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# HOLYOKE the Sun

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## Governor Healey visits city to break ground ON NEW VETERANS' HOME

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Veterans home will soon have a new building, complete with 234 long-term care beds and various community spaces.

The groundbreaking ceremony for the new building was held on Monday, Aug. 14, and there were many different state and city officials in attendance.

One such official was Governor of Massachusetts Maura Healey, who was glad to be present at such a crucial event for helping the veterans in this area, and proud that her organization had been able to help make this new building happen.

“To all of our veterans, most importantly, today is about you...and that’s why we are hired to work for you, go to work whether it’s in a state house or in our nation’s capital to secure funding, to pass laws, to get the right resources in place to make sure that we are better serving those who have served all of us,” Healey said.

Healey was also delighted to announce that in the fiscal year 2024 budget that Healey signed off on, the Department



Government officials break ground at the Veterans Home.

of Veterans Services received a \$11.4 million dollar increase.

“To all our colleagues in the legislature, thank you for your commitment in making sure that our veterans are getting the care, the services, the opportunities and the respect that not only they need but they so richly deserve,” Healey said.

The Veterans Home received \$263.5 million from the VA State Home Construction Grant Program for this reconstruction

as well as a conditional award last year. It was thanks to this funding that this nearly \$500 million project was possible.

“This is a \$482 million investment in our veterans, it’s going to be a facility that veterans, their families, the entire state of MA will be so proud of and we want to be clear that our investment in the home symbolizes the next level of care and commitment to veterans and families all across the state,”

Healey said.

In the new building, most veterans will also receive their own private room, a significant improvement upon the cramped quarters that were present during the pandemic.

This new building is a step towards helping to improve the Veterans Home since the COVID-19 outbreak it experienced in 2020. During this out-

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Governor Maura Healey greets gathered veterans.



Senator John Velis swears to work to keep Massachusetts as the best place for veterans in the nation.

## Students welcomed back-to-school



Flor Diaz from the MA WIC nutrition program and Mary Colon from Holyoke Gear Up help keep families updated about the services of these programs.

Turley photo by Quinn Suomala

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – Families and friends gathered at McNally Field to enjoy some fun before the start of school.

H o l y o k e S a f e Neighborhood Initiative hosted the back-to-school event for Holyoke Public Schools on Saturday, Aug. 19. At the event there was horse riding, laser tag, table tennis, water slides, bouncy houses, information tables for families, free backpacks handed out and more.

“It’s about just seeing the kids go get a snow cone, they’re smiling, they’re on the water-slides, they’re happy, they’re getting a bookbag with a big smile on their face or they’re riding on a pony, and just seeing the smiles on the kids’ face,” Edward Caisse, who works for the Hampden County Sheriff’s office, said. “And it’s about seeing the families being appreciative of what we’re trying to do to give them a great day.”

This event is held every year for the families of

See SCHOOL, page 6

## Committee recommends rise in sewer rate

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The Ordinance Committee narrowly favored a rise in sewer rates in their recommendation of the FY24 Preliminary Sewer Financing Plan.

The recommendation will be made to the full city council to raise the sewer rate about seven percent from \$7.50 to \$8.02.

Councilors Israel Rivera, Kocayne Givner and Jose Maldonado Velez voted in favor of this proposal while Councilors Linda Vacon and Kevin Jourdain opposed it.

The Board of Public Works recommended the rate increase to balance the sewer budget.

“Using the amended budget number which, again, is still subject to approval by council come fall, and using the same estimate with respect to the number of users and the usage associated with them, we’re recommending a FY24 sewer rate of \$8.02...the impact for the average user will be \$7.55 per quarter,” Chair of

the Board of Public Works Mary Monahan said.

Rivera, Maldonado Velez and Givner agreed the rate increase was needed. Rivera and Givner specifically pointed out that a similar proposal has been made to the city council in the past and they have turned it down. Both believe that now is the time to act to ensure that this expense doesn’t continue to sit until it eventually comes around and costs them more in the end.

“Us being fiscally conservative is actually costing us more money in the way that we are doing it,” Rivera said. “In a sense, if you look at it, the council voted in 2021 to not increase it to \$8.05. They come back two years later, and gave us a smaller number at \$8.02, and that will balance everything out and make us smooth and coasting across the board...we’ve all been fiscally conservative throughout these years and we’re trying to catch up.”

Givner pointed out the con-

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## 150th anniversary celebrations continue

HOLYOKE – The city of Holyoke is collecting items for a time capsule, silent auction, and stories for the commemorative book for its 150-year anniversary. Organizers are currently looking for suggestions on what to include in the time capsule. On September 15 the public comment time-period for the time-capsule will close. To submit ideas go to <https://www.exploreholyokey.com/submit-time-capsule/>.

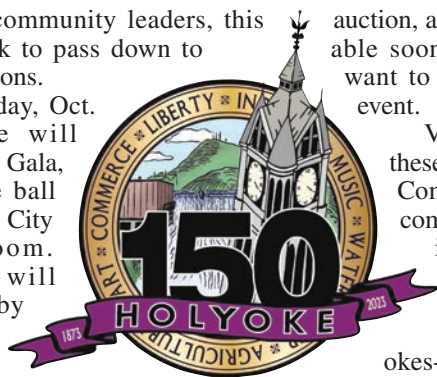
Pre-sales for the Holyoke 150th Commemorative Book will begin in September. Filled with photos and chapters written by event organizers, business

owners, and community leaders, this will be a book to pass down to future generations.

On Saturday, Oct.

28, Holyoke will hold its 150th Gala, a masquerade ball in the historic City Hall Ballroom.

This event will feature food by Log Rolling, an open bar, valet parking, music by the Maxxtones, a silent



auction, and more. Tickets will be available soon. Save the date! You won't want to miss this once in a lifetime event.

Volunteers are needed for all these events. Please contact Robert Comeau at [bobcat4214b@yahoo.com](mailto:bobcat4214b@yahoo.com) to find out how you can get involved. You can also sign up to volunteer at <https://www.exploreholyokey.com/guide/volunteer-for-holyokes-150th/>. Visit [www.exploreholyokey.com](https://www.exploreholyokey.com) for more details, historic tour's locations, and other event information.

## HCC offers free line cook training

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Community College is offering free training classes in line cook skills offered through the Office of Workforce Development office. The free line cook training starts in September and is for anyone interested in developing new skills.

Classes will be held in person at the HCC Culinary Arts Institute, 164 Race St. For more information about the programs, please visit [hcc.edu](http://hcc.edu). Class times are as following:

### Line Cook a.m. Training

Sept. 18 to Oct 20, 2023

Monday is from 9 a.m. to 12 noon  
Tuesday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

### Line Cook p.m. Training

Sept. 18 to Nov 9, 2023

Monday to Thursday,  
5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

### Line Cook a.m. Training

Oct. 30 to Dec. 8, 2023

Monday is from 9 a.m. to 12 noon  
Tuesday to Friday, 9 am to 3:30 pm

## City to hold hearing on Comcast license

HOLYOKE – Mayor Joshua A. Garcia, as cable television licensing authority, will hold a public cable license renewal hearing at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 14, at Holyoke Media, 1 Court Plaza, as part of the City's license renewal proceedings pertaining to Comcast. Holyoke's Comcast cable license expires on March 11, 2024.

Federal law requires a public hearing to ascertain the community's

cable-related needs and interests as part of the license renewal process. Public comment is invited regarding Comcast's past performance.

Interested persons may attend and directly participate in person or they may access the hearing remotely via [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) Meeting ID: 881 3755 3176 Passcode: 393722 or by call in at 1-929-205-6099 with same Meeting ID and Passcode.

The hearing can be observed without remote participation for viewing only on Comcast Channel 15 in Holyoke.

For further information and copies of renewal records, or to offer testimony regarding Comcast's past performance, please contact Stephen Fay at the Holyoke Mayor's Office, City Hall, 536 Dwight Street, Email: [fays@holyokey.org](mailto:fays@holyokey.org), telephone: 413-561-1600.

## 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@holyokey.org](mailto:morrowj@holyokey.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://holyokeymap.io>.

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

## Velis calls for inclusion of veterans in State Democratic Party

WESTFIELD – State Senator John Velis (D-Westfield) announced his support for efforts to update the Massachusetts State Democratic Party's charter to allow veterans to be named as "add-on" delegates at political conventions and have a stronger role in state party decisions.

