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August 29, 2025 ■ FREE

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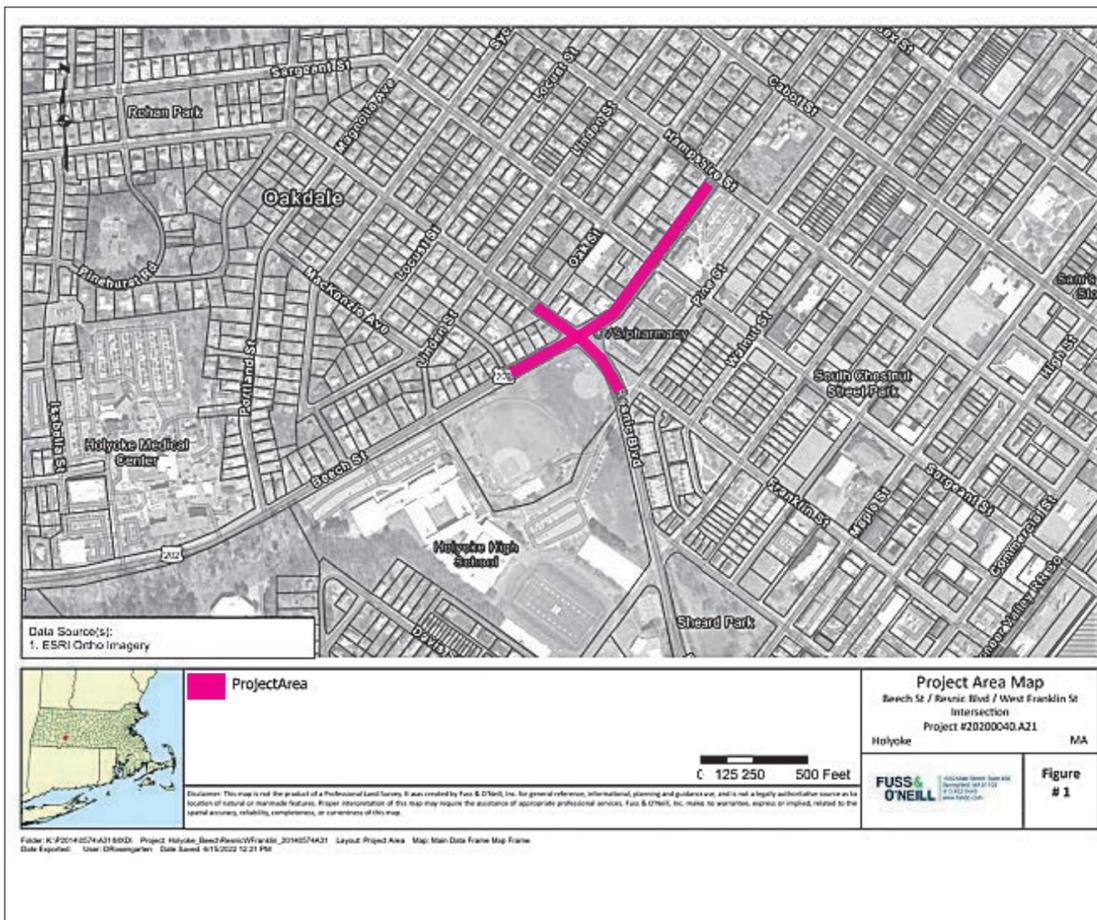
MassDOT collects feedback on intersection

By **Brendan Rooney**
Correspondent

HOLYOKE – On Aug. 20, the MassDOT held a public meeting inside the Holyoke Council on Aging to inform and capture public comment about the newly proposed intersection improvements at Beech Street, Resnic Blvd, and West Franklin St, which includes a new roundabout being implemented. To note, bicyclists and pedestrians will be accommodated with a 10-foot-wide shared-use path around the outside of the roundabout in accordance with applicable design guides.

In attendance were Holyoke Mayor Joshua A. Garcia, City Engineer Matthew Sokop, PE, along with representatives from MassDOT, MassDOT Project Manager, Jon Freeman, EIT, MassDOT District 2 Representative, Laura Hanson, EIT, MCE, and MassDOT ROW Agent, Shirley Shiver, and Designer, Aaron Keegan, from Fuss & O'Neill.

Garcia noted that the Paper City has been working on the project in tandem



See MASSDOT, page 11

MassDOT recently had a public hearing regarding intersection improvements at Beech St. and other intersections.

Submitted photo

Mayor highlights clean energy companies

By **Brendan Rooney**
Correspondent

HOLYOKE – Mayor Joshua A. Garcia and representatives from Northeast Renewable Energy Coalition (NREC) took multiple stops throughout Holyoke, highlighting the work being done by HG&E (Holyoke Gas And Electric) resulting in innovation to keep rates down, while incorporating clean and renewable energy.

Clean Crop Technologies, which was founded in 2019; the company is spearheaded by Co-founder and CEO, Daniel White, who has assembled a team of engineers, technicians, administrators, and scientists working together to push the boundaries of what's possible for the next generation of seed treatment.

White then unveiled that his list of clients spans globally, along with a little bit of the work and product being produced and shipped out.

"Growers and seed companies that we talk to all

See ENERGY, page 11



Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi with a couple of his supporters.
Turley photo by Brendan Rooney

Communities gather for sheriff's annual cookout

By **Brendan Rooney**
Correspondent

SPRINGFIELD – Last Wednesday, Aug. 20, more than 1,500 people gathered under the Elks lodge pavilion as Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi held his Eighth annual cookout, which consisted of elected officials, friends, and a plethora of community members.

