activity, access to the outdoors for recreation and areas for patients to create art, the building is made to ensure that patients feel supported.



Turley photos by Quinn Suomala

Congressman Richard Neal gives his support to the new behavioral health hospital.

"We're going to have better environments, better facilities and more resources to help people," Chair of the Department of Psychiatry at Baystate Health Barry Sarvet said. "This kind of facility has outdoor spaces for recreation, lots of light...it was designed from the ground up for this kind of care."

Valley Springs Behavioral Health Hospital CEO Roy



President and CEO of Baystate Health Mark Keroack informs the audience on why this new hospital is so important.

Sasenaraine proudly described how this building was intentionally built to be modern and filled with light, so that the patients within would not feel "the apprehension of going to an institution that looks like 'an asylum'".

"This building has hundreds of windows everywhere, light is one of the important

See HEALTH, page 6

## Selfless commitment to public service

State Police Academy's 88<sup>th</sup> Recruit Training Troop graduates

By Paula Ouimette  
pouimette@turley.com

SPRINGFIELD – Earlier this month, the State Police Academy graduated its 88<sup>th</sup> Recruit Training Troop, which featured 165 men and women from cities and towns across the commonwealth.

The State Police Pipes & Drums Band ushered dignitaries into the Mass Mutual Center on Aug. 3, where Sgt. Mike Goonan, Director of Training at the State Police Academy acted as master of ceremonies.

The 88<sup>th</sup> RTT began training at the State Police Academy in New Braintree earlier this year, passing through an intensive 16-hour day program, five days a week.

Following a moment of silence for police and military personnel who have given their

See POLICE, page 6



# Holyoke issues sale notices for tax foreclosed property

HOLYOKE—The City of Holyoke is seeking proposals for the purchase of the properties listed below:

**736 Dwight Street and adjacent lot:** It is the City's desire to obtain proposals for a mixed-use development which includes new housing and first floor commercial space. Situated in a growing downtown corridor, this property is conveniently located near the Holyoke Transportation Center and the downtown commercial district and offers an excellent investment opportunity.

**118 Newton Street and two adjacent lots:** Proposals are being sought for a development that will improve the area for residential, commercial, or other uses that complement the City's efforts to revitalize the area.

**277 & 285 Main Street:** Located on the accessible Main Street corridor these would be great additions for abutting properties for expansions or to add amenities such as an outdoor space for tenants.

"It's important for us to get these parcels back into responsible hands and on our tax roll, preferably to owners that are committed to the economic development and housing objectives of the City of Holyoke," said Holyoke Mayor Joshua A. Garcia. "I look forward to seeing this process through with our team and partnering with those who offer the most advantageous proposals."

The City will select the most advantageous proposal from a responsive and responsible offer considering the criteria outlined in the respective request proposals and sale notices, the price, and the overall development plan that in its best judgment is in the best interest of the city.

The City of Holyoke is committed to fostering economic growth and community development and aims to attract forward-thinking investors and developers who share the vision of creating vibrant, sustainable, and inclusive spaces that benefit residents and visitors alike.

The RFP and the Sale Notices, each containing instructions and more detailed information, are available from the Holyoke Purchasing Department and may be obtained by calling (413) 322-5650 between the hours of 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday or by email request to [morrowj@holyoke.org](mailto:morrowj@holyoke.org).

For more information, go to <https://www.holyoke.org/purchasing-current-public-bid-surplus-sales/>

Additional property information can be accessed by entering the address or map, block and parcel ID at: <https://holyokema.mapgeo.io>.

Any questions, please contact the Purchasing Department at (413) 322-5650.

## Tag sale in September

HOLYOKE—Our Lady of the Cross Church, 1140 Dwight St., will be holding their fall Tag Sale on Saturday, Sept. 9 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 10 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. It will be held in the parish hall rain or shine. For more information, please call 413-532-5661.



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# HCC culinary arts professor named Educator of the Year

HOLYOKE - Holyoke Community College culinary arts professor Warren Leigh has been named "Educator of the Year" by the Center for the Advancement of Food Service Education, a national industry group.

Leigh, a professional chef and restaurateur who has been teaching at HCC for 15 years, received his award June 21 at the 2023 CAFÉ Leadership Conference in Charleston, South Carolina.

"It's pretty cool," said Leigh, who lives in Springfield. "It's nice to be recognized. It's humbling."

Leigh also received honorable mention for CAFÉ's annual "Community Outreach" award. He was nominated for both by Chef Paul Sorgule, a retired culinary educator and president of Harvest America Ventures, a restaurant consulting and training company.

"Even at a young age, he had a strong inclination towards serving others, and the kitchen drew him in," said Sorgule. "His professional

work and personal life experiences became the stories that brought his classrooms to life, but it is also his unwavering commitment to professional standards, his passion for the craft, and his unique empathy for students trying to figure out where they fit that makes him very special as an educator."

In receiving the Educator of the Year award, Leigh, co-chair of HCC's Culinary Arts program, was recognized for his part in designing the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute, the college's state-of-the-art teaching facility on Race Street that opened in 2018; re-imagining the culinary arts curriculum; creating a line cook training program in collaboration with HCC's non-credit business and workforce division; and pushing forward on his concept for a mobile kitchen where students could learn food truck operations while also teaching the community about nutrition and healthy eating.

Leigh holds a bachelor of sci-

ence in food service administration from the Rochester Institute of Technology and a master's degree in management from the University of Phoenix. He trained extensively as a chef in Germany and Switzerland.

He is the owner, operator and executive chef for Hydrangea Catering & Consulting, and has worked over the years in many capacities at restaurants in Connecticut and Western Massachusetts, including The Standish House in Wethersfield, Madeleines in Windsor, and The Eatery in East Windsor, among others.

"As a product of his work myself, I can attest to his superb teaching and knowledge," said HCC alum Matthew Enos '19, now an executive sous chef at Johnny's Bar and Grille in South Hadley. "Chef Leigh has given me a great steppingstone to launch a career in culinary."

## Dakin Humane Society rescues 40 cats and kittens from hoarding cases

SPRINGFIELD— Dakin Humane Society has participated in rescue efforts involving two separate hoarding cases in the past week and has taken over 40 cats and kittens into its care. The felines are being medically and, in some cases, behaviorally evaluated, with several newborn kittens and mothers being placed in foster homes. Many are available for adoption, with more becoming available in the days and weeks ahead.

On Tuesday, Aug. 1, the organization traveled to a one-bedroom apartment in Berkshire County that contained more than 80 cats and brought several felines back to provide care and place for adoption.

The following Saturday, Aug. 5, Dakin assisted a Hampden County animal control team with the intake of over 30 cats and kittens, several of them Siamese and Ragdoll breeds, and returned with 21 cats to treat and make available for adoption at Dakin.

According to Dakin's Executive Director Meg Talbert, "It's very unusual that Dakin responded to two hoarding cases just days apart, but it's a vital part of our mission to answer the needs of our community. Cats that come from these circumstances tend to be very shy and are typically not confident or social around people for what may



Submitted Photo

Dakin staff member evaluates one of the cats rescued from Berkshire County. Photo courtesy Dakin Humane Society

be just an initial period, or for their entire lives. They're perfectly happy to have a home with a cat companion or two. They're very special animals, and we're hoping that people will open their hearts and homes to them."

Talbert noted that cats and kittens will be spayed or neutered prior to being made available for adoption.

Due to the large number of cats taken in between the two rescues, Dakin has created an online form

to collect contact information and other data from prospective adopters of these felines. All Dakin pets available for adoption, including the cats and kittens recently rescued and ready to be rehomed, can be seen here. Several of the recently rescued cats have reduced adoption fees.

Dakin Humane Society, located in Springfield, delivers effective, innovative services that improve the lives of animals in need and the people who care about them. In a typical year, the organization shelters, treats and fosters more than 20,000 animals and has performed over 100,000 spay/neuter surgeries since 2009, making it New England's largest spay/neuter provider. Dakin's Pet Health Center, a non-emergency veterinary resource for pet dogs and cats, opened in 2022 and has treated more than 2,500 pets. Dakin is a local non-profit organization that relies solely on contributions from individuals and businesses that care about animals to bring its services to the community. For more information, visit [www.dakin-humane.org](http://www.dakin-humane.org).

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# St. Patrick's committee names Mary Lynch 2024 Grand Marshal

HOLYOKE— The St. Patrick's committee of Holyoke announced that its 71st Grand Marshal is Mary M. Lynch, Holyoke-native and 34-year member of the St. Patrick's committee of Holyoke. 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.