"Less than 1% of our country's population serves in our military today. Our state party needs to do everything we can to elevate those voices and ensure that veterans are included in our party's platform," said Senator Velis, who is Senate Chair of the State Legislature's Veterans' Committee and a veteran of the US Army Reserves.

"Massachusetts veterans have selflessly and courageously served our nation and understood the importance

of protecting our democracy. Their insight and experience are invaluable to the decisions our state party makes and they deserve to be represented at our conventions."

In addition to the minimum 2,500 delegates required for state conventions, the state party's charter allows "add-on" delegates to be selected to ensure diversity. The effort to amend the charter would include veterans on the list of "marginalized communities" eligible to be named as "add-on" delegates, including underrepresented ethnic and racial groups, LGBTQ+ individuals, individuals with disabilities, and youth.

The effort to amend the charter to make veterans eligible will be considered at the party's convention this fall.

## 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 [holytrinityofholyokey@gmail.com](mailto:holytrinityofholyokey@gmail.com).

## NAMI-WM announces new yoga class

HOLYOKE – The National Alliance on Mental Illness of Western Massachusetts would like to announce Mindfulness Mondays Yoga with Kateri. 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 a member of our board of directors. The classes will begin in September and will be held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month starting from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

They will take place at the same location as NAMI-WM at 1221 Main Street, in the Catherine Horan Medical Building. Classes are by donation and partial proceeds will go to NAMI-WM.



## Hibernians to hold traditional summer picnic on 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 located at 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 at 860-904-3056 or Fran Hennessey at 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.



# 23rd annual Young Parents Regatta rowing on Aug. 26

HOLYOKE – The Rowing Strong/Rowing Together annual Young Parents Regatta will take place at the Holyoke Rows Boathouse on Jones Ferry Road from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday Aug. 26, rain date Aug. 27. Six races are planned for teams of young mothers from Holyoke, Springfield, Chelsea, MA and Hartford, CT.

Racing is expected to be underway at 10 a.m. and lunch and an awards ceremony will follow the races. Close to 100 spectators are expected to be on hand to cheer on the rowers. Volunteers from The Care Center, Yankee Rowing Club, Northampton Youth and Community Rowing, Clark University alumnae rowing team and Holyoke Rows will staff the event.

The regatta is the culminating event of the summer rowing program, designed by The Care Center and Mount Holyoke College, that brings the power of women's rowing to under-served pregnant and parenting young moms. Rowing Strong/Rowing Together is the only rowing

effort in the country that links college programs and community rowing programs with teenage mothers.

During the past three months, pregnant and parenting teen mothers have been practicing twice weekly to get ready for this annual rowing festival. The rowers started with strength building and then learned how to handle boats, row as a team, and row on their community river. This summer the program was housed at the Holyoke Rows Boathouse, Pioneer Valley Riverfront Club in Springfield, New Bedford Rowing Center, Gentle Giant Rowing Club in Somerville and Riverfront Recapture Boathouse in Hartford, CT. Rowing Strong/Rowing Together concludes each year with this unusual and festive regatta that highlights and celebrates the teamwork and determination of these unusual novice rowers. The regatta is free and open to the public.

"For someone who has never set foot into a skinny crew shell, pushing off a dock may be terrifying. But with

the support of their coaches, caseworkers, and team, the rowers learn how to overcome fear. For this group, rowing is not just an athletic experience, it's also a container to take risks and be celebrated. It's a way to connect with the healing power of nature. Rowers have seen bald eagles, the shad run, and blue heron. It's a teacher in teamwork, commitment, and patience. Many have told me that it was rowing that taught them how to be better mothers" said Holyoke Coach Halley Glier.

Founded in 1986, The Care Center is the oldest and most comprehensive provider of education and services for pregnant and parenting teens in Massachusetts. Each year more than 100 young women use The Care Center, a multi-service alternative education and cultural center located in Holyoke. All are high-school dropouts receiving public assistance. Services include classes and individual instruction leading to completion of the HiSet exam; college prep and college coursework; on-site daycare;

counseling; assistance in making the transition to higher education; on-site associate degree program; nutritious food; and door-to-door transportation. The Care Center has received national recognition for its innovative approach including a Presidential Award in 2011.

The Care Center program is modeled, in part, on elite prep schools. Mornings are focused on academics. Afternoons are spent participating in elective activities, ranging from rowing to golf, dance to photography, and writing to religion. Students frequently take the results of their elective work into the community, whether it's an art show on the walls of a shopping mall, a poetry reading and book signing at a local bookstore, or the Young Parents Regatta. Nearly 75 percent of Care Center graduates go on to higher education.

Rowing Strong/Rowing Together was launched with support from the New England Women's Fund and is supported in part this year by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

## HMC to host overdose prevention training Aug. 31

HOLYOKE – In advance of Overdose Awareness Day, Aug. 31, Holyoke Medical Center invites the community to join recovery support experts for an overdose prevention training event on how to respond to an opioid overdose, including the use and distribution of Naloxone (Narcan: a medication that quickly reverses an opioid overdose). The training will be held Wednesday, Aug. 23, at 5:30 p.m. at the Holyoke Medical Center Auxiliary Conference Center, 575 Beech St.

Holyoke Medical Center is partnering with Tapestry Health to provide this training. Representatives from Learn 2 Cope and SADOD will also be available to provide additional education, resources, and support for family members and friends who have loved ones in active addiction or recovery, as well as to those who have lost a loved one to overdose.

## Springfield Tech announces every class reunion

SPRINGFIELD – The spirit and camaraderie of Springfield's Tech High School is alive and well as they gear up for another exciting reunion on Saturday Sept. 23 at the Elks Lodge, #61 at 440 Tiffany St. from 3 to 8 p.m. The reunion is open to all tech classes.

An outside barbecue will be held rain or shine under the lodge's pavilion and will include hot dogs, hamburgers, pulled pork, salads, vegan options, dessert and more. Cash bar. Free parking and handicap accessible.

A fun-filled afternoon will include DJ and dancing, cornhole and bocce games, raffles and time to reminisce with friends over the years and make new friends as well.

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, Margaret McCormick '74 at 413-531-4763, Dawn Duncan '71 at 413-896-3930, or Matt Villamaino '67 at 413-896-2206.

## OneHolyoke Thrives community 5K this weekend

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 registration) 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 Nayroby Rosa at (413) 409-2004 or [nayroby.rosa-soriano@oneholyokey.org](mailto:nayroby.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.

## Second Chance Animal Services empowers pet owners

EAST BROOKFIELD – Adopting a pet involves a deep commitment and a lifetime of care. Second Chance Animal Services is committed to turning the tide by instilling a sense of responsibility during the adoption process and providing ongoing support for new pet owners.

Making the decision to adopt a pet requires thoughtful consideration, as highlighted by Wendy Hall, director of Second Chance's Animal Relocation programs.

"Pet ownership is like raising a child-it takes time, care, and resources and Second Chance is here to help," emphasizes Hall. "Pets have emotions and needs and rely on their owners for food, medical attention, love, and companionship. By investing effort from the start, many common problems can be avoided, leading to a happy and lasting pet-owner relationship."

To prevent unnecessary surrenders, Second Chance provides a range of resources and assistance for pet owners facing difficulties.

The organization believes that open communication and guidance can often resolve issues without giving up a pet. Knowledgeable shelter staff are available by phone or email to listen to owners' concerns and offer advice on various pet-related matters. Whether it's dealing with behavior problems, training

challenges, or introducing a new pet to the family, they offer personalized solutions.



Mack, a two-year-old Bernese Mountain Dog, is just one of the pets waiting to find a home at Second Chance's Adoption Center in East Brookfield. Submitted Photo

In addition, Second Chance operates four full-service veterinary hospitals to ensure pets receive necessary care. Located in North Brookfield, Southbridge, Springfield and Worcester, the hospitals are open to everyone and offer reduced rates for those who qualify, along with weekly low-cost vaccine clinics. The nonprofit also has a pet food pantry program that supplies pet food to local human food pantries, helping pet owners facing financial difficulties.

New Second Chance adopters also get access to a week of free one-on-one online training through an app designed to help dog owners address behavioral issues and foster positive interactions with their pets in their homes. Owners can continue to use the app for a minimal charge as needed. Well-trained pets are more likely to stay in their homes with their families.