Some notable names that were in attendance were Springfield Mayor Domenic Sarno, Chicopee Mayor John Vieau, and Holyoke Mayor Joshua A. Garcia, along with State Senator Adam Gomez and Hampden County DA Anthony Gulluni, and even the previous Hampden County Sheriff, Michael Ashe, who served 42 years in the role, who was known for his clam bakes back in the day stopped by to greet Sheriff Cocchi, along with Springfield PD commissioner Albert Tranghese.

Offering insight despite the rainy and inclement weather was Cocchi, who reflected on the chance to continue the legacy left

behind by Ashe in the pursuit of bringing the community together.

"We do it in August, just before Election time, so a lot of people running for office come, which allows the public to express their concerns or interests to get to know who they will be potentially voting for, and it allows me to offer an ode of gratitude and just a thank you to the people who have been the Sheriff's office," Cocchi said. "I just feel this love and support from the community, but make no mistake about it, the Hampden County Sheriff's Office is the people's, and I'm very grateful to have the awesome responsibility to run day-to-day operations."

Cocchi noted that the key to keeping the event fresh and unique as the years continue to pass, by summing it up to the fact of building relationships and staying true to what you mean.

"It's about providing services to the people in the community who need help

See SHERIFF, page 12

Taber Art Gallery opens 25th season Sept. 2

Special anniversary exhibition features artwork of the HCC Visual Art faculty, past and present

HOLYOKE – The Taber Art Gallery at Holyoke Community College will open its 25th season Tuesday, Sept. 2, with a special anniversary exhibition featuring the artwork of the HCC Visual Art faculty, past and present.

The exhibition, "Milestone: 25 Years of the Taber Art Gallery," runs through Oct. 23. The gallery will host a special anniversary celebration in the gallery on Thursday, Sept. 4, from 5 to 7 p.m., with a performance by itinerant painter and former HCC faculty member Sam Rowlett at 5:30 p.m., followed by a talk by gallery director Rachel Rushing at 6 p.m.

Using his mobile portrait studio backpack, Rowlett will present "Free Portraits" with visitors during the reception.

"College art galleries and art departments have a unique relationship compared to other departments on any campus," said Rushing. "Art professors focus on teaching students how to create while galleries offer an in-person, real-life context for what happens to art after it is created. Spaces like the Taber Art Gallery provide the visceral experience of engaging with professional artists modeling pathways forward that students can pursue. 'Milestone' celebrates this interconnection by looking at the very artists HCC stu-

dents work with and learn from, and who have made the Visual Art Department what it is today."

The gallery is named after its benefactor, Holyoke businessman and philanthropist Donald Taber, the former chairman of American Pad and Paper. In 2020, Taber and his wife, Wilmina Taber, donated 45 pieces of original artwork to the college from their personal collection and also endowed a scholarship through the HCC Foundation. The gallery now holds more than 350 pieces in its permanent collection.

"Since opening on Aug. 25, 2000, we have featured 131 exhibitions and well over 330 different artists in our gallery space that we have been able to share with HCC students and the wider public," said Rushing. "That is pretty phenomenal. And that's not even counting the annual student art exhibition we also do every year."

Donald Taber died in 2002 at the age of 100.

His daughter, granddaughter, and two great-granddaughters visited the gallery on Aug. 25 to see some of the pieces from the original collection and view a chronology of exhibition cards promoting displays from the past 25 years.

"The progress has been amazing," said Laura McGrew, Donald Taber's granddaughter, who attended the gallery's grand opening 25 years ago. "I think my grandfather would have been really happy to see all that's happened."

"Milestone" exhibitors include current faculty members Felice Caivano, Torry Gleason, Raishad Glover, Logan Bishop, Lahri Bond, John Calhoun, Tara Conant, Bill Devine, Chris Lizon, Margie Rothermich, Joe Sapphire; and former faculty members Robert Aller, Kelly Clare, Frank Cressoti, Cynthia

Guild, Caitlin Hurd, Amy Johnquest, Cynthia Ludlam, David Moriarty, Christy Patrick, Samuel Rowlett, Deborra Stewart-Pettengill, Frank Ward, and Chris Willingham.

After "Milestone," the Taber Art Gallery's 25th anniversary season will continue with "HyperColor," Nov. 3 through Dec. 18 (six artists working in vivid, loud, unflinching color); "River Valley Radical Futures," Jan. 20 through March 12 (imagining the Connecticut River Valley 100 years beyond the fall of capitalism); and the 2026 HCC Student Art Exhibition, April through May.

The Taber Art Gallery, located off the lobby of the HCC Library on the second floor of the HCC Donahue Building, is free and open to the public Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. during regular school sessions.



Members of the Taber family visited the Taber Art Gallery on Aug. 25, on the 25th anniversary of the gallery's opening in 2000. Donald Taber's great-granddaughter, Haley Snyder, and daughter, Ann Nugent, hold a portrait of Donald Taber, flanked by his great-granddaughter Morgan Snyder, far left, and granddaughter, Laura McGrew, far right.
Submitted photo

HCC names Angela Cardenas as chief of operations

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College recently welcomed Angela O. Cardenas as chief of operations in the Office of the President.

Cardenas comes to HCC with more than 25 years of executive-level leadership experience, having served in continuously advancing roles at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) for the past 17 years, most recently as senior policy advisor.

As a career diplomat and public servant, Cardenas has lived and worked in numerous countries

around the world, including Nicaragua, Afghanistan, Egypt, Tanzania, and the Dominican Republic. She joined USAID in 2008 as a private enterprise officer and has since worked for the agency as a land reform advisor, agriculture team leader, and education office director and coordinator of USAID's Young African Leaders Initiative.