Lynch has been married to John "Art" Lynch for 49 years, and they are the proud parents of Mary Ellen and her husband Nicholas Pappas of Newport, RI, and Maureen and her husband James Tisdell of Holyoke. Lynch's most cherished role is that of Nana to Emma, Jack, Patrick and Liam Tisdell. Lynch and her 10 siblings grew up on Linden Street in Holyoke to the late Raymond and Mary Feyre. She owes her love and appreciation of her Irish heritage to her Mother and is blessed to have traveled to Ireland numerous times with her mother, siblings, children and nieces.

Lynch is a graduate of Holyoke Catholic High School, Holyoke Community College and Westfield State College where she earned her B.S. and M.Ed. degrees in Education. Lynch retired in 2017 as the long-time Professor of Early Childhood Education at Holyoke Community College. Mary also served on several Boards including the Greater Holyoke YMCA and the Irish Cultural Center of Western New England. She was honored in 2010 with the "Oldershaw Award" from the Greater Holyoke YMCA which is the highest honor given to an individual who has made significant volunteer contributions to the greater Holyoke community.

Lynch was honored with the Rohan Award in 1996 and was a member of the Grand Colleen Court in 1970.

Lynch and her twin brother, Ray Feyre, also have the distinction of being the only set of twins to serve as Grand Marshal of the Holyoke St. Patrick's parade. Ray

led the Parade in 2015.

"Mary Lynch is most deserving of this esteemed honor" said Hayley Dunn, parade president. "Not only has she served on nearly every sub-committee, but she has held several leadership roles and is instrumental in the overall success of the parade. Her calm and friendly demeanor has welcomed many new members and all look to her guidance each parade weekend. Mary's love of heritage, family, education and community makes her the perfect choice for Grand Marshal. I am thrilled to have Mary Feyre Lynch lead the 71st Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade on March 17, 2024."

Mary M. Lynch will be honored at the Grand Marshal's Reception on Friday, January 12th, 2024 at the Log Cabin in Holyoke. For more details or to purchase tickets to the reception, please contact Jane Chevalier (tjcheval@comcast.net) or Barb Rogers (twinsmommy@aol.com).

## CAMPUS NOTES

### Dean's list at University of Maryland Global Campus

ADELPHI, MD — Edelgrabiél Quinones of Holyoke was named to the dean's list for the spring semester at University of Maryland Global Campus.

## HCC to hold Registration Express for fall semester

HOLYOKE - Holyoke Community College will hold Registration Express for the fall 2023 semester on Sat., Aug. 19 and Monday through Friday, Aug. 21-25 in the HCC Campus Center.

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

"Enrolling in college can feel overwhelming," said Mark Hudgik, HCC director of Admissions. "Registration Express puts all of the resources new students need in one place."

HCC's Aug. 19 Registration Express event will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Campus Center on the main campus at 303 Homestead Ave. Students who can't attend on Saturday or need additional time to finish their steps can also return when Registration Express continues Aug. 21-24 from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Aug. 25 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Full-term, 14-week fall classes begin Tuesday, Sept. 5. HCC has two additional fall flex start dates: Sept. 25, for 12-week classes, and Oct. 30, for 7-week classes.

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

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

## OneHolyoke Thrives community 5K Aug. 26

HOLYOKE— OneHolyoke CDC will hold its third annual "ONE Holyoke Thrives" community 5K walk and roll on Saturday, Aug. 26, from 10 a.m. to noon. The event will bring the Holyoke community together to walk, or roll (wheelchair, bicycle, stroller), along a 5K route, beginning at Lawler Insurance at 1 Main Street, and ending at the intersection of Race and Middle streets.

The 5K walk will celebrate Holyoke's collective efforts to promote the well-being of the community and will feature activities for participants, including a story walk for children; a Holyoke history scavenger hunt; a "find this mural" game along the route; and a celebration with food trucks at the end of the route. There will also be giveaways for participants, and those who sign up will be entered to win an adult bike.

Registration is \$10 for adults, and \$15 per couple. Children (under 17 years) are free. The goal is for the community walk to be accessible to everyone, and those who are not able to pay the registration fee can enter the code DONAR (for individual regis-

tration) or DONAR2 (for couple registration) on the payment page of the website to receive free registration. To register, visit [www.oneholyokey.org/community5K/](http://www.oneholyokey.org/community5K/) and registration is also available beginning at 8:30 a.m. the day of the walk.

Proceeds from the 5K benefit OneHolyoke CDC, which supports the Holyoke community. Over the past two years, OneHolyoke has been dedicated to providing educational resources, food, personal protective equipment, and vaccine clinics in Holyoke. OneHolyoke CDC's strategic plan for community engagement has five areas: civic engagement, health, education, public safety, and maintaining the Flats Community Building as a center for community activities.

In previous years, proceeds from registration supported "Equity Pods," a collaboration between OneHolyoke and Homework House that provided safe spaces with academic support for children during the period of remote learning.

OneHolyoke CDC is seeking community sponsors to support this event, which aims to provide a safe

space for the residents of Holyoke to build new relationships with fellow neighbors, strengthen those that already exist and empower the Holyoke community. Walk sponsors will also be recognized as a sponsor at OneHolyoke's 8th annual Holyoke Community Dinner on Dec. 9.

Sponsorship levels, which support both the Community Walk and Winter Community Dinner, are as follows: Platinum Sponsorship \$1,200+; Gold Sponsorship \$600; Silver Sponsorship \$400; Bronze Sponsorship, under \$200. To become a sponsor, contact Nayrobey Rosa at (413) 409-2004 or [nayrobey.rosa-soriano@oneholyokey.org](mailto:nayrobey.rosa-soriano@oneholyokey.org).

To date, sponsors include Lawler Insurance; PeoplesBank; Holyoke Gas & Electric; Families First; Valley Opportunity Council; Key Food Marketplace; Whitman Properties; We Care Health; Clayton Insurance; and Tessa for Holyoke. Community partners for the ONE Holyoke Thrives 5K include Homework House; The Club at the Flats Community Building; Boston Bud Factory; Valley Green; and Green Thumb Industries.

## Hibernians to hold summer picnic Aug. 27

HOLYOKE--The Hibernians of Hampden/Hampshire Counties invite the public to attend a Traditional Summer Picnic featuring Jim O'Connor and the Boston Blackthorn Band at Hamel's Summit View Pavilion, 555 Northampton St., on Sunday Aug. 27, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. rain or shine.

Tickets are \$30 per person for adults and children ages 16 and up; children ages 5- 15 tickets are \$11. For reservations call John Gaughan @860-904-3056 Or Fran Hennessey @ 413-785-5687 by Sunday Aug. 20.

The Hibernians will celebrate Holyoke's 150 anniversary of incorporation as a City and also present the Maurice A. Donahue Memorial Scholarship to Gavin Sullivan, Patrick Sweeney, and Caroline Taylor.

There will be Irish and American Music; Dancing; Hot Dogs; Hamburgers; BBQ Chicken; Baked Beans; Potato Salad; Tossed Salad; Dessert; Coffee; Cash Bar; Children's Games, and Raffles.

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

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Guest Column



## Why is Social Security withholding my monthly payments?

Dear Rusty:

I have been working since I started collecting Social Security when I turned 62. Last year I was apparently overpaid because of my job. I made \$37,000 and now the Social Security Administration says I owe them \$8,800 dollars because I made too much and they have withheld my \$2000 monthly SS payment.

I am close to the maximum allowable again already this year. So, I am looking at quitting my job so I don't go over, but they are holding my payments so then I would have no money. Any help would be appreciated.

Signed: Frustrated by Social Security

Dear Frustrated:

You are being affected by Social Security's "earnings test," which applies to everyone who collects early Social Security and also works before reaching their Full Retirement Age. If your earned income exceeds the annual limit, which was \$19,560 for 2022, Social Security will withhold \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit.

If you earned \$37,000 in 2022 you were more than \$17,000 over the limit and owe half of that back to Social Security. They usually recover what you owe by withholding your future benefit payments, so they won't pay you benefits until they have recovered that \$8,800, after which your benefits will resume, but only for a while.

If you are working full time and also collecting early Social Security benefits, the earnings test lasts until you reach your full retirement age, which for you is 66 years and 8 months. The earnings limit goes up a bit each year for 2023 it is \$21,240, but if you continue to work full time, you'll receive another overpayment notice and have more benefits withheld.

A better approach might be to contact Social Security in advance and tell them what your 2023 earnings are expected to be, thus permitting them to suspend your benefits in advance and avoid overpaying you. I'm afraid there is no way around this - collecting early benefits while working full time means the "earnings test" will affect your benefit payments.