Second Chance remains committed to educating pet owners, providing resources, and promoting responsible pet ownership to create a community where pets are valued as cherished family members. With the right support and effort, many challenges can be overcome, allowing pets to stay where they belong, with the families who love them unconditionally. For more information on Second Chance's programs and resources, visit [www.secondchanceanimals.org](http://www.secondchanceanimals.org).





## When should my wife claim Social Security?

Dear Rusty

My wife will be 65 next year, and her full retirement age is 66 years plus 10 months.

Can she collect 50% of my Social Security benefit at her full retirement age and then get her own higher personal amount at age 70? Her own amount at her full retirement age is \$1,100 per month but her age 70 amount is \$1,800. My Social Security is \$2,300. Suggestions welcome.

Signed: My Wife's Helper

Dear Helper

Your wife cannot separate her spousal benefit from her personal Social Security retirement benefit – whenever she claims she will be automatically deemed to be filing for both her own benefit and her spousal entitlement. Thus, she cannot claim her spousal benefit first at her Full Retirement Age and defer claiming her own SS retirement benefit until she is 70.

When your wife should claim is, essentially, a decision which should consider the urgency of her need for the money, her life expectancy, whether she will be eligible for a spouse benefit from you and whether she is working.

If your wife claims before her Full Retirement Age and is working, she'll be subject to Social Security's "earnings test" which limits how much she can earn before some SS benefits are taken away. Social Security's earnings test goes away at FRA.

Average life expectancy for a woman your wife's age is about 87. If your current \$2,300 benefit is a result of you taking your Social Security at your full retirement age or earlier, then your wife will receive a small "spousal boost" from you.

If she claims at her Full Retirement Age, your wife's total Social Security payment will be 50% of the amount you were entitled to at your FRA and that will be her permanent amount, except for annual COLA increases.

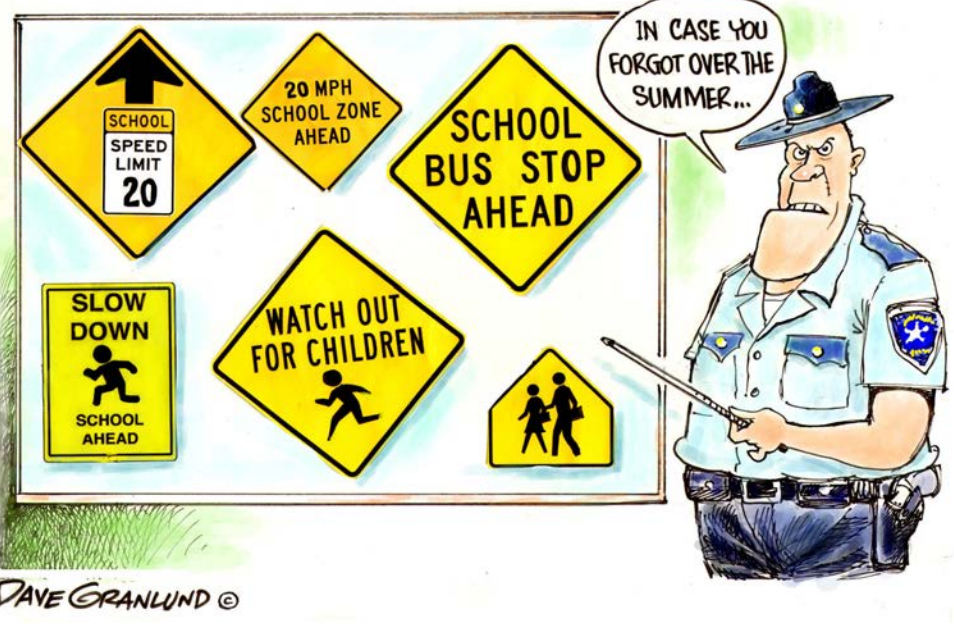
However, from what you've shared, your wife's age 70 amount is considerably more than her maximum spousal benefit so, if her life expectancy is long, that suggests she may wish to consider waiting until age 70 to claim her own maximum benefit. By doing so, your wife will get more in cumulative lifetime benefits if she achieves average life expectancy.

The unknown factor is your life expectancy because, as your widow, your wife will be entitled to 100% of the amount you were receiving at your death, instead of the smaller amount she is receiving on her own or as your spouse. If life expectancy is long for both of you, then your wife maximizing her own benefit by waiting until age 70 to claim is a prudent choice. But if your, or your wife's, life expectancy is shorter, then your wife claiming at her Full Retirement Age would be a better decision.

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 [ssadvisior@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisior@amacfoundation.org).

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

## Back to school refresher course ... for drivers...



Guest Column

## The woman who created kid's television

By J. Mark Powell  
[jmarkpowell.com](http://jmarkpowell.com)

Before there was Sesame Street... Before there was Mister Rogers' Neighborhood... Before there was Romper Room... Before there was Captain Kangaroo...

There was Miss Frances and Ding Dong School. The show not only was the first in its genre, it literally created children's television – and set the bar very high, too.

Let's hop into the Wayback Machine and revisit 1952.

Television was brand new then. TV stations were launching all over the country and big, cumbersome TV sets were popping up inside more and more American homes.

Judith Waller was public service and educational programming director at WNBQ-TV in Chicago. Most local stations produced hours of their own programming daily, way more than they do today.

As Waller was talking with her boss one day, he noted that with the Baby Boom in full swing there were more than 235,000 preschool children in the Chicago area. Then he pointedly asked, "What are you going to do about it?"

Waller rolled into action. She devised a nursery school program to teach kids watching at home. Because viewers would be little



people, the show utilized six cameras that shot from angles toddlers would see.

All props would be easily recognizable to little children.

Auditions were held for the program's host. Frances Horwich was one of the educators who tried out for the gig.

A woman of a certain age with a kindly disposition, she headed a local college's education department. She lacked showbiz experience, but had once taught nursery school.

While the thought of being alone on set for a full hour each day scared her, she thought, "Why not?" and gave it a try. She was soon hired to be "Miss Frances," then successfully negotiated to own the rights to the show.

When the producer's 3-year-old son was told each episode would begin with an old-fashioned teacher's desk bell ringing, he blurted out, "Ding Dong Show!" and so they had the program's title.

A pilot episode was filmed. One horrified station executive said the show was so bad it would kill television and make TV viewers listen to radio again.

So, it was decided to air the program just once.

WNBQ didn't issue a press release announcing it or promote it in any way. They

See HOLY COW, page 5



By Ellenor Downer

I received an email this week from an Oakham resident, who saw a couple of warblers at Muddy Pond in Oakham. He said they were very vocal and "chirping." He said at first he thought they were Tennessee warblers, but then he noticed more gray on their head and neck. They may have been orange-crowned warblers.

The orange-crowned warbler is about five inches long and looks similar to the Tennessee warbler. A distinguishing feature is the orange-crowned has yellow under tail coverts and the Tennessee, white.

Drab is a term used to describe the orange-crowned warbler and is best identified by its lack of field marks. The orange crown patch is seldom visible as these warblers flitter about in the trees. It has dull olive-green upper parts and pale olive-yellow underneath. In addition to the yellow under tail coverts it has faint streaking on the sides of the breast.

The female lays three to six cream colored eggs in a nest of bark strips and grasses, placed either on the ground or in a shrub. They eat insects and berries and inhabit dense thickets, forest edges and brushy fields. Their song is a high-pitched chirping trill, which trails off at the end. The call is a metallic "chet."

### Wild turkeys and poults

I had to stop to let a flock of three adult hens and over 12 poults cross a road recently. As they made their way across the road, I tried to get an accurate count. However, the young turkeys moved quickly and often went behind another poult or a hen. This was the second time I saw the flock in the same general area.

### Loon census

On July 15, the Loon Preservation Committee of New Hampshire held their annual loon census. In their newsletter they said, "During the Loon Census, a total of 440 volunteers took to 121 lakes across New Hampshire to count loons. In total, they documented 431 adult loons, 56 loon chicks, and 2 immature loons. This census coverage represents roughly 1/3 of the lakes that LPC biologists monitor annually, and as such, our final population numbers for the season will likely be higher."

See BACKYARD, page 5



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## A Quote

OF NOTE

"Life is 10% what happens and 90% how you react to it."

Charles R. Swindoll

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



**HOLY COW, from page 4**

figured they'd let it die of its own embarrassment.