In her role as senior policy advisor, Cardenas, who is bilingual, served as liaison to the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, a consortium of more than 600 U.S. and international higher

education institutions.

She started her job at HCC on Aug. 18.

"I wanted to find a place where I could make positive contributions and use my passion, which is creating the next generation of globally minded leaders," Cardenas said. "I am happy to continue my work in higher education and look forward to working for an institution that aligns with my personal values."



Angela Cardenas

Cardenas holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Texas at Austin and a master's degree in urban planning from Texas A & M University. She is pursuing a PhD in applied social justice at Dominican University.

Throughout her career, she has specialized in change management, policy creation, strategy development, grant and contract design and management, fund

development, and financial management.

In her role at HCC, she serves as a strategic advisor to the college president and a key operational leader, directly supporting the president, the president's cabinet, division vice presidents, and the Board of Trustees and collaborating with department heads, community leaders, government entities, and other external partners to advance institutional priorities.

"I was looking for a place where I could be part of a great leadership team and work for a transforma-

tional leader," said Cardenas. "I've been fortunate to work for exceptional people who make positive change in the communities they serve and been lucky to work with people who want to see you succeed. When I met with President Timmons, I could tell he was that kind of person."

A native Texan who identifies as Tejana, a Texan of Mexican ancestry, Cardenas recently relocated to Western Massachusetts from Houston with her husband, Daniel Garcia, and sons Cristian, 12, and Diego, 10.

COLLEGE NOTES

Pecia named to WNEU President's List

SPRINGFIELD – Western New England University (WNE) is proud to announce that Owen Pecia of Holyoke has been named to the President's List for the Spring 2025 semester. is one of over 400 students to achieve this mark of academic excellence. Students are named to the President's List for achieving a semester grade point average of 3.80 or higher.

Alberghini named to WNEU Dean's List

SPRINGFIELD – Western New England University (WNE) is proud to announce that Kael Alberghini of Holyoke has been named to the Dean's List for the Spring 2025 semester. Alberghini is one of over 550 students to achieve this mark of academic excellence. Students are named to the Dean's List for achieving a semester grade point average of 3.30 or higher.

Monsters take the stage at Wistariahurst

HOLYOKE – On Saturday, Sept. 20, the historic Wistariahurst Museum will host a hauntingly imaginative live show from a home-grown Western Massachusetts ensemble that blends puppetry, poetry, and original music into a strange and beautiful spectacle.

Shadow, Sound, Spectacle — a queer-led troupe of musician-storytellers and visual artists — presents Literary Monsters, a 90-minute multimedia performance reimagining gothic

classics through shadow puppetry, live video, and all-original songs written and composed by Northampton-based singer-songwriter Jess Martin.

At its heart, Literary Monsters is a love letter to misfits, monsters, and the power of reinvention. Part concert, part puppet theater, part ghost story, the show draws on the words of Edgar Allan Poe, Mary Shelley, Emily Dickinson, Anne Rice, and Greek myth to explore transformation, survival, and identity — all through an

unmistakably queer lens.

"Every monster in this show is a mirror," says Martin. "They're metaphors for being different, for longing, for growing into a version of yourself that doesn't fit the mold — and finding the beauty in that."

This one-night-only performance at Wistariahurst will include the world premiere of Headless — a brand-new collaborative work by Pioneer Valley video artist Abby Hanna, featuring live-action footage, original shadow pup-

petry by Amy West, and an original score performed live by Jess Martin.

In a rare twist, the night will also invite the audience to shape the troupe's future work. Jess will debut three never-before-heard original songs, and the audience will get to vote on which story becomes the next full-length Literary Monsters piece — and perhaps what form it takes (shadow puppetry, crankie, or video).

What You'll Experience:

- All-original music

written & composed by Jess Martin, performed live with guitar, bass, percussion & vocals

- Shadow puppetry and overhead projector scenes
- Crankies (moving panorama illustrations)
- Video projection — including the Headless premiere
- A post-show Q&A with the artists

It's an atmospheric, intimate performance that blends live art forms in ways you rarely see

MiraVista recognizes Overdose Awareness Day

HOLYOKE – In advance and recognition of International Overdose Awareness Day (IOAD) which is held on Aug. 31, MiraVista Behavioral Health Center on Friday, Aug. 29 will join communities across the globe in remembering lives lost, supporting those in recovery, and raising awareness about the impact of substance use disorders and the hope that treatment brings.

To mark the occasion, MiraVista will illuminate its building purple, the international color of overdose awareness, and raise the International Overdose Awareness Day (IOAD)

flag (Friday, August 29th at 10:00am) as a public symbol of remembrance and solidarity. Staff will wear purple throughout the day to demonstrate their ongoing commitment to reducing stigma and supporting individuals and families affected by overdose.

In addition, MiraVista will host a special breakfast for participants in its Opioid Treatment and Intensive Outpatient Programs, creating space for reflection, connection, and encouragement as part of their recovery journeys.

"Every day, we are reminded that overdose

is preventable and that

recovery is possible," said Kimberley Lee, Chief of Creative Strategy and Development at MiraVista. "International Overdose Awareness Day is a time to pause, remember, and recommit ourselves to breaking down barriers to treatment. At MiraVista, we provide same-day, walk-in access to our Opioid Treatment Program and offer free transportation within a 25-mile radius, because timely access to care can mean the difference between despair and hope. Today, and every day, we stand with those on the path to recov-

ery."