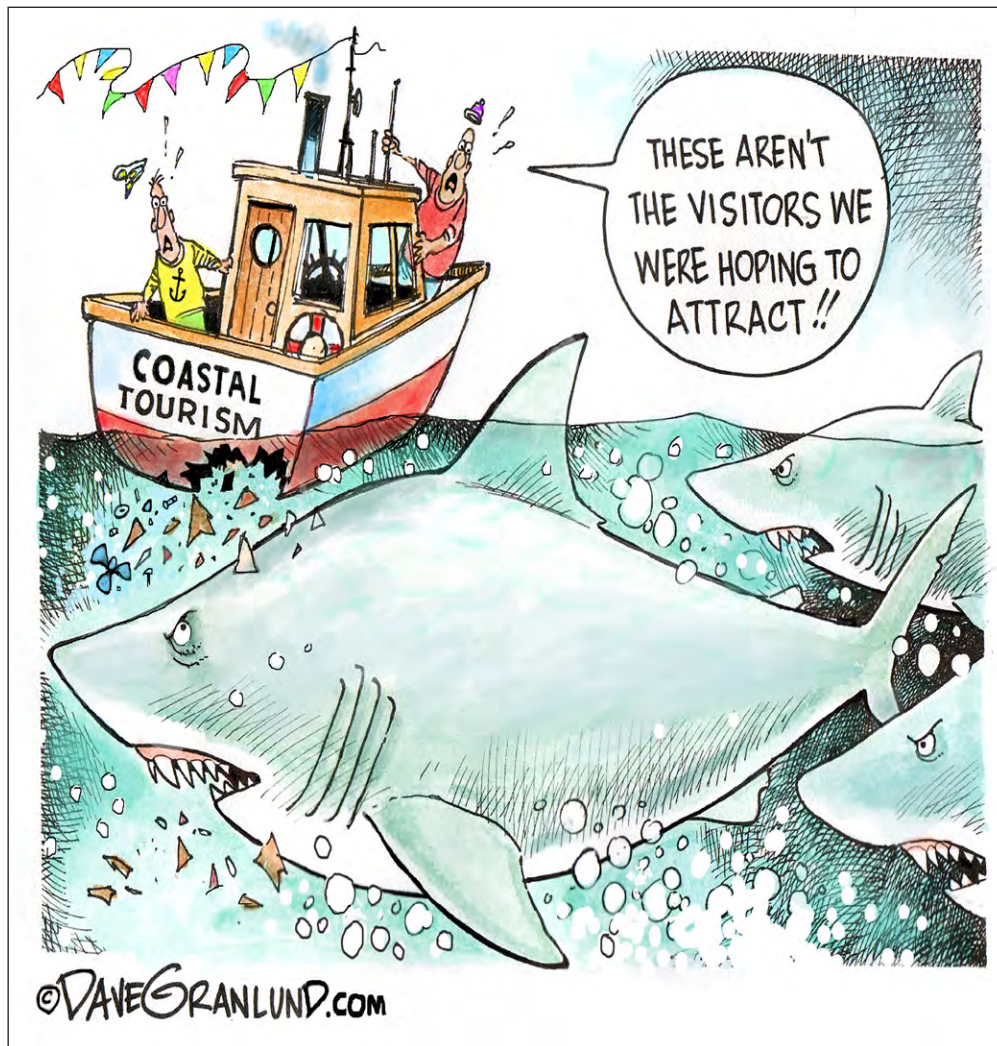
The "good news" in all of this is that when you reach your Full Retirement Age, you will get time-credit for all months your benefits were withheld. By that I mean they will, at your FRA, recalculate your benefit entitlement as though you had claimed later (later by the number of months you had benefits withheld), which will result in a higher monthly payment after your FRA.

In that way, you may eventually recover some or all of the benefits withheld by receiving a higher monthly amount for the rest of your life, starting at your full retirement age.

I suggest you contact Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 or at your local office and tell them you want to provide them with an estimate of your 2023 earnings because you are working and collecting early Social Security benefits.

They will work with you to suspend your benefits for an appropriate number of (additional) months to avoid another overpayment situation. Note, you'll likely need to do this each year you continue to work full time, until the year you reach your full retirement age when the earnings limit more than doubles. The earnings limit goes away when you reach your full retirement age.

See SECURITY, page 5



Guest Column

## Soil test this fall and beat the rush



A dear friend of mine sent me a picture of her pepper; her one pepper. Granted, the fruit was picked a wee-bit prematurely by her 3-year-old granddaughter Genevieve, but still, one single fruit measuring 2 inches by 2 inches for all of her many pepper plants is nothing to brag about.

If I'm not mistaken, she used the word "pathetic" to describe said plants. Along with "stunted" and "pale."

Alas, what is a friend to do, but recommend a soil test.

I finally got the soil in two of my gardens tested last fall and I am so very happy that I did. With the necessary amendments added to bring up sub-par soil, I am enjoying bush beans and happy flowers in those areas.

Many of us garden for years before we have our soil tested. It is likely that we get fixed on our own routine of liming and fertilizing.

Perhaps too, we live with the same insect and disease problems each season and think that little can be done to remedy our situation. Maybe with a better understanding of our soil through testing, we will be able to create and maintain a fertile soil that supports healthy, optimal plant growth.

Rather than waiting until spring, beat the rush and send your sample off this fall. Here is a refresher on the nuts and bolts of soil testing.

We test the soil for many reasons. Perhaps the most important reason is to learn its pH.

Here in New England soil tends to be on the acidic side. Vital soil nutrients are unavailable to plants in an overly acid soil, even if they are in great supply.

Optimum pH for most plants is close to neutral, in the range of 6.2-6.8. Before you head for the garage to dust off the spreader, be forewarned that all limes are not the same!

Test results will indicate whether calcitic lime, hi mag lime, or dolomitic lime is best for your soil, and at what rates.

The test will also give you recommendations for boosting necessary soil nutrients, the most common of which are phosphorous, and potassium, magnesium, calcium and more. Let the soil testing laboratory know what crops you grow and what kind of gardener you are, that way their advice can be specific to your needs.

Organic gardeners will want to use natural fertilizer sources such as blood meal, bone meal, bone char, wood ash, rock phosphate and greensand among others to feed the soil.

The standard soil test will also give you the levels of lead in your soil. As we all know, lead poisoning is a particular concern to children under the age of 6.

Produce grown in soils high in lead can accumulate enough lead in their tissue to be hazardous when eaten. The most likely cause of soil contamination is from particles of lead based paint that have been removed from nearby structures.

To reduce the risk of contamination, locate gardens away from old painted structures and keep pH and organic matter contents at optimal ranges.

For just a few dollars more, the percentage of organic matter in the soil can be determined. Organic matter is very important because it encourages a healthy population of soil microbes that solubilize stored nutrients, making them more available for plant uptake.

As organic material decomposes, humus results. Humus binds sandy soils and improves their water holding capacity; alternately, it aerates heavy clay soils and promotes better drainage.

If the percentage of organic matter in your garden comes in low, add compost, aged animal manure, or cover crops to bring levels up. Established shrub or perennial borders benefit from an application of bark mulch for the same reason.

It is very easy to gather soil for testing. First, remove a 6-8-inch core of soil from your garden with a stainless steel trowel. Remove surface debris and air dry.

If your garden is large, mix about a dozen cores together to end up with about a cup of soil for testing. The different microclimates of your landscape should be tested separately.

Official directions and an order form are available at <http://soiltest.umass.edu>. The standard soil test is \$20, add an additional

See GARDEN, page 5

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## A Quote

OF NOTE

"If you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change."

- Wayne Dyer

## Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the Editor have a maximum of 350 words. We require writers to include their name, address and phone number in order for our office to authenticate authorship prior to publication. Addresses and phone numbers are not published.

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

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

Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

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



# Josh's golden scam: The nickel that caused a dollar's worth of scandal



By J. Mark Powell  
jmarkpowell.com

Like so many things in life, it seemed like a good idea at the time, and it would have been, too, if one man's swindle hadn't ruined everything.

When all was said and done, a con-man got off scot-free, Washington had egg on its face, and a new phrase entered the American vocabulary that's still used today.

This is the story of Josh's golden scam.

Back in 1866, the government began minting the first five-cent piece. It had the United States shield – our country's coat of arms if you will – on the front and "5 Cents" surrounded by 13 stars on the back.

The public liked the new coin and immediately began referring to it by the metal used to produce it: the nickel. (Its

predecessor had been silver and called the "half dime.")