And so Ding Ding School debuted on Thursday morning, Oct. 2, 1952.

Primitive by today's hi-tech standards, it began with closeup of Miss Frances' hand ringing the aforementioned bell, followed by a cheesy studio organ playing the show's equally cheesy theme song. Miss Frances sang in a warbly voice that was better suited for a little country church choir than television:

"I'm your school bell, ding dong ding; boys and girls all hear me ring.

Every time I ding dong ding, come with me to play and sing."

Then she jumped into the lesson. Miss Frances talked like she was speaking to actual children.

"How are you, boys and girls? What are you doing today? (Pause.) Really? That's good!"

WNBQ's big brass cringed for an hour until the show ended. No one expected what came next.

The station's switchboard was flooded with more than 150 calls in 45 minutes as parents told how their kids loved the program. That was nothing compared to the tidal wave of enthusiastic fan mail that

followed.

Ding Dong School instantly became part of WNBQ's morning lineup five days a week. It was such a hit, NBC picked it up in 1953 and broadcast it nationally.

Miss Frances even became a TV star. More than 12,000 children and parents attended a promotional event in Boston.

She was stopped by adoring fans 18 times daily. When she and her husband flew to Florida for a vacation, kids on the plane recognized her – and sang the show's theme song over and over all the way to Miami.

Likely making it history's most miserable flight for the passengers.

But TV is a cutthroat business. Despite its success, NBC cancelled Ding Dong School in 1956 for the more lucrative *The Price Is Right*.

The show continued in syndication until 1965.

Miss Frances eventually moved to Arizona where she dabbled in local public television until her death in 2001 at age 94.

Children's television is one of broadcasting's few success stories; and it's largely due to the huge influence of a single teacher and her little bell.

*Holy Cow! History is written by novelist, former TV journalist and diehard history buff J. Mark Powell.*

**BACKYARD, from page 4**

**Loon fact**

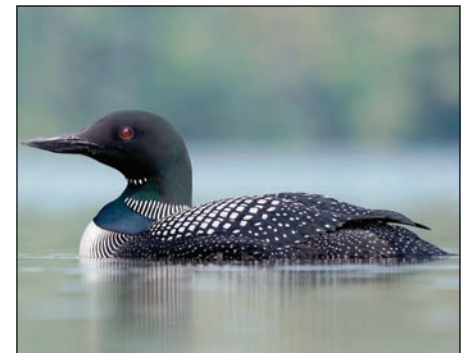
After the hatch of their first chick, adult loons often remove the membrane from the first hatched egg and any attached large pieces of eggshell from their nest. This behavior has been widely documented in New Hampshire, both on LPC's Live Loon Cams and by wildlife photographers, as well as by biologists.

In a recent newsletter from LPC an article said, "The removal of eggshell fragments from loon nests may occur in

part due to the asynchronous hatch of the two chicks. Until the second chick hatches, the loons brood their first chick on and around the nest. While they may take it into the water for brief swims or to feed it, the first chick ends up spending a lot of time on the nest while the family waits for the hatch of the second chick. Loon eggs and newly-hatched loon chicks are brown in color, and as such, they blend in with their surroundings on the nest. The egg membrane and the inside of eggshells, in contrast, are a creamy white color. That makes them much more conspicuous

and, if left on the nest, could increase the chance of nest predation. Therefore, it is believed that in removing egg membranes and large eggshell pieces from the nest, adult loons may be protecting their chick and the second egg from being easily noticed by predators."

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



Loon

**SEWER, from page 1**

stant underfunding of the sewer fund in recent years. He believed the rate increase was reasonable.

"This intentional underfunding, I think it's unacceptable...this can has been kicked down the road long enough it started somewhere other than right now, we have a really old city, we're going to need infrastructure investment," Givner said. "This \$8.02 proposal comes to \$30 a year, I think it's reasonable and I think since we've waited so long to deal with this I don't see the problem with taking the time now to do the research and get the information needed to take all these expenses that are city-wide expenses out so that in the future we can properly bill those using the sewage system versus those using all city expenses."

Vacon and Jourdain were hesitant to approve a rise in the rates. They pointed out being fiscally conservative has benefited the city in the past, with Jourdain pointing out how the ultimate decision to wait on the middle school project benefited them in the long-run, with the project now being built without a debt exclusion override.

"I've yet to see in the Holyoke government how being fiscally conservative around here has caused things to cost double, I can actually say just the opposite," Jourdain said.

"If we had just gone along, in years past, with whatever rate was put forth to us...if we had not pushed back and we just went ahead with the rate increases in the face of a 70% collection rate, that would have been irresponsible to the people who pay their bills, to the people who would have been then paying the higher rate," Vacon said.

Sticking true to their statements, Vacon and Jourdain voted against recommending the proposed budget to the city council. However, they were outvoted by Givner, Maldonado Velez and Rivera, so the city council will receive the ordinance committee's recommendation to move forward with this proposed budget.

Along with the rate increase, Monahan also proposed a sewer enterprise study for FY24.

This study would identify the true costs associated with wastewater collection and treatment, identify other costs currently funded by the sewer enterprise fund, establish a five-year Capital Improvements Program, recommend a funding program and strategies (including public review and city approval).

"All of this works only if you do it all together, otherwise we'll be back having the same discussion a year from now," Monahan said to the committee.

According to Monahan's presentation, Holyoke's average residential user fee appears high when compared to other communities as the contract includes services and costs that are typically funded outside wastewater enterprise funds.

Monahan and the rest of the project team hope to use their proposed study to identify the costs of these additional services and remove them from the enterprise fund.

"So those costs could be pulled out of that...with the awareness of the opportunities to learn more about the funding and the operations associated with the enterprise fund, we proposed for FY24 to do a comprehensive, in-depth study of the enterprise fund looking at the operational cost associated with those bits and pieces that we're talking about," Monahan said.

The current proposed budget for the wastewater treatment plant administration and operations is a total of \$10,129,620. The budget is not finalized. Not only does it still need approval by the city council, but the project team—which includes the mayor, the city auditor, the city treasurer, Holyoke Water Department, the Board of Public Works, the Director of Public Works, the city engineer, and the President of the Abrahams Group—is still waiting on the numbers from the last quarter of FY23.

Furthermore, even if the city council were to approve this budget, the rate increase would not be able to be applied until the second quarter of FY24 at best, as pointed out by city Councilor Joseph McGiverin, who was in attendance on Aug. 22.

"It's a double-edged sword," McGiverin said. "We don't know the last quarter of fiscal 2023 and we know we're not going to get the first quarter of fiscal 24."

Despite this, Monahan still encouraged the committee to recommend the budget to the city council. While not everything about the budget is solidified, the anticipated rise in rates and the proposed study would still be needed.

According to Monahan, the enterprise fund has been historically underfunded, which has, in part, led to the issues with the system that are seen today.

"Over the last 17 years of the long-term service agreement, slightly over 50% of the time the enterprise fund was in a deficit," Monahan said.

Therefore, Monahan and the rest of the project team are asking for more funding this time in order to prevent additional funding in the future.

"When we short change these levels of effort to learn more about what our system needs are, to plan for those system needs, we end up in the same boat," Monahan said.

**VETERANS, from page 1**

break the home lost 76 individuals, a tragedy that all at the home are working hard to ensure it never happens again.

According to Senator John Velis, during the crisis he organized a meeting with the affected families. At this meeting, the families demanded that there be a new building put in place, that the structure of government in the veterans home be redone and that the tragedy that occurred there would never happen again.