International Overdose Awareness Day is observed annually on August 31st to raise awareness, reduce stigma, and acknowledge the grief felt by families and friends whose loved ones have

died from a drug overdose. MiraVista's observance reflects its mission of providing compassionate, accessible, and life-saving care to individuals seeking help for mental health and substance use conditions.

For those seeking treatment, reach out to 413-264-3042 or learn more at www.miravistabhccare.com.

Fall Festival coming to St. Paul's

HOLYOKE – St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 485 Appleton Street, Holyoke will hold their Fall Festival on Saturday, Sept. 27 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Parish Hall and on the Church grounds. There will be something for everyone: Gift basket raffles, \$5 fun raising raffle, vendors, plants, bake sale, a café, and outdoor activities for families. Free ample parking. For more information, please call 413-532-5060.

UCCH to host September Community Meal

HOLYOKE – Autumn is right around the corner, and so is the United Congregational Church of Holyoke's September Community Meal. Those who attend will have the opportunity to warm up from the crisp fall evening with meatball stroganoff, salad and dessert. Dinner will be served Sept. 12 at 5 p.m., followed by a family movie at 6 p.m.

The Community Meal is

hosted on the second Friday evening of each month at the church at 300 Appleton Street. All Are Welcome to attend, and the meal is completely free of charge. The menu changes monthly; past meals have featured lasagna, Thanksgiving dinner, breakfast for dinner, steak sandwiches, and more. Parents must accompany their children.

The United Congre-

gational Church of Holyoke is an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ. We welcome all individuals, regardless of where they are on their journey. If you'd like to learn more about UCCH, please visit our website at www.uccholyoke.org, find us on Facebook or Instagram, or call our office at 413-532-1483 Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Stanley Park announces annual fundraiser

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

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

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

There will be an online auction with an added raffle, including an hour-long scenic plane ride for three, a week-long Cape Cod vacation, gift certificates to your favorite local businesses, museum passes, and much more.

Follow Stanley Park on

Facebook for exclusive previews of the event.

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

Please call the Development Office at 413-568-9312 x108 or email development@stanleypark.org with any questions.

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JOB OPPORTUNITY

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The Holyoke Sun seeks Experienced Writers/Journalists to produce news and/or feature stories of local interest for various towns and cities.

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Cooper's collecting donations for TJO

AGAWAM – For a limited time, Cooper's Gifts, Apparel, Home of Agawam, Mass., is accepting shelter supply donations for Foundation for TJO Animals, which is located at 237 Memorial Drive, Springfield, MA 01104.

The Foundation for TJO Animals raises funds to provide resources and support for critical veterinary care and enrichment for the animals at the Thomas J O'Connor Animal Control and Adoption Center. They are 501(c)(3) organization. Donations will be collected at Cooper's now through September 30. "We invite everyone to help out the animals at TJO and be entered to win a \$100 Cooper's Gift Card," said Kate Gourde, owner of Cooper's Gifts, Apparel, Home.

Items to keep the shelter clean and well stocked; paper towels, bleach, pet food, treats, toys and litter, are their current needs. "We hope that while people are out purchasing items for

themselves, that they will consider picking up a few extras for the Foundation for TJO Animals. And, you'll be entered into our raffle," said Gourde.

"We will swap a raffle entry for every item donated to the Foundation for TJO Animals. One lucky winner of a \$100 Cooper's gift card will be notified on October 1st. Entry tickets can also be purchased at the store for \$1 each, or 6 tickets for \$5. All ticket sales will also be donated to the Foundation for TJO Animals. Especially for people outside the

Greater Springfield area, it's easier for them to bring donations here, and we are open 7 days a week," Gourde said. Items may be brought to the shop anytime up until September 30. Cooper's is located at 161 Main St., Agawam, Mass., and is open daily 10am-5pm, Saturdays 10am-4pm and Sundays 12-4pm.

"This drive coincides with Foundation for TJO Animals as our September Round-Up charity; so, it's the perfect time to spread the word about their mission and really help them out,"

Gourde said. Each month Gourde chooses a local charity to receive the profits of the store's Round-Up Program through which customers are invited to round up their purchase total to the nearest dollar amount. Gourde will then match 50% of the total collected. The program has donated more than \$62,000 to local organizations since its inception in 2014. More information on the Round Up program and how to nominate a charity may be found on Cooper's website www.coopersgifts.com/round-up/.



City seeks input for signage project

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

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

Updating Wayfinding in the city — signage that directs residents and visitors to key locations, points of interest and key assets in the city — is long overdue, said OPED Director Aaron Vega. "Ideas for updates to our wayfinding signage seek to balance Holyoke's past with our future as a city," he said.

Posterboards highlighting some of the design aspects will be placed at six locations

during the first two weeks of August: the Holyoke Senior Center, Holyoke Public Library, Holyoke YMCA, Holyoke Boys & Girls Club, City Hall and the Beyond Amour Yard Monday Night events. (See www.explore-holyoke.com for more information on Monday nights at the Amour Yard.)

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

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

Please direct questions to Aaron Vega at vegaa@holyo-oke.org.

Habitat holding Fun Fest event

WEST SPRINGFIELD – Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSHFH) is excited to announce its inaugural Habitat Family Fun Fest, taking place Sunday, Oct. 5 from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Morgan Street Pavilion in West Springfield. This free, family-friendly event invites the entire community to come together for an afternoon of fun, food, and festivities—all while supporting Habitat's mission of building strength, stability, and self-reliance through affordable housing.

- Habitat Family Fun Fest will feature:**
- Free kids' activities to keep little ones entertained
 - Raffles with great prizes
 - Live community atmosphere for all ages to enjoy
 - A variety of food

- Local craft beer for adult guests
 - Craft vendors and community resource tables
- There is no admission fee, making the event accessible for everyone.