But it proved difficult to strike, causing countless headaches for the United States Mint. So a new design was produced.

Released on February 1, 1883, it featured Lady Liberty on the front with a giant V (the Roman numeral for five) in the center of the reverse. Americans enthusiastically embraced the new coin.

There was just one problem. It was a big one, too...and a man in Boston named Josh Tatum quickly spotted it.

No denomination appeared on the coin. There was just that great big V.

It could mean 5 cents or 5 dollars. Which caused a lightbulb to switch on in Josh's head.

The new nickel was about the same size as a \$5 gold piece. Both bore the likeness of Liberty on the front and, while not identical, to the untrained eye they looked similar to one another.

So, Josh took several of the new nickels to a jeweler and had them electroplated with gold. Then he went to a store.

Walking up the counter, he pretended to be deaf mute and pointed to a cigar. The clerk said, "Five cents, please."

Josh handed over his phony gold-plated coin and was promptly given \$4.95 in real money in change. When he pulled the scam at different stores, it

worked perfectly every time.

Apparently, Josh liked to think big. He had 1,000 nickels covered with a thin layer of cheap gold and worked his way to New York City.

Never speaking, only pointing, and always walking away the richer for the exchange. He supposedly made \$15,000 (about \$375,000 today) by the time he was arrested.

Josh was eventually hauled into court and tried for his hoax. But prosecutors had a serious problem.

At no time did Josh ever claim the coin was a \$5 gold piece. In fact, he never said anything at all.

He simply handed it over and trusting clerks accepted it as genuine. Because he never claimed it was actually gold, the jury found Josh had committed no crime. He was acquitted.

While all this was happening, Washington was dealing with similar headaches caused by the new nickel. Other con artists had spotted the design oversight and were also taking advantage of it.

The head of the Secret Service had noted the potential for criminal mischief at the outset and warned the government. Then as now, bureaucrats are loath to admit a mistake.

The Philadelphia Mint's director loudly defended the new nickel. He

pointed out a three-cent coin had been minted for 22 years with just the Roman numeral III on the back and no denomination, and there hadn't been any problems.

Although he didn't mention that coin was smaller than a dime and the \$3 gold piece was larger than a quarter, making it impossible to confuse the two.

By now the scam was being reported as far away as St. Louis, Morgan City, Louisiana, and San Francisco. The government had no choice but to act.

On March 11 new nickels began coming out of the Mint with the word "cents" added directly below the V. It remained there until the Buffalo Nickel replacement debuted in 1913.

Today, the gold-plated frauds are called Racketeering Nickels and are cherished by collectors.

Two lessons from this story. First, the phrase "I'm joshing you" was popularized by the incident.

Though it appears to have shown up in print as early as 1845, its usage exploded after 1883.

And, the Mint learned its lesson. That was the last time it ever produced a coin that didn't bear the denomination.

I'm not joshing you.  
*Holy Cow! History is written by novelist, former TV journalist and diehard history buff J. Mark Powell.*

## SECURITY, from page 4

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It

presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit [amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org).

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

## GARDEN, from page 4

\$6 for the standard test including organic matter.

Test results could initiate some revisions to our fertilization and liming routine this fall, preparing the way for a healthier, more productive garden next spring and summer, and maybe even a few more peppers for Genevieve

to enjoy!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 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.



### Nobody dreams of having multiple sclerosis

Some dreams are universal: hitting a ball over the Green Monster; winning the World Series with a grand slam in the bottom of the ninth inning. Finding out you have MS is not one of them.

Multiple sclerosis is a devastating disease of the central nervous system where the body's immune system attacks the insulation surrounding the nerves. It strikes adults in the prime of life - and changes lives forever.

To help make the dream of ending MS come true, call 1-800-FIGHT MS or visit us online at [nationalmssociety.org](http://nationalmssociety.org).



## Community Newspaper EDITOR WANTED

Turley Publications is looking for a "hands on" energetic candidate who loves telling stories to be the editor for two weekly publications. This position will include managing and coaching a small news staff that will provide the community with a great local newspaper.

The editor will need to cover local government and events while representing the newspaper at public venues.

The successful candidate will have strong community journalism skills and is also expected to gather news and write stories for the two papers as well as for other occasional companywide publications.

This is a job for a self-starter who has a vision for growing and connecting with our valued readers, and who thoroughly enjoys community journalism.

This full-time position with flexible schedule is based in our Palmer office at 24 Water St., this is not a remote position.

### Qualifications should include:

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience
- Willingness to mentor a staff writer and correspondents
- Editing experience and ability to write clean copy in a fast-paced, deadline-driven environment
- Proficiency in Associated Press style
- Management experience and/or experience managing content for a print publication.

### Please send resume and writing examples to:

Eileen Kennedy, Executive Editor  
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069  
or email directly to [ekennedy@turley.com](mailto:ekennedy@turley.com)

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### CLUES ACROSS

- Civil rights organization
- Calendar month (abbr.)
- Monetary unit of Burma
- Twyla \_\_, US dancer
- Everything included
- "Antman" actor Rudd
- Italian city
- Nowhere to be found
- Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
- Turkish officer
- Perform on stage
- Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
- Canadian coastal provinces
- Furnishes anew
- Edible mollusk
- No seats available
- Garden figurine
- Two-legged support
- Rest here please (abbr.)
- In a silly way
- One from the Golden State
- Photographers
- Native religion in parts of China
- Dickens character
- Brodway actress
- Ancient Greek sophist
- Undivided
- Daniel \_\_, French composer
- Nocturnal S. American rodent
- Rusty
- Jewish spiritual leader
- Patti Hearst's captors
- Popular global holiday (abbr.)
- Tall, slender plant

### CLUES DOWN

- Defunct US energy company
- Fellow
- It's issued from
- Type of acid
- Winged nut
- Arouses
- Things are served on it
- San Diego ballplayer
- Currency and a Chinese dynasty
- \_\_ mater, one's school
- Exclamation that denotes disgust
- Hairstyle
- Supreme ancient Egyptian god
- They \_\_
- Connecting line on a map
- Mock
- One point north of due east
- Chinese philosophical principle
- Type of tree
- Persuade to do

- something
- A place for travelers to rest
- National Gallery of Art designer
- Panamaniaan province
- Field force unit (abbr.)
- Whalers' tool
- Simply
- Nigerian City
- Not one
- Obstruct
- Political plot
- Manila hemp plant
- Dough made from corn flour
- Fishes by letting the bob fly
- Swiss river
- Plant that makes gum
- A French abbot
- One point east of northeast
- Get free of

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 9



## Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church hosting annual Greek festival

HOLYOKE—Saturday, Aug. 26, at the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church Grounds, 410 Main Street, will be having the second annual Greek festival from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

There will be Greek food, pastries and music. Event is rain or shine. Admission will be free. For more information, contact Sharon at 413-533-9880 or email holytrinityofholyoke@gmail.com.



The Leadership Team from Baystate Health and Lifepoint Health cuts the ribbon to Valley Springs Behavioral Health Hospital.



Turley photos by Quinn Suomala

The new Valley Springs Behavioral Health Hospital.

## HEALTH, from page 1

things to our clinical treatment and care for all patients,” Sasenaraine said.

This facility comes at a key time for behavioral health. Even before the pandemic, hospitals and psychiatrists were seeing an increase in the demand for mental health care. The pandemic only made an already bad situation worse.

“I would argue quite literally that this is the challenge of our time; behavioral health,” State Senator John Velis remarked in his speech at the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Keroack agreed, and promised that Baystate Health would continue to focus on behavioral health treatment in their work.

“We’re facing new and growing problems caused by the pandemic and the ongoing opioid epidemic,” he said. “Because of this, Baystate Health is invested in embedding behavioral health providers, to partner with other providers in nearly all our out-patient practices. We’ve expanded our partial hospital offerings and now we’re partnering to greatly expand both the capacity and quality of our

inpatient behavioral health care.”

This building increases the capacity for inpatient behavioral health care in the region by 50%, an impressive and much-needed increase.

“We don’t have enough inpatient services for people, we’ve been having patients waiting for days, sometimes weeks in the emergency room, for beds,” Sarved said. “We don’t have enough beds in Western MA and this hospital is going to provide a solution by giving us the beds that we need.”

Prior to the opening of this hospital, there was limited availability for space dedicated to behavioral health in Western MA. Many of the emergency departments in the area housed the behavioral health patients who could not get beds in behavioral health hospitals. The patients who were able to get a bed in a behavioral health hospital often had to leave western MA and therefore their families and support. This hospital changes that.