"We lost veterans and we lost so many great human beings, and I'll never forget that," Velis promised. "So that third thing, that third thing that the fam-

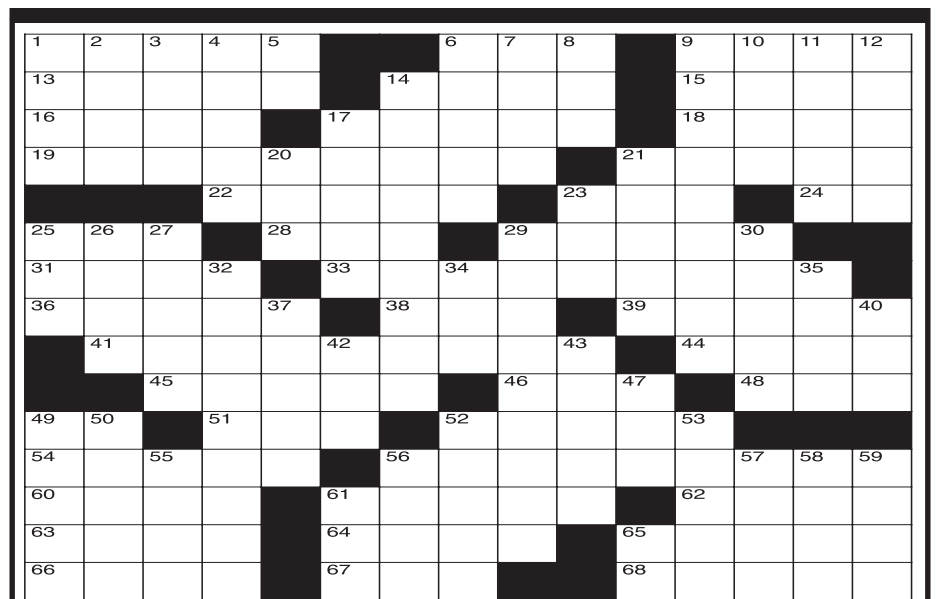
ily members said, never forget and never let something happen again."

Velis swore that he would continue to put his best work forward to ensure that the veterans of MA would be the best supported in the country.

"Massachusetts is the best place in the nation to be a veteran but make no mistake about it, but if we rest on our laurels that will be surpassed," Velis said.

Representative Patricia Duffy was also honored to have been a part of the process of giving these veterans a better home.

"To give all of you—veterans, families, staffers—the home that you deserve is the honor of my public service career," she said.



**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Russian painter
- 6. Very fast jet
- 9. Phillipine municipality
- 13. Intestinal
- 14. Small freshwater fish
- 15. Algerian coastal city
- 16. Vomit
- 17. Famed astronomer
- 18. Ghanaian currency
- 19. Improved the condition of
- 21. Int'l association of interpreters
- 22. Infections
- 23. Dish made with lentils
- 24. Thou
- 25. Former CIA
- 28. Unit used to compare power levels
- 29. Members of Pueblo people
- 31. Myanmar monetary units
- 33. Polished
- 36. Signed a contract

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. "Iron Man" actress Leslie
- 2. Wings
- 3. Adjust the spacing
- 4. They're usually locked
- 5. Atomic #43
- 6. Wise individuals
- 7. Horse mackerel
- 8. Pearl Jam's debut album
- 9. Confinement
- 10. Colorless crystalline compound
- 11. Unsatisfactorily
- 12. Plant of the parsley family
- 14. Determines time
- 17. Causes the birth of
- 20. Small ornament on a watch chain
- 21. Richly decorated cloth tapestry
- 23. Vito Corleone was one
- 25. Igbo musical instrument
- 26. Put in harmony
- 27. Japanese alcoholic drinks

**CLUES DOWN**

- 29. Tinseltown
- 30. Closes tightly
- 32. Songs sung to one's lover
- 34. One thousandth of an inch
- 35. Small drink of whiskey
- 37. Political divisions in ancient Greece
- 40. Helps little firms
- 42. Baby's eating accessory
- 43. Very long periods of time
- 47. Small block of wood
- 49. Town in Surrey, England
- 50. Enquiry
- 52. Murdered
- 53. Bura-\_: Chadic language
- 55. Crater on Mars
- 56. Mammal genus
- 57. Sock
- 58. Make
- 59. Stony waste matter
- 61. Partner to cheese
- 65. Pound

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 10



# In The News



Joyce Mogaka, Maria Golano, Elizabeth Powers and Ana Euribe from the UMass Health Development Initiative give out information about the various studies UMass conducts to learn more about how to support families.



Kyrie Bretz and Laurie Tyburski from Holyoke Medical Center hand out resources for families.



Yaxmine Ibrahim, Justina Adiele and Galima Krasmov from Head Start help keep families informed about their organization.

Turley photos by Quinn Suomala



Steven Moguel, Korina Hall and Maria C. Perez, part of the equity task force from Holyoke Public Schools attended the event to get feedback from and provide assistance to families.



Ron Thompson and Faith Sarisley from Cross Point Clinical Services help families learn about the mental health services they provide.



Kelvin Toro and Melissa Burke from CHD help give out resources about behavioral health to families.



Outreach Specialist for the Boy Scouts of America Iris Sosa lets families learn about how to become a part of the Boy Scouts.



Laser tag was set up for children and families to enjoy during the back-to-school event.



With water slides and bounce houses, the back-to-school event was fun for all in attendance.

## SCHOOL, from page 1

Holyoke. The Holyoke Safe Neighborhood Initiative started it in 2011, making this year the twelfth year in a row of this fun-filled event.

"In 2011 when we started this community work we were saying 'gee, it would be really cool to have a back to school event where we would be able to help the families get school supplies and other things that they need to take a little pressure of the parents and families,'" Caisse said. "We felt if we could do an event, have a great day with activities and food and be able to provide backpacks for the kids, that would be really cool."

At this event, families are able to get a variety of information and supplies that they may need for the upcoming school year. The backpacks are handed out for free for the families in attendance, as well as about 50 bikes. There were also 40 agency representatives present.

"It's very important to us because we're getting families connected to resources in the community to help them get to better places," Caisse said. "And that's what the work we do is all about, it's about building relationships with people so through the relationships we can help them."

There truly was a variety of agency representatives present at the event. From mental health resources to the boy scouts, there was information on just about any kind of resource a family could need.

"I want people to know that there's help available," Clinical Director of the Center for Human Development's

Youth Mobile Crisis and Youth Crisis Stabilization Melissa Burke said.

Agencies and organizations present included GearUp, Headstart, CHD, and Holyoke Medical Center. Each agency or organization was happy to provide information and resources to all of the families at the event.

"We're explaining our different resources for healthy lifestyle and different social determinants of health, so we have information on asthma, on nutrition, mental health as well as some other community benefits," Kyrie Bretz from Holyoke Medical Center said.

This event helped agencies like Holyoke Medical Center to spread their information to families and the community easily, as Laurie Tyburski from Holyoke Medical Center explained.

Executive Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at HPS Steven Moguel was also present, along with other members of the equity task force. Moguel's goal of the day was to try to get feedback from families on ways HPS can improve upon their equity.

"We're trying to elicit from them some of the things they think we should be addressing in regards to equity," Moguel explained.

Families had the opportunity to give this feedback to HPS while also getting information and resources they would need.

"I think when you have a day like today...the families see the work we do all year and then we put on an event like today, I feel like they see that we really are trying to make a difference, we really do care," Caisse said.

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# SPORTS

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## Fall 2023 leagues get update by PVIAC

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

The fall preseason has started this week, and with it, alignments for fall leagues have been updated. Full realignment typically takes place every four years, but has happened more frequently due to the pandemic and the introduction of the new state tournament.

In Western Massachusetts, due to the geographic diversity throughout the region, the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Association makes leagues based on the competitiveness of a school in a given sport, sometimes regardless of what division they play in at the state level for tournament.

For example, in the updated Kurty-Fielding Division for girls soccer, South Hadley, a Division 4 and smaller school, is in a crowded league with larger schools like Agawam, Wareham, Chicopee Comprehensive, and Pittsfield.

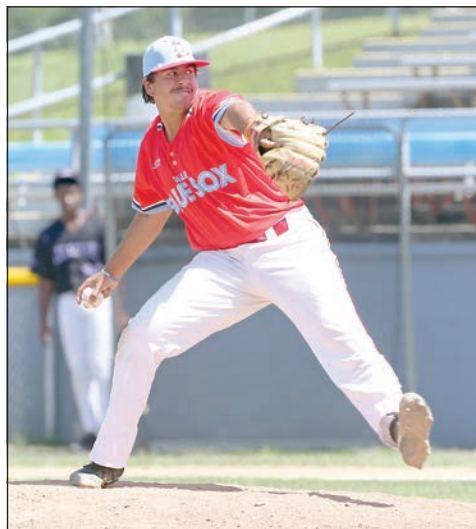
The Central League features one of the top teams in Western Mass. once again. Monson is a part of the league, along now with Palmer, which has had a couple of very successful leagues. Chicopee, Southwick, and Granby are also a part of the league, along with larger

See PVIAC, page 12



Michael Zarillo prepares to catch a ball on a steal attempt.