"We're thrilled to host an event that brings people together in a joyful, family-friendly way," said Aimee Giroux, GSHFH executive director. "The Habitat Family Fun Fest will not only provide a day of fun for our community but also highlight the importance of affordable housing and how everyone can play a part in making that vision possible."

- GSHFH is currently seeking:**
- Event Sponsors who want to showcase their support for affordable housing while connecting with hundreds of local families.

- Community resources to share helpful information with attendees.
- Craft vendors, food trucks, and local craft beer to make the day even more festive.

Businesses and organizations interested in participating or sponsoring can visit habitatspringfield.org/fun-fest for details.

GSHFH is dedicated to strengthening communities by empowering low-income families to change their lives and the lives of future generations through homeownership and home preservation opportunities. Since 1987, Greater Springfield Habitat has built or repaired 129 homes in Hampden County.

For more information, contact Olga Calligos, Homeowner Programs coordinator, at calligos@habitatspringfield.org or (413) 739-5503 x1003.

Cooper's accepting supplies for Homework House

AGAWAM – From now through Sept. 14, Cooper's Gifts, Apparel, Home of Agawam, Mass., is accepting classroom supplies donations for Homework House, a non-profit organization located at 54 North Summer Street Holyoke, MA 01040.

Homework House strengthens our community by promoting educational success and providing free tutoring and mentoring for children living in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods. Homework House provides a safe and nurturing place for children to grow and learn. Acceptable supplies includes disinfectant wipes, facial tissues, paper towels, copy paper, dry erase markers

and erasers. Donations will be collected at Cooper's for a limited time.

"We invite everyone to help Homework House. Those that donate are entered for the chance to win a \$100 Cooper's gift card," said Kate Gourde, owner of Cooper's Gifts, Apparel, Home. "We hope that people will remember these needs while they are purchasing items to send their own children back to school, and that guardians will then consider picking up a few extras for Homework House."

"We will swap a raffle entry for every item donated to the Homework House," Gourde continued. "The lucky winner of a \$100 Cooper's gift card will be

notified on September 15. It's easier for people in the Greater Springfield area to bring donations here instead of searching for Homework House in Holyoke, and we are open 7 days a week," Gourde explained. Items may be brought to the shop anytime during Cooper's regular hours of operation up until September 14. The gift boutique is located at 161 Main St. in Agawam, and is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays, Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays 12 to 4 p.m.

"Homework House is also our August Round-Up charity, so this is the perfect time to spread the word about their mission and really help them out," Gourde said.

Each month Gourde chooses a local charity to receive the profits of the store's Round-Up Program through which customers are invited to round up their purchase total to the nearest dollar amount. Gourde will then match 50% of the total collected.

The program has totaled more than \$62,000 in donations to local organizations since its inception in 2014. More information on the Round Up program and how to nominate a charity may be found on Cooper's website www.coopersgifts.com/round-up/.



St. Peter's holding anniversary lunch

SPRINGFIELD - St. Peter's Episcopal Church is delighted to announce its 120th Anniversary Luncheon with a special live performance by Connie Fredericks-Malone. Connie is an

immense singer of blues, jazz, soul and the sister of the great bluesman Taj Mahal.

This is set to take place on Sunday, Oct. 12 at 52 Sumner located at 52 Sumner Avenue in Springfield, MA

The time of the event is 1 to 6 p.m., cost per adult is \$100, RSVP by September 30, 2025. For more information contact Debbie (413)782-7050. Tickets also available at Eventbrite.com.



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NEWS & FEATURES

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

For more information on news or community features for The Sun, please email thesun@turley.com.

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Guest Column

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters
By Russell Gloor



How do I apply for Social Security and receive my payments?

Dear Rusty:

I'm ready to apply for my Social Security benefits, and I'm aware of how my benefits are calculated. What I would like to know about is how the application process actually works and how my benefits are received.

Signed: Ready to Collect

Dear Ready to Collect:

Essentially, you have two main options for applying for Social Security benefits, and also two separate options for receiving your payments:

To apply for benefits, you can either contact Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 to make a telephone appointment to complete your application while speaking to an SSA representative on the phone or you can submit your application for SS benefits online.

When using the telephone option, you will be guided by an SSA agent while completing your application and can discuss your benefit options directly with that agent, just be sure to be available to receive SSA's call at the scheduled time. You can also make an appointment by calling your local SS field office directly get the number for your local SS office at this link: www.ssa.gov/locator. It is not usually necessary to visit your local SSA office in person to apply.

If you are reasonably proficient with computers, you can, instead, apply online, but you will first need to create your personal SSA account online at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. Once you have your personal account set up, you will be able to see your estimated benefit amount at different claim ages, which should help you decide when it is best to apply. Here is a short video which explains the process for applying for benefits online: https://www.ssa.gov/hlp/video/iclaim_r01.htm.

If applying online, you can start your online application at www.ssa.gov apply and re-access it multiple times as needed until you are ready to submit it; just be sure to write down the "reentry code," which is provided when you begin your online application.

When you are ready to

submit the application, just select "Submit" and your application will be sent to SSA's application processing unit for review. They will contact you if there are any questions about your application or if any additional documentation is needed. Note that it typically takes a couple of months for your payments to start and note that payment is made in the month following the month earned. For example, if you begin your benefits in August your first payment will be received in September on either the second, third or fourth Wednesday of each month thereafter, depending on your birthday.