“It will increase access for behavioral health patients because they don’t have to wait in the ED to get assessed, we’ll do the assessment and we’ll do the admissions here,” Sasenaraine said.

at-large seats. If there were more than 12 candidates (two candidates per seat), than a primary would have been necessary to narrow the field to 12.

There will also be a competition for the school committee’s at-large seat, with two candidates in the race, including incumbent Erin Brunelle. Ward 4 will feature two candidates as well for school committee with the incumbent Irene Feliciano-Sims not seeking re-election.

## BALLOT, from page 1

every ward seat with the exception of Ward 6, where it appears Juan Anderson-Burgos will not face a challenge.

There are at least two open at-large seats with Councilors Joseph McGiverin and Peter Tallman not seeking re-election. Two former at-large councilors, Michael Sullivan and Howard Greaney, are seeking to return to the council. There are nine candidates for the six

## POLICE, from page 1

lives defending the nation and a prayer by State Police Chaplain Rev. Dr. Johnny Wilson, the 88<sup>th</sup> RTT demonstrated Troop drill under the command of Senior Drill Instructor Trooper Alicia Amaral.

“Since 1921, your uniformed State Troopers have been subject to demands of strict discipline that only paramilitary training can provide,” Goonan said. “Troop drill helps develop the core qualities of pride, professionalism, respect, attention to detail and esprit de corps. Troop drill inspires the common spirit necessary to become a Massachusetts State Trooper.”

Captain Jon Provost, Commandant of the State Police Academy, thanked all for attending the ceremony in Springfield, which he described as a “resilient city of firsts.”

“Today, they add another first to that list, as they for the first time, host the Massachusetts State Police in our graduation ceremony,” Provost said. “Our friends in Springfield selflessly rolled out the red carpet in support of our 88<sup>th</sup> Recruit Training Troop and your Massachusetts State Police.”

Provost said the 88<sup>th</sup> RTT is full of strong men and women who, “selflessly and humbly persevered to reach this proud moment.”

He addressed the family and friends of the Recruits in the audience, thanking them for their sacrifices as their loved ones dedicated themselves to the training program.

“At orientation, a true lifetime ago, we promised you we’d eventually give them back,” he said. “Today, we make good on that promise.”

Provost spoke about the training the Recruits received since they started at the State Police Academy on Feb. 27 in a class that started with 249 eager members. The only “easy day” at the State Police Academy, he said, was a day that had already gone by.

He addressed the Recruits, “88<sup>th</sup> RTT, together we embarked on an incredibly challenging and humbling journey. Together, we have persevered. It has been one of the great honors of my career to share in this accomplishment with all of you. We are the 88<sup>th</sup> RTT.”

Provost welcomed the new Troopers to the State Police family, saying it opened up a “world of opportunity” to do justice, to show kindness, to walk humbly, to selflessly serve their communities and to persevere.

“Persevere 88<sup>th</sup>...be safe, and congratulations,” Provost said.

The newly graduated Troopers received a shield-shaped badge, which was pinned on their uniforms.

“It represents allegiance to justice, service, sacrifice, and an honor to all those who wear it,” Goonan said. The badge is considered the most recognizable symbol of policing around the world, he said.

“The badge is not a gift; it’s not awarded lightly...it must be earned,” he said, which the 88<sup>th</sup> RTT has done.

Following the pinning, the 88<sup>th</sup> RTT received its final inspection by Governor Maura Healey before being officially sworn in. Healey administered the Oath of Office to the 88<sup>th</sup> RTT, having them swear allegiance to the commonwealth and its constitution.

“It is an honor and a privilege to be with you here today, for what is a most joyful and meaningful occasion,” she said. This was Healey’s first graduation ceremony in her role as Governor.

“Public safety remains the most important function of government,” she said. “We can’t do anything without a safe and secure commonwealth.”

Public safety takes investment and collaboration, she said, as well as community engagement, focus, commitment and dedication at “every level.”

“Ultimately, it rests on the ability, the character, the courage and the professionalism of our law enforcement officers...the men and women on the front lines. In other words, it depends on all of you,” Healey said. “Your training...has prepared you so well.”

State Rep. Carlos Gonzalez (D-Springfield), Chair of the Committee of Public Safety and Homeland Security, addressed the new Troopers.

“You have chosen a noble path, to serve the residents of Massachusetts,” he said. “Policing is a profession that demands courage, compassion, and unwavering dedication.”

Gonzalez urged Troopers to remember the importance of community.

“Policing is not merely a job; it is a calling to serve and protect the people who rely on you for safety and security,” he said.

State Police Superintendent Col. John E. Mawn Jr. said this was an important day for the department.

“We welcome to our ranks, and to our mission, a large group of highly skilled, deeply motivated and expertly trained new members. I stand here today... and look out over the future of the Massachusetts State Police,” Mawn said.

Mawn said it took many to make this day possible, including State Police Academy staff, drill staff, civilian work force, legislators and many more. He also thanked former Governor Charlie Baker, who attended the graduation ceremony.

“You are among the best trained recruit classes in the nation,” Mawn said. “Congratulations 88<sup>th</sup> Recruit Training Troop; you earned it.”

“Earned” Mawn said, is an important distinction the Troopers should remember.

“Your achievement was not given to you; you had to earn it... you’ll have to continue to earn your way forward,” he said.

Several members of the 88<sup>th</sup> RTT, hail from communities covered by *Turley Publications’* newspapers, including Charles P. Oberg of Barre, Jonah C. Vaclavicek of Granby, Stephen M. Houle of Ware, Matthew R. Pingitore of Rutland, John M. Sarnacki of Chicopee, Jacob F. Crevier of Ware, Nicholas R. Brooks of Oakham, Brandon M. Aviles of Rutland, Ryan E. Monteiro of Wilbraham, Matthew S. Pepin of Sturbridge, David Soto of Holyoke and Zuzu Y. Demetrius of Warren.

Representing the 88<sup>th</sup> RTT was Trooper Ryan L. Ruef of Lee, who said it was “truly an honor” to stand before everyone at the graduation ceremony.

“Our once dream has now become a reality,” Ruef said. “On behalf of the 88<sup>th</sup> to all friends and family who helped us get to this point in our journeys, a thank you is simply not enough.”



# SPORTS

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Marty Phillips drops back during a play.

Turley photos by David Henry



Receiver Lexon Fontenez holds on to the ball after making a catch.

## Knights ready for fall season

HOLYOKE – Some members of the Holyoke High School football team stayed in shape for the upcoming fall season by participating in the Minnechaug-hosted 7v7 touch football league. The league held games on Tuesday nights on the Chaug turf. Holyoke football returns to action on Friday, which will include playing on new artificial turf.

## West showcased in boys soccer

BOSTON – In last month's Bay State Games, the Western part of the state featured a boys soccer team showcase. Here is a look at how they fared in some of their matchups held July 6-9: The West would win the gold medal in the showcase.

In the gold medal match, the West won 3-2.

The Gold medal match saw powerhouse West face off against Central in what would be an exhilarating and heated match. West opened the scoring within the first minute of the match with a blast from Cole Bamford (Ludlow, Ludlow HS). West then went up 2-0 with help from a penalty kick, expertly taken by Mateo Balbino (Ludlow, Ludlow HS). Swiftly followed by another goal to give them a commanding 3-0 lead. Central was able to crawl back within one with a strike from Jovuan Mensah (Worcester, Burncoat HS) and Kingston Mcgee (Sutton, Sutton HS). West ended the showcase with a dominant 5-0 record. Central ended with a 3-1-1 record.

The West started out the showcase with a 5-2 win over the Metro team.

See *SOCCKER*, page 8

## Westside Sports Shop takes summer soccer title

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW – While the Monson girls and the Ludlow boys soccer teams captured the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League A-Division titles for the third consecutive year, Westside Sports Shop also took home the women's championship trophy for the third year in a row.

The second-seeded Westside Sports Shop outshot the sixth-seeded Celtic Grey for almost the entire match, but goalie Brianna Kubik, who's from Agawam, managed to

keep the contest scoreless until the penalty shootout.

Westside goalie Emily Letendre made a couple of outstanding saves during the shootout and her team celebrated a 0-0 (3-1 PK's) win at Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow on Aug. 5.

"I never expected this game to be so close," said Westside Sports Shop coach Chris Andre. "Their goalie was outstanding. She kept her team in the game during regulation and in overtime. Emily made a couple of saves in PK's. We were finally able to score a couple of goals during the pen-

alty shootout."

Westside Sports Shop (9-2), which is also known as Andres, joined the prestigious summer league in 2021. They posted a 4-0 shutout victory over fifth-seeded Here for Beer in last year's championship match. They defeated the Lusitano Women, 2-1, in the 2021 finals.