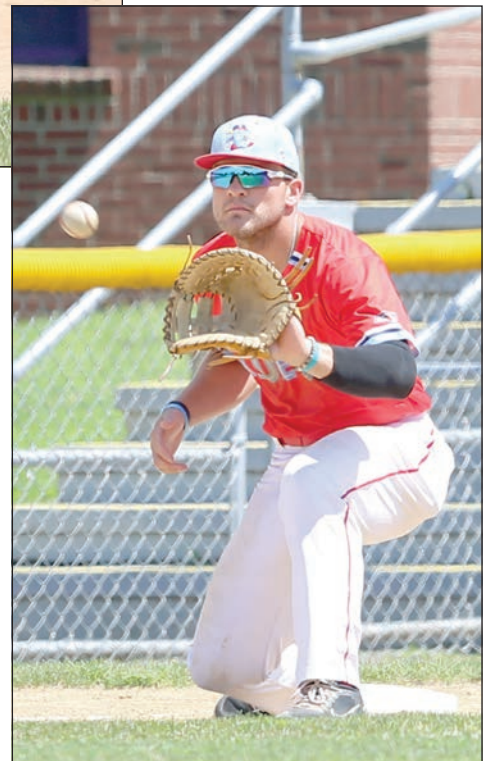
Turley photos by David Henry



Kurtis Thomas fires a pitch.



Zach Ketterman fields a grounder.



Matthew Bergevin gets the out at first.

## Blue Sox season ends

HOLYOKE – Earlier this month, the Valley Blue Sox won their division and went after the New England Collegiate Baseball League championship. The Blue Sox won back-to-back titles in 2017 and 2018, but have not gotten back there since.

Unfortunately, history would repeat as the Blue Sox were defeated by the Bristol Blues two games to one in a best-of-three series.

See BLUE SOX, page 8

## St. John's captures Pioneer Valley summer soccer league men's title

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW – Aiden Casinghino was a senior captain of the Tantasqua Regional

boys varsity soccer team in 2018. Braylon Casinghino was a senior captain of the Warriors soccer team a year ago.

The brothers had never been teammates on the same

soccer team until this summer.

The duo helped the top-seeded St. John Heating & Cooling celebrate an exciting 2-1 victory over the second-seeded Villa FC in the

men's championship match of the prestigious Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League held at historic Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow Aug. 5.

"Because I'm a few years older than my brother, we never played on the same soccer team in high school," said Aiden Casinghino, who also played soccer at Springfield College. "Winning the men's championship title is fantastic, especially having the opportunity to play on the same soccer team with Braylon. We fought very hard for the entire 80 minutes."

St. John Heating & Cooling (10-1 regular season record), who was previously known as Griffin's Café, lost to the Lusitano Red, 1-0, in last year's finals. They also captured the men's title in 2016 and 2019.

"We've been able to win the summer league title every three years. There wasn't a summer

league season in 2020 because of COVID," said St. John Heating & Cooling co-coach Jon Remillard, who's from Palmer. "We have some younger guys on this year's team who worked very hard. It feels great to win another title."

Remillard shared the coaching duties with Jaime Prickett, who lives in South Hadley.

Following this year's championship match, Aiden Casinghino received the MVP award.

"Winning the championship game means a little bit more to me than receiving the MVP award," he said. "The MVP award should go to the entire team because everyone has worked very hard this summer. The championship cup trophy is the only one that matters."

While Aiden Casinghino is

See ST JOHN'S, page 8



St. John's took home the PVSSL Men's Championship this year.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



## Sports



Jed Theilman settles a ball.



Nick Bellak sends a pass away.

### ST. JOHN'S, from page 7

a midfielder, his younger brother was the St. John Heating & Cooling starting goalie.

Braylon Casinghino will be a goalie for the Western New England University men's soccer team in the fall. He was in the spotlight throughout the entire second half of the championship match.

"It has been a lot of fun playing on the same soccer team with Aiden," Braylon Casinghino said. "Watching him receive the M.V.P. award was awesome. He just put us on our backs and got the job done. We came out firing on all cylinders in tonight's game."

The Western New England University men's soccer coach is Devin O'Neill. His two sons, Sean and Shay are listed on the St. John Heating & Cooling roster, but they didn't play in the championship match. The O'Neills were outstanding soccer players at



Aiden Casinghino takes a shot.



Cam Rigney, of Wilbraham, dribbles up the field.

*Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com*



Mike Lima, of Ludlow, sends a free kick across the field.



Mason Perham kicks the ball away.

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Belchertown High School.

Aiden and Braylon Casinghino, who live in Brimfield, are really looking forward to being teammates with their younger brother, Cole, next summer.

Cole Casinghino is entering his senior season as a member of the Tantasqua boys' varsity soccer team, which is coached by Matt Guertin.

"We're hoping Cole will be joining our summer league soccer team next year," said Aiden Casinghino, who has been playing in the PVSSL for the past five years. "It has been a lot of fun playing in this soccer league."

At the start of the summer league season, Braylon Casinghino replaced Mark Tiffany, who's also from Belchertown, as the St. John Heating & Cooling starting goalie.

Villa FC (9-0-2 regular season record) posted a 4-0 shutout victory over St. John Heating & Cooling at the beginning of the summer league

regular season.

"I only missed two games during the regular season and our loss against Villa was one of them," Braylon Casinghino said. "I think it would've been a little bit different outcome if I had been there."

Troy and Matt Remillard were also key members of the St. John Heating & Cooling soccer team.

All three of the Remillard's were outstanding soccer players at Palmer High School.

It didn't take St. John Heating & Cooling very long to score a goal in the finals.

During the fifth minute of the opening half, Byron Peabody, who also graduated from Palmer High School, fired a rebound shot into the lower left corner of the net past Villa goalie Mike Traghese, who played soccer at Monson High School, giving St. John Heating & Cooling a 1-0 lead.

Ten minutes later, they took a 2-0

lead following a goal by Jed Theilman, who's from Amherst. Aiden Casinghino was credited with the assist.

Villa FC cut the deficit in half following a goal by Deandrae Brown, which was assisted by Anthony Basile.

Brown played college soccer at UConn a couple of years ago.

Villa FC had six corner kicks and several other scoring chances during the second half, but Braylon Casinghino managed to hold onto the one goal lead for St. John Heating & Cooling.

"Braylon is a tall goalie," said Jon Remillard, who has been playing in the adult soccer league since 2010. "The players on the opposing team are afraid of him and I'm very glad that he was a member of our team this summer. I hope he has a good year at Western New England. He's a very good goalie. We do have several brothers playing for our team this year, which made it a lot of fun."

### BLUE SOX, from page 7

The Valley Blue Sox season has come to an end after falling to the Bristol Blues 10-3. After winning the first game of the quarterfinals series, the Blue Sox were shutout in game two and defeated in game three at home, allowing Bristol to advance to the semifinals.

The Blues piled on the scoring

early, putting up six runs in the first three innings. An RBI groundout in the first, a throwing error and RBI single in the second, and a sacrifice fly and RBI single in the third allowed the Blues to take the lead 6-0.

Dillon Ryan started the game for the Blue Sox, pitching three innings allowing six runs and striking out two batters.

Joe Dooley took over for Ryan

in the top of the fourth, pitching four innings allowing four runs with one strikeout.

Bristol added a run in the top of fifth following an RBI double, another in the sixth off an RBI double, and two more in the seventh after a sacrifice fly and RBI groundout to go up 10-0.

The Blue Sox put a run on the board in the bottom of the seventh after Jeff Pierantoni hit an RBI single to

score Matt Bergevin.

Brendan Yagesh relieved Dooley in the top of the eighth, pitching a scoreless frame with three strikeouts.

Valley added two more runs in the bottom of the eighth following an RBI single from Michael Zarillo to score CJ Willis and Bergevin.

2023 All-Star Michael Weidinger got the ninth for the Blue Sox, striking out two batters during his clean inning.



# 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 foundation'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.



## Edward J. Moriarty

Edward J. Moriarty, age 77, died peacefully in his home on August 13, 2023, surrounded by his family. He was born on January 29, 1946, in Holyoke, MA to Edward and Maria (Panopoulos) Moriarty. Ed attended Holyoke High School, class of 1964. He went to Emerson College in Boston, then enlisted into the U.S. Army and served in Vietnam until his honorable discharge in 1971. Upon his discharge, Ed enrolled and then graduated from the University of Massachusetts. During his time serving his country, he was awarded several medals, including the Distinguished Flying Cross, which is awarded for extraordinary achievement while in flight, and the Bronze Star, for heroic service in a combat zone.