For receiving your monthly SS payments: you will (on your application) be able to specify how you wish your monthly payments to be made. The preferred option used by most beneficiaries is to have your monthly Social Security payment deposited into a financial (e.g., bank) account, details for which you will specify when applying. However, you can also choose to receive your monthly payments in the form of a debit card called "Direct Express," which will be replenished monthly. If you choose to have your payment deposited in your bank account, be sure to have your bank account information ready when you apply. Note that Social Security no longer issues payments via printed checks except in rare circumstances.

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 or email us at ssadvisory@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

Guest Column

A Brimfield resident reported he visited Lake Wallace in Belchertown with a friend last week and saw a great egret.

They also saw a great blue heron, at least three green herons, a few Phoebes and an Eastern kingbird. There were also several ducks, mallards and wood ducks. The two male wood ducks were in eclipse plumage.

The great egret is slightly smaller than the great blue heron, but they are still large birds with an impressive wingspan. They hunt in the classic heron way standing immobile or wading through



Great egret

in my
BACKYARD
By Ellenor Downer

water to capture fish with their bill. At one point, egrets were hunted to near extinction for their feathers for hat decoration. The great egret is the symbol of the National Audubon Society.

Rivalry among nestlings is common and the larger chicks frequently kill their smaller siblings. The great egret is white with a yellow bill and black legs. During breeding, a patch of skin on its face turns neon green and long plumes grow from its back called aigrettes. These aigrettes were prized for ladies hats.

Great egrets fly slowly, but powerfully with just two wingbeats per second at a speed of about 25 miles per hour. The oldest known Great Egret was 22 years, 10

months old and was banded in Ohio.

Eagle sighting

A New Braintree resident and a friend went bass fishing on Brooks Pond in North Brookfield in a canoe recently. Half way out on the pond, they started to hear the seagull like calls of an eagle. As they rounded a little peninsula on the left side up in the top of a broken pine was a large eagle's nest.

The broken pine made a perfect platform for them to build a nest. They then saw the two mature adult pair with their white heads on a stump near the water. Up in the pine near the nest were two juvenile eagles, all dark

See XXXXXXX, page 7

Gardening tasks best accomplished now

The mornings have been a little cooler this last week or so. I must admit that after the summer we had, the respite from the heat is a welcome relief.

With the unofficial end of summer just a few short days away, folks are starting to think about winterizing their pools, getting their boats in storage, closing up their cottages and the like. There are a number of things that we gardeners can do now to ease winter's blow and set the stage for a successful garden next year!

Here is a replay of a timely column that lays it all out there.

Order spring flowering bulbs now. I ordered mine just last week!

For the widest array of tulips, daffodils, crocus and the like, consider making your selection from a mail order company. Most have great web sites, offering photos of pretty much everything they sell. our bulbs will arrive in early October – the perfect time for planting!

We get them into the soil prior to the ground freezing so that they will have

in the
Garden
by Roberta McQuaid



store squash and pumpkins where there is good air circulation and where temperatures stay around fifty to sixty degrees, with relative humidity between fifty and seventy percent.

Under these conditions most will last eight to twelve weeks depending on variety.

Dig up tender plants. Did you buy rosemary, bay tree, lemon verbena, French lavender or scented geraniums this spring? Unfortunately, not one of these favored herbs is winter hardy in our area.

I usually get them out of the ground once frost threatens, and will bring them inside overnight and back outside during the day for a few weeks until it gets too cold. From that point most of them will thrive in a bright but cool room of the house.

Don't be surprised if the lemon verbena loses its leaves soon after you pot it up or that the French lavender doesn't look all that zippy during the winter – both are normal responses.

See GARDEN, page 5

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The Holyoke Sun welcomes election letters to the editor

The Holyoke Sun welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to *The Holyoke Sun*, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to thesun@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Friday's

newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspa-

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

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

the HOLYOKE Sun
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The Holyoke Sun is published every Friday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.
@ The Holyoke Sun
www.sun.turley.com
PATRICK H. TURLEY CEO
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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 defamations 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.

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Registration open for Run Stanley 5K

WESTFIELD – Come run, stroll and roll. Stanley Park will be hosting the 13th Annual Run Stanley which has grown into a fun yearly tradition for the whole family, whether they like to run, walk, roll, or bark. Join us for this all-inclusive event on Sunday, Oct. 5 at 10 a.m. at Stanley Park. This event includes the 5K trail run/walk, a 5K K9 trail run/walk, the Munchkin Run hosted by Dunkin' Donuts, and The Stroll & Roll. The Stroll & Roll is a wheel friendly 1-mile non-competitive walkthrough Stanley Park's

accessible pathways.

There is also the Stanley Cup School Spirit trophy for the school with the most participation in Run Stanley.

Run Stanley 2025 continues our fundraising efforts to benefit the care of the Frank Stanley Beveridge Wildlife Sanctuary. The event will help to improve the safety and accessibility of its wildlife trails.

Registration is now open. You can register by going to <https://runsignup.com/Race/MA/Westfield/RunStanley>

Chicopee Parade Committee hosts Designer Purse Bingo

CHICOPEE – For the second year in a row, the St. Patrick's Parade Committee of Chicopee will host a fun filled night of Bingo on Saturday Sept. 6 at the Portuguese American Club, 149 Exchange St.

All guests must be 18 years of age or older.

Doors will open at 4 p.m. Games will start promptly at 5 p.m.

Prizes for the lucky winners will be designer handbags. Tickets for donated baskets will be available for purchase.

Admission is \$35...this will include 10 bingo card games and a door prize entry ticket.

Dabbers will be avail-

able for purchase. Additional bingo card games can be purchased during the event.