For her outstanding performance during the shootout, Letendre received the MVP Award following this year's championship match.

"It just feels amazing to win our third championship title in this summer league,"

said Letendre, who's from West Springfield. "We did beat Celtic during the regular season, but they wanted it as much as we did in tonight's match."

Six of the Westside Sports Shop players played high school soccer for longtime head coach Nundi Goncalves at Minnechaug Regional. They are Emily Howard, Chapin Jeannotte, Rhianna Ryan, Madison Sanborn, Katie Shea, and Gabby Williams.

Several of the other players are from Ludlow, South

See *TITLE*, page 8



Olivia Crespo, of Ludlow, corraling the ball.



Madison Sanborn chases down a loose ball.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



# Chapin picks up Modified win at Monadnock Speedway

WINCHESTER, N.H. – Brian Chapin guided his fabled “Studebaker” Modified to victory Saturday night at Monadnock Speedway and, on the same card, Milton Duran topped the points-rich Late Model 50-lap main event.

Bob Williams made it two in a row on the high banks in Mini Stock action, while Chelsea, VT’s Andrea St. Amour scored her first career Monadnock victory in the Pure Stocks. Young Gun Owen Zilinski made it a hat trick season with his third youth division feature win of the summer.

In support card action, Doug Meservey held off a storming Rob Richardi in the Pro 4 Modified feature, and Jason Pomfry romped to victory in a North East Mini Cup Series 15-lapper.

Chapin and last week’s winner Tyler Leary led the NHSTRA Modifieds to the green to get their 40-lap main underway, with Chapin jumping all over the lead. And while the popular Palmer, Mass. pilot would lead all the way; he’d never in all 40 laps had an inch of breathing room.

Both Nate Wenzel and JT Cloutier had All Star runs at Chapin’s back bumper but he ran a perfect line the entire distance to earn the win. Wenzel, a two-time 2023 winner and the current points leader finished second, with Cloutier impressive in his second straight podium finish.

With a boatload of points and cash on the line, Saturday’s Late Model

50-lapper drew an All Star cast. Teddy Bear Pools 2023 Triple Crown, NHSTRA Battle for The Belt, and Monadnock Speedway seasonal champ points were all up for grabs, with leaders Geoff Rollins, Milton Duran, and Tim Wenzel, respectively, all in the house.

Wenzel set fast time atop the 23-car field, but Duran drew the pole. Rollins started sixth. Duran led the first 15 laps, then giving way to Chris Buffone on the third of what would become eight total restarts. Duran would then drift back to seventh.

Rollins, aboard probably the fastest car in the field, took charge on lap 33. Wenzel was whacked out of the top three on the 41st go-round, with Rollins then railed from the lead just moments later, the second time he’d been taken out. And who was patiently waiting in the wings? Duran.

He took charge again on lap 41, bringing potent Matt Sonnhalter with him, and held strong to score his third consecutive Battle for The Belt series victory. Sonnhalter finished at his bumper in second, with strong and steady Billy Clement Jr. third on the night.

Andrew Brousseau came home fourth, with Rollins’ second charge through the field netting him fifth, while Wenzel stormed back for sixth.

Kevin Clayton, from row two, led the first 15 laps of the Mini Stock main, but rocket man Bob Williams then sailed

past him in turn two and sped off to his second Monadnock victory in as many weeks. Clayton held strong in second, with top points man Louie Maher coming home third on the night, just ahead of the Sontag siblings, Cameron and Chris.

Hot shoe Jimmy Zellman took the lead from Dominick Stafford on lap two of the Pure Stock 25, holding the point until Andrea St. Amour took over on a lap 18 restart. A lap later, Zach Zilinski moved up to second but came up one spot shy of duplicating his younger brother Owen’s earlier Young Gun win.

Zellman, strong all night, joined St. Amour and Zilinski on the podium, with Chris Davis and Colton Martin rounding out the top five. Davis’ one position advantage left he and Martin deadlocked atop the points parade at the end of the night.

Owen Zilinski led all the way in the Young Guns 15-lapper, earning his third victory lap of the summer. Markus O’Neil was solid in second, and Kailyn Hubbard earned the third-place trophy just ahead of her sister Cambri.

Pro 4 super star Rob Richardi was bounced off the frontchute wall at the drop of the green and then made a rock star effort to charge back to the winner’s circle, coming up just short of winner Doug Meservey, who’d taken the lead from Jack Dumas on lap five.

With Meservey victorious, Richardi, Dumas, Justin Faford and Kurt Lester

made up the top five in the fast-paced event.

Monadnock Speedway returns to action next Saturday, August 19, when a large field of NHSTRA Modifieds will square off in twin feature events atop a full card of racing on the high-banked speedplant.

## Monadnock Speedway August 12 Unofficial Top Tens

**NHSTRA MODIFIED:** Brian Chapin, Nate Wenzel, JT Cloutier, Scott Zilinski, Tyler Leary, Joel Belanger, Andy Major, Kimmy Rivet, Kyle Boniface, Adam Lapoint.

**NHSTRA LATE MODEL, 50-LAP:** Milton Duran, Matt Sonnhalter, Billy Clement Jr., Andrew Brousseau, Geoff Rollins, Tim Wenzel, JD Stockwell, Robert Hagar, Chris Buffone, Hillary Renaud.

**MINI STOCK:** Bob Williams, Kevin Clayton, Louie Maher, Cameron Sontag, Chris Sontag, Erin Aiken, Nolan McClay, Jake Puchalski, David Pratt, Skyler Shippee, Pat Houle.

**PURE STOCK:** Andrea St. Amour, Zach Zilinski, Jimmy Zellman, Chris Davis, Colton Martin, Chris Chambers, Teagan Edson, Dominick Stafford, Tim Taft, Aaliyah Tacy.

**YOUNG GUN:** Owen Zilinski, Markus O’Neil, Kailyn Hubbard, Cambri Hubbard, Sofia Rego, Addison Brooks, Madison Cousino, Hunter Duquette.

# Springfield Thunderbirds name new operations manager

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield Thunderbirds general manager Kevin Maxwell announced today that Jeff Jordan has been promoted to Manager of Hockey Operations.

Previously the Thunderbirds’ Video Coach and Team Services Coordinator, Jordan will continue his work with the coaching staff in the video department during the 2023-24 season.

“Jeff has deservedly earned this promotion through hard work, loyalty, and his dedication to the Thunderbirds

on both the hockey and business side,” said Maxwell. “He is a tireless worker with a wonderful personality, making him a terrific conduit between players, management, and the front office. We look forward to seeing him continue to excel in the future.”

Jordan joined the St. Louis Blues’ AHL affiliate in 2019 when he was hired by the San Antonio Rampage as the team’s video coach. Before starting his professional career, Jordan served as an assistant coach with the OHL’s Ottawa 67’s in 2014-15 and 2015-16.

## SOCCKER, from page 7

West got on board first with a sensational strike from forward Brayden Marta (Ludlow, Suffield Academy). Followed by a hat trick of goals from Balbino. Down 4-0, Metro was able

to get on the board with a tremendous effort from Oscar Martinez (Boston, East Boston HS) who scored both Metro goals to bring them within two. West then scored to make it 5-2 to capitalize on a dominant win in their first match.

The West would go a perfect 6-0 in the showcase.

## How to contact the Sports Editor

Have the scoop on a local sports story? Want to submit a team photo, pass along a potential story idea, or just find out how to get a copy of that great photo of your young athlete?

Please send all sports-related press releases and information to Sports Editor Greg Scibelli at: sports@turley.com or call, 1-413-283-8393.

## TITLE, from page 7

Hadley, and Chicopee.

“Most of the players on this team played on the same youth soccer teams,” Andre said. “Then they went their separate ways in high school and it’s very nice having them back together again. It has been a lot of fun coaching them and I’m already looking forward to next season.”

It was a history making day for Celtic Grey (4-6-1). They have been a member of the summer league for the past twenty years, but it was their first appearance in the women’s finals.

“We just wanted to keep this game close as long as we could,” said Celtic Grey coach Rob Galazka. “We played very well defensively in tonight’s game. We’re hoping to make it back here again next year.”

One of the key defenders for Celtic Grey is Jennifer Galindo, who’s from Chicopee.

Galazka has also been the women’s soccer coach at Holyoke Community College for the past 19 years.

“I coached most of these players at HCC,” Galazka said. “It’s awesome coaching them again in this league. It’s a lot of fun.”