Edward was an avid reader, especially non-fiction/History books. During his career as a Holyoke firefighter, he was also an educator for schools, teaching fire safety to children. While living in Tennessee, he, along with 3-4



other volunteers, founded the first Jasper Highlands Fire Department which has had continued growth. For those who never met Ed, or never got the opportunity to know him well, it was said that his degree of professionalism and devotion to duty brought credit upon himself, his organization, and the military service.

Ed met Linda, the light of his life, on Senior People Meet.com and they were married on April 25, 2016. Within those short seven years, they did a lot of living, laughing, and loving.

He is survived by his wife, Linda, and her adult children Melissa (Steve) Hughes and Jennifer (Joe) Murray and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, aunts, and uncles, and many friends.

Cremation Rites have been accorded. Ed's cremated remains will be interred at the Arlington National Cemetery. Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared on our website, [www.brianmarkfh.com](http://www.brianmarkfh.com).

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 \$89, 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.

### DEATH NOTICE

**MORIARTY,  
EDWARD J.**

Died:  
August 13, 2023

## Bonsignore rolls to 13th career Thompson win

THOMPSON – Justin Bonsignore hadn't won at Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park since 2019, but Wednesday night, he reminded everyone on the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour why he leads all active drivers with wins at the oval.

Bonsignore's Kenneth Massa Motorsports team sent him off pit road first after a pit stop around halfway, then Bonsignore held off the charges of Doug Coby, then Ron Silk through multiple restarts to score his 13th career Thompson win. The victory tied Bonsignore for second all-time in Thompson wins with Ted Christopher, only trailing Mike Stefanik, with 15.

The victory was also Bonsignore's third of the 2023 season (Riverhead, Loudon) and his 10th top-five finish in 11 races this season.

"After we won seven out of eight here, then the runs we started having were a bit frustrating for us," Bonsignore said of Thompson. "The car was really good. We missed it a little bit, too tight on the first set of tires, but on the second set, it fired off so well. This is a really big confidence booster. This is my favorite track – and to



Justin Bonsignore picked up his first Thompson Speedway in four years last week.

*Submitted photo*

bounce back like this and to lead half the race... it was a total team effort to win this one."

Bonsignore and the Kenneth Massa

Motorsports team will be heading to Langley Speedway in Virginia for the next NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour race on Saturday, Aug. 26.

## 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](mailto:sports@turley.com) or call, 1-413-283-8393.



## Thunderbirds announce signings

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds announced today that they have signed forwards Mitchell Hoelscher and Steven Jandric, as well as defenseman Austin Osmanski, to one-year AHL contracts for the 2023-24 season.

Hoelscher, 23, skated in 57 games with the Thunderbirds in 2022-23, tallying 16 points (9g+7a). The Waterloo, Ont. native earned a call-up to Springfield after beginning the season with nine points (1g+8a) in just six games with the ECHL's Indy Fuel. He was originally a sixth-round pick by the New Jersey Devils in the 2018 NHL Draft.

Jandric, 25, began his 2022-23 rookie season with the ECHL's Worcester

Railers, where he posted 19 points (8g+11a) in 20 games. In 31 games with Springfield, he added eight points (2g+6a). A native of Prince George, B.C., Jandric skated collegiately for five seasons, accumulating 114 points (35g+79a) in 161 NCAA games with the University of Alaska-Fairbanks (2017-20), the University of Denver (2020-21), and Merrimack College (2021-22).

Osmanski, 25, saw 30 games of action last season in Springfield, posting six points (1g+5a), 28 penalty minutes, and a +1 rating. A native of Buffalo, N.Y., the 6-foot-4, 215-pound defenseman was selected by his hometown Buffalo Sabres in the seventh round (189th overall) of the 2016 NHL Draft.

## NE Collegiate Baseball League announces all-league selections

SOUTH HADLEY – The New England Collegiate Baseball League (NECBL) is proud to announce the 2023 All-NECBL teams. The honors were voted on by all 13 on-field managers of NECBL franchises. Only regular season statistics and performances were taken into consideration during the selection process.

The list includes 47 players across three teams: the All-NECBL First Team, the All-NECBL Second Team and the All-NECBL Honorable Mention Team. Each is composed of one player at each non-outfield position (C, 1B, 2B, SS, 3B), three out-

fielders, one designated hitter, three starting pitchers, two relief pitchers and one closer. In the case of ties, some positions may include additional honorees.

Making the second team was Valley Blue Sox DH A.J. Guerrero.

Guerrero led the Blue Sox in hits (42), RBIs (23), finished second in runs (21), third in batting average (.298) and led the league in doubles (11) in 141 at-bats. His best performance of the season came on July 26 when he went 2-for-3 with two doubles, two RBIs and two runs scored, leading Valley to an 8-3 victory.



# Public Notices

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD23C0232CA  
In the matter of:  
Duey Ann Cahoon  
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME**

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

**Judy Ann Cahoon**  
**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 09/14/2023.**

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 17, 2023  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
08/25/2023

### Notice of Public Hearing

The Ordinance Committee of the Holyoke City Council will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.** to hear special permit application of Euphorium LLC at 15 Main St (033-06-022) for an adult-use cannabis retail, tier 1 cultivation, and manufacturing (non-chemical extraction) establishment. Meeting will take place at Holyoke City Hall 536 Dwight St and can be accessed remotely via [www.zoom.us](https://www.zoom.us) Meeting ID 848 0149 6082 Meeting Passcode 404540 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 with same Meeting ID and Passcode. Written public comment can be submitted to [publiccomment@holyoke.org](mailto:publiccomment@holyoke.org). For an electronic copy of the application please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at [Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org](mailto:Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org) or by phone 413-322-5525.

Ordinance Chair  
Linda Vacon  
08/25, 09/01/2023

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD23P1446EA  
Estate of:  
Kim A Grassfield  
Date of Death: 05/13/2023  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL**

**ADJUDICATION**  
To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Paul Grassfield of Brooklyn, NY** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Paul Grassfield of Brooklyn, NY** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/19/2023.**

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.

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

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

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

Date: August 22, 2023  
**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
08/25/2023

### PUBLIC NOTICE Holyoke Hearing on Public Cable License Renewal

Mayor Joshua A. Garcia, as cable television licensing authority, will hold a public cable license renewal hearing at **6 p.m. on Thursday, September 14, 2023**, at Holyoke Media, 1 Court Plaza, Holyoke, as part of the City's license renewal proceedings pertaining to Comcast.

Holyoke's Comcast cable

license expires on March 11, 2024.

Federal law requires a public hearing to ascertain the community's cable-related needs and interests as part of the license renewal process. Public comment is invited regarding Comcast's past performance.

Interested persons may attend and directly participate in person or they may access the hearing remotely via [www.zoom.us](https://www.zoom.us) Meeting ID: 881 3755 3176 Passcode: 393722 or by call in at 1-929-205-6099 with same Meeting ID and Passcode.

The hearing may be observed without remote participation for viewing only on Comcast Channel 15 in Holyoke.

For further information and copies of renewal records, or to offer testimony regarding Comcast's past performance, please contact Stephen Fay at the Holyoke Mayor's Office, City Hall, 536 Dwight Street, Holyoke, Massachusetts 01040. Email: [fays@holyoke.org](mailto:fays@holyoke.org), telephone: 413-561-1600.  
08/25, 09/01/2023

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE  
DIVISION OF CAPITAL ASSET MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE  
Request for Qualifications for Construction Management at Risk Services  
Mass. State Project No. HCC2301  
Holyoke Community College – Marieb Hall Renovations, Holyoke, MA**

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, through its Division of Capital Asset Management & Maintenance (DCAMM), requests that qualified and experienced firms submit a Statement of Qualification and required information to be received through DCAMM's E-Bid Room at [www.bidexpress.com/businesses/10279/home](https://www.bidexpress.com/businesses/10279/home) no later than **2:00 PM, September 13, 2023.**

Firms interested in providing Public Construction Manager at Risk Services ("CM" or "CM at Risk") for the **Holyoke Community College – Marieb Hall Renovations, Holyoke, MA**, are invited to submit a Statement of Qualifications ("SOQ") to the Division of Capital Asset Management & Maintenance ("DCAMM"). This CM at Risk procurement is conducted pursuant to M.G.L. 149A, contained in Chapter 193 of the Acts of 2004. This Request for Qualifications ("RFQ") is the first phase of a two-phase procurement process as set forth in M.G.L. 149A. DCAMM is prequalifying firms interested in providing public CM at Risk services for the project through the RFQ process. DCAMM will evaluate submitted SOQs based upon the identified evaluation criteria as set forth in the RFQ and will select those respondents it deems qualified. Only those respondents deemed qualified will be invited to submit a proposal in response to a detailed Request for Proposals ("RFP"), which will be issued in the second phase of the procurement process. The project delivery method for construction will be public CM at Risk with a Guaranteed Maximum Price ("GMP") under M.G.L. 149A.