Tables of eight can be reserved for \$240. The reservation must be paid no later than Aug. 30.

Checks should be made out to Chicopee Parade Committee and mailed to 1 Central Ave., Chicopee MA 01020. They may also be delivered to 1 Central Ave. during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) Monday thru Thursday.

Attendees are welcome to bring snacks but must purchase beverages from the bar.

Photos will be posted on the committee's Facebook page for those interested in a preview of the prizes.

For more information or to reserve a table, please call or text Alivia at 413-378-5694 and leave a full name and good contact # where you can be reached. Messages left will be returned as soon as possible.

Proceeds from this event will support the Chicopee contingent's participation in the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade. The St. Patrick's Parade Committee of Chicopee strives to promote Irish pride and culture through its many events.

For over 70 years, the committee has organized the annual Colleen Contest and Coronation Ball, constructed the Colleen's award-winning float, and awarded scholar-

ships to young women who plan to further their education at a college or university.

Other upcoming events and fundraisers to which the public is invited will be posted on the group's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/chicopeespc/>.



BIRDS, from page 4

brown. They weren't flying, but just squeaking for food.

They actually looked quite big for baby eagles. His friend said it was because they still had their fluffy feathers and developing new feathers.

They fished nearby and watched them hop around. They seemed unbothered by them being about 60 feet from the shore of the peninsula. Eventually the two adult eagles flew off probably in search of a meal for their big babies. So neat to be able to see eagles fairly common now in Massachusetts.

Male cardinal

I received this email, "I was just walking the dog after dark and my flashlight came upon this guy (male cardinal). I have seen him every night since. We just stare at each other for a few seconds and say good night."

Loon census

The Loon Preservation Committee reported on Saturday, July 19 from 8-9 a.m., 566 volunteers simultaneously surveyed 135 lakes across New Hampshire for loons. Together, they counted 541 adult loons and 109 loon chicks during the census hour. The New Hampshire loon census is part of a larger regional effort. While N.H.

participants were out surveying for loons on their lakes, hundreds of volunteers in Maine, Vermont, and New York were doing the same. This simultaneous survey of so many lakes helps create a "snapshot in time" of not just the loon population here in New Hampshire, but across the Northeast.

Helping birds

A reader from South Hadley suggested I include a section about ways to help birds. She even provided several tips for future columns. Some people also continue to put out suet and that is so dangerous. It gets rancid in the heat and that's bad for birds. Perhaps even worse, it gets their feet and chest feathers greasy and when the preen, they spread the grease all over their bodies. This interferes with a bird's natural waterproofing and can also cause their nestling to be covered in grease.

Sandhill cranes

An Oakham resident saw two sandhill cranes in Barre on Aug. 14 in a field across from the Listening Center. Sandhill cranes also visit his field in Oakham as well.

Warren birds

The Brimfield resident said, "In Warren this week there are still adult ospreys about, on two visits I saw and

adult on or near the nest. I have not seen a juvenile out of the nest so am not sure if any young fledged this year. I saw one chick in the nest earlier this summer and there is an eBird report from July with a picture of a fully grown chick in the nest with an adult. It's unknown if the chick fledged successfully?" In Warren at the pond on New Reed Street the past several years I had seen Great Egrets there in August but none have been seen there this year.

Cedar waxwings

The Brimfield resident in referring to recent mention in this column about cedar waxwings, said a large part of their diet is fruit based. He read an article that stated that because their diet is mostly fruit based that if a waxwing nest is parasitized by a brown-headed cowbird the cowbird chick is not likely to survive because it can't survive on the fruit based diet.

I visited the section of Ware River recently where my daughter has seen cedar waxwings and I was not disappointed. I stood and watched them fly over the water and into nearby trees. They moved so quickly I was unsuccessful in watching them through binoculars.

Bird bath

The Brimfield resident

GARDEN, from page 4

es. New leaves will sprout and luster will return come March.

Instead of digging tender plants up, some folks prefer to take tip cuttings. During the rooting process, mist a few times a day to prevent wilting. You will have especially good luck rooting scented geraniums – it should take just about a month.

Take cuttings now, before the plant starts prepping for winter (yes, plants do, too!), and you'll have better luck.

Plant some autumnal color. Mums and kale are at their peak at local garden centers now. Choose a plant that is healthy, free of brown leaves and with a root ball that fills the pot and isn't sunken away.

Use these plants to fill in places in the border where annuals have gone

by, or, fill a container or two for a quick burst of fall at your front door. Die-hard gardeners have no problem staving off the onset of winter with a last minute plant installation.

Be sure to cover with a sheet if frost threatens, to prevent the flowers from being nipped. With careful watering and some good luck, the mums may even return to the garden next season – just as we intend to!

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

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Your Community Church

Blessed Sacrament Parish

Rev. Duy Le
frduyle@blessedsacramentholyoke.org
 1945 Northampton St., Holyoke
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 OFFICE HOURS:
 Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
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 Sunday 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
 DAILY MASS AND ROSARY
 Monday - Friday: ROSARY 6:15 a.m.
 Monday - Friday: MASS 6:45 a.m.
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 Legal Holidays: MASS 8 a.m.
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Pastor Theresa Temple
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 (413) 533-7728
firstbaptistchurchhollyoke@comcast.net
 Facebook: First Baptist Church of Holyoke, MA
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 Wednesday Bible Studies, one at 11 a.m. and one at 5:30 p.m.