Celtic Grey peaked at the right time of the season.

“We ended the regular season with a shutout,” Galazka said. “Then we played the top three seeds in the playoffs, and they were all shutouts. The players just stepped up.”

Celtic Grey posted a 1-0 shutout versus the third-seeded Heat in the quarterfinals. They also posted a 1-0 win against the top-seeded W. Mass Extremes.

The first shot of the shootout was taken by Westside’s Jocelyn Trajkovski, who’s from Ludlow. She fired a low shot into the right corner to give her team a 1-0 lead.

Then Letendre made a save on the Celtic Grey’s first shot.

After both teams hit the post in the second round, Jeannotte stepped up to the line and fired a shot into the left corner giving her team a 2-1 lead.

Galindo managed to put her team on the scoreboard, which sliced the deficit in half. It wound up being the only shot made by the Celtic Grey.

Following a goal by Olivia Crespo (Ludlow), Letendre made a diving save giving the Westside Sports Shop another championship title.

The Westside players will be looking to four-peat next summer.



Nicole Callini makes a throw-in.



Emily Howard, of Wilbraham, takes a shot on goal. Turley photos by David Henry



Katie Shea makes a quick pass.



Jennifer Galindo sends a free kick away for Celtic Gray.



## Coaches honored during Basketball Hall of Fame weekend

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced four benches that will be installed in the Naismith Coaches Circle. Sylvia Hatchell, Rollie Massimino, Tom Young, and Kay Yow, will be honored with a bench dedication ceremony on Saturday, August 12 at 2:00 PM EST in the MassMutual Gallery at the Hall of Fame.

The Naismith Coaches Circle program was first launched in 2015 and is the brainchild of Hall of Famers John Calipari, Jerry Colangelo, and George Raveling. The intent of the program is to pay tribute to basketball's first coach, Dr. James Naismith, and the core values Dr. Naismith instilled in his players – teamwork, determination, self-respect, leadership, initiative, and perseverance. He believed these principles to be the foundation by which young men and women should play the game and conduct their lives.

The Coaches Circle features a sculpture created by Master Sculptor Brian Hanlon, dedicated to celebrating Dr. Naismith. Additionally, it showcases granite benches on a recognition platform, paying tribute to coaches who share the same core values of teaching, nurturing, and mentoring their players on the court, while offering perspective off the court.

An interactive Coaches Circle video is exhibited on the second floor of the museum, which allows coaches to share their personal stories and honor those in their lives who inspired them.

Through the Coaches Circle Program Legacy Initiative, coaches are honored posthumously by either one individual or a group of individuals. Honorees include Denny Crum, Bill Fitch, Cotton Fitzsimmons, Dave Gavitt, John MacLeod, Dean Smith, Jim Valvano, and John Wooden, among others.

## Foursomes needed for golf tournament

AGAWAM – Registration and signups are currently open and underway for the Sixth Annual “Shoot Fore The Stars To Cure Cancer” Golf Tournament to benefit the Dana Farber Cancer Institute. In the first FIVE years we have raised over \$15,000 for cancer research.

The four-person scramble event will take place on Monday, Sept. 18 at Wintonbury Hills Golf Course in Bloomfield, CT. The event will be an 11 a.m. shotgun start. There will be prizes up for grabs (Closest to Pin/Long Drive) along with a putting contest. Entry fee covers golf, lunch and dinner. Please contact ShootFOREtheStarstoCureCancer@gmail.com more information. We hope you can join us.



## 10th annual Michael J Dias Foundation golf tournament

LUDLOW—The Michael J Dias Foundation announces its milestone 10th annual golf tournament fundraiser, scheduled to take place at the scenic Ludlow Country Club on Monday, Oct. 16. The golf tournament is sponsored by Luso Federal Credit Union. It promises a day of camaraderie, sport, and community support, all in the spirit

of making a positive impact.

The Michael J Dias Foundation, renowned for its commitment to providing sober housing to individuals in recovery, has organized this remarkable event as a crucial fundraising effort to further its mission. The tournament will kick off with registration commencing at 9 a.m., followed by a shotgun

start at 10 a.m.

The cost per golfer is \$150, which includes greens fees, golf cart, a delectable lunch to refuel mid-game, and a buffet dinner to celebrate the day's successes.

Sponsorship opportunities are available for businesses and individuals eager to make a difference. Sponsors are an integral part of supporting the founda-

tion's vital work, contributing to the well-being and recovery of those the foundation serves.

Registration for the 10th annual golf tournament and becoming a sponsor is easily accessible through the official registration portal: <https://bit.ly/MJDGOLF23>. For more information about the event, sponsorship opportunities, or the

inspiring work of the Michael J Dias Foundation, please visit the foundation's official website at [www.mdiasfoundation.org](http://www.mdiasfoundation.org).

For inquiries and additional information, please feel free to contact Isabel Martins, who can be contacted via email at [imartins@mdiasfoundation.org](mailto:imartins@mdiasfoundation.org) or by phone at 617-429-0541.

## The benefits of local newspapers

Local newspapers play vital roles in communities across the globe. The Information Age has changed the way many people get their news, but local newspapers continue to serve as valuable resources for readers interested in learning more about and becoming more involved in their communities.

While local publishers continue to adapt to the changes brought about by technology, the following are a handful of benefits unique to local newspapers.

- **Local newspapers keep readers up-to-date on their own communities.** Globalization may be here to stay, but that does not mean local communities are no longer home to newsworthy events. National and international newspapers and 24-hour cable news channels can keep men and women up-to-date on national and world news, but in many instances, local newspapers are the only means people have to learn about what's going on in their own communities. Local politics impact residents' lives every day, and local newspapers cover local politics extensively.

- **Local newspapers benefit nearby businesses.** Small business owners often connect with community members via local newspapers. A strong, locally based small business community can improve economies in myriad ways, creating jobs in the community and contributing tax dollars that can be used to strengthen local schools and infrastructure. And local newspapers do their part by providing affordable and effective advertising space to local business owners looking to connect with their communities.

- **Local newspapers can strengthen communities.** Local newspapers are great resources for residents who want to become more active in their communities and learn more about community events. Local newspapers often showcase community events like carnivals, local theater productions and projects like park cleanups. These are great ways for readers to become more active in their communities and build stronger communities as a result.

- **Local newspapers can benefit children.** National newspapers may have



little age-appropriate content to offer young children, but local newspapers tend to include more soft news items than national periodicals, and such stories typically are appropriate for young readers. According to Newspapers in Education, students who participated in an NIE group in Florida performed significantly better in spelling and vocabulary

than nonreaders. Additional studies have indicated that students who use newspapers in the classroom perform better on standardized reading tests than those who do not use newspapers in class.

Many local newspapers have played vital roles in their communities for decades, providing a go-to resource for local readers and business owners.

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Publications, Inc.



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.*

**PALMER OFFICE**

**GRAPHICS DEPARTMENT SEEKS DESIGNER / PAGINATOR**

Turley Publications, Inc. is looking for a **Graphic Designer** to produce newspaper pages and advertisements in a busy, fast-paced environment. Must be efficient with InDesign Creative Suite. Web design and Wordpress skills a plus.

We will consider less experienced applicants but must have proven design skills.

**Design samples required. Send with resume to:**

Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069  
Attention: Graphics Manager

Or e-mail directly to [dsloat@turley.com](mailto:dsloat@turley.com).

*No phone calls or drop-ins, please.*



**JOB OPENING**

**STAFF WRITER**

Turley Publications, based in Palmer, is seeking a storyteller who is curious about everything, and who understands how town government works to join our team of weekly reporters.

Experience in covering town government is a huge plus, and any experience in community journalism is as well. Staff writers cover all aspects of communities from features to municipal meetings to crimes and fires. Successful candidates must have people skills, plenty of curiosity and able to tell a story.

If you're a self-starter who enjoys community journalism and who can envision themselves connecting with our communities, we encourage you to apply for this position. Not a remote position.