In addition, firms interested in being prequalified must demonstrate that they have had prior experience as a Construction Manager on at least three CM-at-Risk projects and have completed at least one project of a similar cost, complexity, type and size as this project as it is described further below and in the RFQ. The prior CM-at-Risk projects must have been completed within the last ten (10) years.

At the time a CM firm submits the Qualifications Statement, it must have a DCAMM Certification in the Contractor Category, "General Building Construction", with a single limit greater than the Estimated Total Project cost of **\$6,771,277**. See [www.mass.gov/dcamm/certification](https://www.mass.gov/dcamm/certification) for certification forms and the required Update Form.

This Project is a renovation of a three-story, cast-in-place concrete building constructed in 1971. The renovation is anticipated to include **4,600 SF of teaching laboratory and clinical space, 1,200 SF of faculty office, 975 SF of classroom space, and a 750 SF student lounge/study space.**

The Request for Qualifications may be downloaded from DCAMM's E Bid Room at <https://www.bidexpress.com/businesses/10279/home> on or after **Wednesday, August 23, 2023**. Instructions on the E-Bid Room processes can be found on DCAMM's website [www.mass.gov/dcamm/bids](https://www.mass.gov/dcamm/bids) or contact DCAMM's Bid Room at (617) 727-4003 or [bidroom.dcamm@mass.gov](mailto:bidroom.dcamm@mass.gov).

Carol W. Gladstone  
Commissioner  
08/25/2023

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD23P1746EA  
Estate of:  
Linda May Lepore-Wilson  
Date of Death: 08/06/2022  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Thomas F Lepore of Holyoke, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Thomas F Lepore of Holyoke, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/15/2023.**

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.

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

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

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

Date: August 17, 2023  
**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
08/25/2023

### City of Holyoke PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Holyoke Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.com** ID: 836 3939 8493; CALL IN \*67 646 558 8656 to hear, pursuant to the Holyoke Zoning Ordinance Section 6.4.6.4, a Special Permit for an Increase in Sign Size for The Log Cabin, at 500 Easthampton Rd (Parcel 213-00-003), submitted by Ace Signs Inc.

The complete application may be viewed through the Holyoke Planning Dept M-F, 9-4 p.m.

Applicant: Ace Signs Inc.  
Planning Board:  
Mimi Panitch  
08/25, 09/01/2023

### City of Holyoke PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Holyoke Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.com** ID: 836 3939 8493; CALL IN \*67 646 558 8656 to hear, pursuant to the Holyoke Zoning Ordinance Section 6.4.6.4, a Special Permit for an Increase in Sign Size for Ford Pro Elite (Marcotte Ford), at 933 Main Street (Parcel 088-00-001), submitted by 933 Main Street, LLC

The complete application may be viewed through the Holyoke Planning Dept M-F, 9-4 p.m.

Applicant:  
Michael Filomeno  
Planning Board:  
Mimi Panitch  
08/25, 09/01/2023

### City of Holyoke PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Holyoke Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.com**; ID: 836 3939 8493; CALL IN \*67 646 558 8656 to hear, pursuant to the Holyoke Zoning Ordinance, a Site Plan Review petition (Sec 10), and a Special Permit for a Common Driveway and a Temporary Construction Fence for the William Peck Middle School Project to be located at 1916 Northampton Street (110-00-028).

Brennan Consulting, Inc is proposing to demolish and construct a +/-107,425 sq. ft. middle school and other associated site improvements.

A complete copy of the application, contact the Planning Department at (413) 322-5575.

APPLICANT:  
Brennan Consulting, Inc  
PLANNING BOARD:  
Mimi Panitch  
08/25/2023

**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

### The City Of Holyoke Office of Purchasing 536 Dwight Street Room 3 Holyoke, MA 01040 Request for Quotes for 1. Site Prep and 2. Playground Installation

Install and Site work for Playground Structure at Donahue School in Holyoke. School will have the Structure we are looking for Site prep including excavation, sub grade preparation, concrete placement for structural components and wood fiber safety surface distribution. Contractor qualifications include Certified Landscaper Structures Installer and the organization must have a CPSI(Certified Playground Safety Inspector) on staff for warranty purposes. Additionally, the ideal candidate would have installed at least 3 playgrounds within the last 5yrs for reference.

The use of Federal funds will be used so submitters must have a unique identity # registered with SAM.GOV. Certified payroll must be submitted with use of Prevailing Wages or Davis Bacon Wages (whichever is higher).

Full documents to submit quotes can be obtained from [morrowj@holyoke.org](mailto:morrowj@holyoke.org) or in person from the Purchasing Office. **The deadline to submit quotes is September 7, 2023 at 2PM.**  
08/25/2023

### City of Holyoke Notice of Public Hearing

The Holyoke License Board will be holding a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, September 6, 2023, at 5:15 pm.** You can join via Zoom.com; ID: **83112654730**; CALL IN: **\*67 646 558 8656** or in person at **City Hall Annex 20 Korean Veterans Plaza Room 403**, regarding the application for a **Multiple Amendment of an All Annual All Alcohol Liquor License (On-Premises) from Hamel's Catering, Inc. DBA Hamel's Catering, at 555 Northampton Street**, pursuant to M.G.L. Ch.138.

Applicant: Yadira Basile  
License Board:  
Anthony Luciano, Chairman  
08/25, 09/01/2023

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## SERVICES



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**2\*\*\*\*\*A & B HOUSEHOLD REMOVAL SERVICE\*\*\*\*\***  
Cellars, attics, garages cleaned, yard debris. Barns & sheds demolished. Swimming pools removed. Cheaper than dumpster fees and we do all the work. Lowest rates. Fully insured. (413)283-6512, cell (413)222-8868.

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## SERVICES

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**Josh Rozell 413-636-5957**

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1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Weeks: \_\_\_\_\_ X per week rate = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card:  MasterCard  VISA  Discover  Cash  Check# \_\_\_\_\_  
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## In The News

### PVIAC, from page 7

schools in Amherst and Northampton. Northampton was defeated by Monson in an independent game last year.

Ware joins the Pioneer North League and will now meet twice this year with Easthampton, St. Mary's, Frontier, Mahar, and even Holyoke.

Holyoke was dropped from the Central League after a couple of disappointing years.

The top league in the region is the Coombs League, and features Minnechaug, Belchertown, East Longmeadow, Longmeadow, Ludlow, West Springfield, and Westfield.

In boys soccer, there are not a lot of big changes, though the Churchill

League of Williamstown.

Dropped the Holley League is Chicopee Comprehensive. Chicopee, Holyoke, and Monson are also a part of that league along with SICS and Northampton. South Hadley will be part of the Moriarty League, and will once again matchup with Frontier, Easthampton, and Mahar. Southwick and Lenox will also be in the league this year.

Granby is part of the Schmid League this year, and Ware is a crowded Bi-County League that features eight teams.

Pathfinder, which now co-ops with Palmer, is in the Tri-County League again this year.

Football leagues did not see any major changes. The AA still features the same six teams, including Agawam, Westfield, and Pope Francis, and Chicopee are in the Suburban North again this season.

Belchertown will compete in the Intercounty South, and Palmer and Ware are part of the Intercounty North along with Greenfield, Mahar, Athol, and Franklin Tech. Pathfinder remains in the Tri-County.

League, which features Agawam, Westfield, and Pope Francis, and Pittsfield, will add Hampshire Regional and Mt.

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Pitch Night

**Wednesday 8/30 • 5pm**

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