**Qualifications should include:**

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience
- A determination to get the story, whatever it might be
- Equally comfortable writing hard news, features and event coverage
- Ability to write clean copy in a fast-paced, deadline-driven environment
- Proficiency in Associated Press style

Please tell us in a cover letter why you would be a good fit for this position and send it along with a resume and three writing samples to



Eileen Kennedy, Executive Editor  
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069

or email directly to [ekennedy@turley.com](mailto:ekennedy@turley.com)

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**Holyoke Sun**

**Public Notices**

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
Probate and Family Court  
Docket No. HD22P0020GD  
In the interests of  
of Vanessa S Barrett  
of Holyoke, MA  
Minor**

**NOTICE AND ORDER:  
Petition for Resignation  
or Petition for Removal of  
Guardianship of a Minor  
NOTICE TO ALL  
INTERESTED PARTIES**

**1. Hearing Date/Time:**  
A hearing on a Petition to Resign as Guardian of a Minor or Petition for Removal of Guardian of a Minor filed by **Karon Tobin** on **07/18/2023** will be held **08/28/2023 01:45 PM Motion Located Judge Army- In Person: 50 State St Springfield, MA 01103 Courtroom 2 - 4th Floor**

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

File the original with the Court; and

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

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

**4. Presence of the Minor at Hearing:** A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.  
Date: August 10, 2023

**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
08/18/2023

ed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

**You have the right to object to this proceeding.** If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of **09/08/2023**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

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

**WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: August 10, 2023

**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
08/18/2023

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
Docket No. HD23P1692GD  
In the matter of:  
Georgia Gonzalez  
Of: Holyoke, MA  
RESPONDENT  
Alleged Incapacitated  
Person**

**CITATION GIVING  
NOTICE OF PETITION  
FOR APPOINTMENT OF  
GUARDIAN FOR  
INCAPACITATED  
PERSON PURSUANT TO  
G.L. c. 190B, §5-304**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Myrna Reyes** of Holyoke, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Georgia Gonzalez** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Myrna Reyes** of Holyoke, MA (or some other suitable person) be appoint-

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
Docket No. HD23P1692GD  
In the matter of:  
Georgia Gonzalez  
Of: Holyoke, MA  
RESPONDENT  
Alleged Incapacitated  
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**CITATION GIVING  
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G.L. c. 190B, §5-304**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Myrna Reyes** of Holyoke, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Georgia Gonzalez** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Myrna Reyes** of Holyoke, MA (or some other

suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

**You have the right to object to this proceeding.** If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of **09/08/2023**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

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

**WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: August 10, 2023

**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
08/18/2023

**City of Holyoke  
PUBLIC HEARING  
NOTICE**

The Holyoke Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, August 29, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.** via Zoom.com; ID: 836 3939 8493; Call In \*67 646 558 8656 to hear the appeal of Nilsa Laboy of 475 Northampton St (223-00-012) from the Zoning Ordinance Section 4.4.6 Location of Accessory Structure and Section 6.4.3 Table of Principal Uses.

A complete copy of the application may be seen in the Office of Planning & Economic Development, 20 Korean Veterans Plaza, Rm 406, 8:30-4:30, M-F.  
Petition #969

Board of Appeals:  
Josh Knox, Chair

08/09/2023

**City of Holyoke**  
536 Dwight Street #3  
Holyoke, MA 01040-5078  
(413)-322-5650

**Real Estate for Sale**  
The City of Holyoke is seeking sealed offers & proposals for the following properties: 736 Dwight Street & Dwight Street Parcel #006-09-001 Sold together only, 118 Newton Street, Newton Street Parcel #011-03-009, & 94 Newton Street 3 parcels sold together only, 277 Main Street, and 285 Main Street, Main Street sold Individually.

Proposals are due on 09/12/2023 by 11AM. The Public Opening will start at 11AM and go every 30 min until finished.

Documents are available by email request at: [morrowj@holyoke.org](mailto:morrowj@holyoke.org)

The City of Holyoke reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals. No electronic submissions will be accepted.  
08/11, 08/18, 8/25/2023

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD17P1171EA  
Estate of:**

**Omaira D Torres  
Date of Death: 04/05/2017  
CITATION ON  
PETITION FOR  
ORDER OF COMPLETE  
SETTLEMENT**

A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by **Helen J Cruz** of Holyoke, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a proposed distribution and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

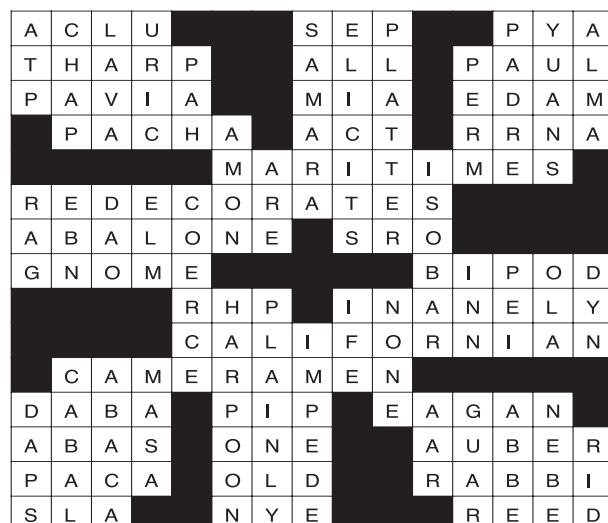
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

**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 09/08/2023.**

**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, 2023

**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
08/18/2023



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Send resumes to  
Robert Markel at 625 Main Street, Hampden 01036  
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HILLTOWNS  
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# Rescheduled date of October 14 for Dragon Boat Festival

SPRINGFIELD— A new date for the ninth annual Dragon Boat Festival has been set for Saturday, Oct. 14, on the Connecticut River. The event will feature Dragon Boat races, food trucks, and Asian-themed entertainment from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at North Riverfront Park, 121 West Street.

The festival was originally scheduled for July 29 but postponed due to unsafe water conditions resulting from recent flooding. Admission to the festival is free for spectators.

Twenty-four teams from throughout New England are registered to participate in this year's Dragon Boat races. Community teams include Behavioral Health Network, CRRC-MA (the rail car manufacturer), as well as the defending champions, Springfield Pharmacy First Responders. With the new date set, registration will be reopened at [www.pvriverfront.org](http://www.pvriverfront.org) for additional teams to sign up to race on Oct. 14.

The Springfield Dragon Boat Festival, which has been hosted by the Pioneer Valley Riverfront Club since 2013, attracts hundreds of participants and spectators to the banks of the Connecticut River for a day of competition, festivity, and community support. The Festival is an important fundraiser in support of Breast Cancer survivors and Community Programming at the Pioneer Valley Riverfront Club.

According to Ben Quick, executive director of PVRC, "We are happy

to have found an alternative date for the Dragon Boat Festival, which has become a staple of our offerings on the Riverfront. With the additional time, we are opening registration for teams and a fall dragon boat experience on the Connecticut with colleagues and friends can be spectacular. We look forward to welcoming Dragon Boaters and fans of this fun and exciting event."

Hundreds of paddlers from New England participate in the festival races. A dragon boat festival team is comprised of up to 20 paddlers who race against other teams in 200-meter races on the Connecticut River. Each race lasts about one minute, and each team races at least three times on the day of the festival. Dragon Boating originated in China 2,000 years ago and today is one of the world's fastest growing team water sports. The festival makes it easy for anyone to participate and spectate.

There is free parking available nearby at 77 West Street or along Avocado Street and on property abutting and behind the new Starbucks store adjacent to the Riverfront Club. The festival can also be reached by the Connecticut Riverwalk Bikeway. More information can be found at [www.pvriverfront.org](http://www.pvriverfront.org) or by calling (413) 736-1322.

The Pioneer Valley Riverfront Club has both adult and youth programming throughout the fall and winter months. For more information, visit [www.pvriverfront.org](http://www.pvriverfront.org).



The event attendees gather to taste the free buffet.

Turley photos by Quinn Suomala

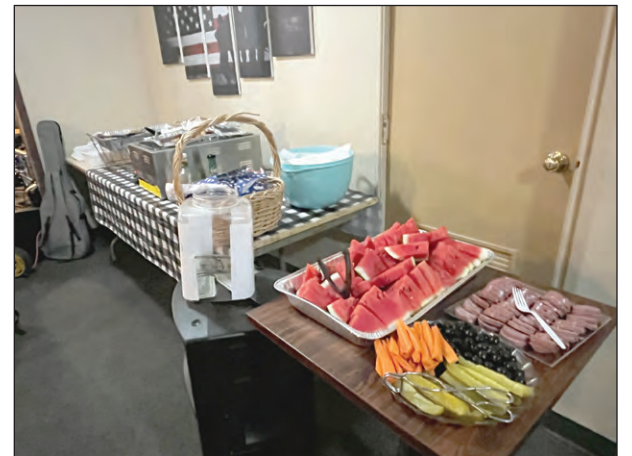


The band Dog Walker performs at the National Night Out event.

## NIGHT OUT, from page 1

bar soon.

For more information on any upcoming events, go to their FaceBook page titled The Holyoke American Legion Post 351.



A lovely spread of food was prepared by Lisa Gariepy.

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