Our Lady of the Cross Catholic Parish

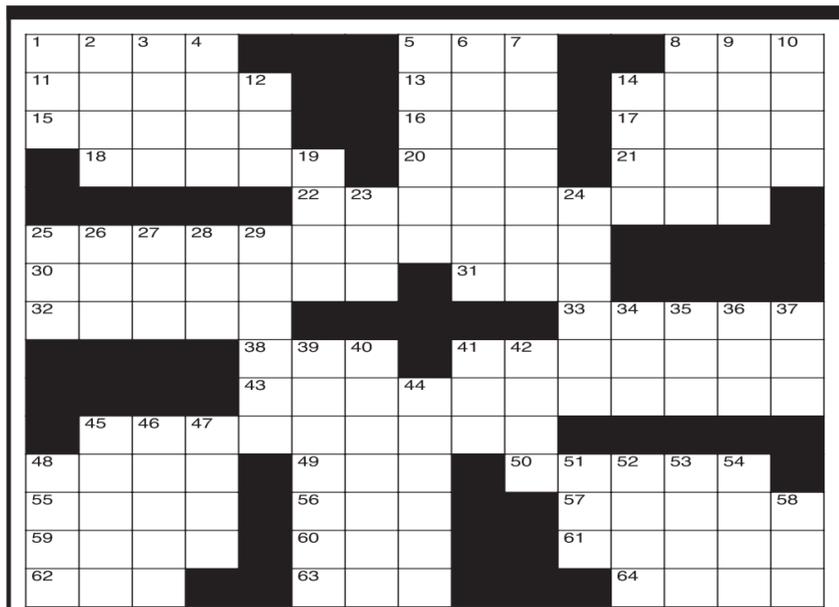
Pastor: Fr. Albert Scherer, OFM Conv.
 Email: pastor@ourladyofthecross.com
 Holy Cross Ave., Holyoke
 Parish Offices are located at: 15 Maple Street, Holyoke (413) 532-5661
parish@ourladyofthecross.com
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 DAILY MASS:
 Monday - Saturday 8:30 a.m.
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 Saturday 3:15pm
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 Sunday: 8 a.m.
 Sunday: 10 a.m.
 Sunday: 5 p.m. (Spanish)



CLUES ACROSS

- Taxis
- Space Systems Command
- Plant seed by scattering
- Alliances
- Fiddler crabs
- Heroic tale
- Yemen capital
- Misleading gesture
- Cain and ___
- Simple shoe
- Hundredweight
- Children's toy in the snow
- Gets rid of
- Free of deceit
- Performed a dance
- Chinese philosophical principle
- Exaggerated
- Refrain from inflicting

- A doctrine
- Can be subdued
- A place to bathe
- Land used for pasture
- Curved piece of iron
- Automobile
- Fencing sword
- Breezes through
- Child
- NBA legend
- Iverson
- Horsley and lacocca are two
- Midway between northeast and east
- Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- U.S. leader during much of WW2
- Lair
- Fibrous material

CLUES DOWN

- Home of "60 Minutes"
- Expression of sorrow or pity
- ___ fide: legitimate
- Immune response
- Assistance and support
- Glared
- Spanish saloon
- Pitch black
- S-shaped lines
- Statistical test
- ___ Paulo, city
- Graduation garb
- A way to record
- Not good
- Weather events
- A pituitary hormone
- Jamie Foxx film
- Rocker's accessory
- One point east (clockwise) of due north
- One who obtains pleasure from another's pain
- Consume
- Licensed for Wall Street
- Sick
- Israeli city ___ Aviv
- Removed the husk
- Mass of rocks and sediment
- Two-year-old sheep
- Area units
- Prison overseer
- Walked
- Wartime escort aircraft carrier
- Tax
- 50 percent
- Swiss river
- Tattle
- Actor Idris
- Resist authority (slang)
- Egg of a louse

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page ????????

Festival highlights local artists, newest community mosaic

By Quinn Suomala
Correspondent

AGAWAM – Agawam Community Arts and Artisans held their annual Art Festival last weekend at the Polish-American Club.

With 75 artists and artisans participating as vendors, attendees could find and enjoy almost any kind of art or craft they could think of.

President of ACAA Ceil Rossi was delighted by the variety of artists she was able to bring in for the festival and excited to see people from the community come out for the day.

“I look forward to having a good time, meeting new people and making new friends,” Rossi said.

Rossi hoped that this event would be a way to remind the community of the art that exists around them.

“I think it is very important to keep art alive,” Rossi said.

Through this art festival the ACAA hoped to help keep art alive not just through the vendors, but also by raising funds for scholarships.

All artists at the festival donated one piece of art for a silent auction. All proceeds raised from this auction will go to the Gloria McClellan Scholarship, which is a scholarship that gives funds to high school seniors that intend to go into the arts.

“Last year we gave out three \$1,200 scholarships to high school seniors,” ACAA Art Education Co-Chair Robin Fernandes said.

Additionally, the New England Mosaic also helped to raise funds for this scholarship.

This mosaic is created in conjunction with many local communities. Different libraries sign up for the program and receive a variety of six inch by six-inch canvases that community members are welcome to pick up and decorate.

“It is this full circle thing where the community gets to experience and try art,” ACAA Member and New England Mosaic Head Karen Conkey said. “It also gives people a chance to do some good and encourage art through the students that are going to get the scholarships.”

The community members then return their canvases, or tiles, and they become part of the mosaic. The mosaic was revealed in July, and since then community members have been encouraged to come out, take a look and purchase one of the tiles.

All proceeds from the mosaic also go towards the Gloria McClellan Scholarship.

To make this year’s festival especially unique, the ACAA asked the Agawam Historic Association, and some other local historic associations, to come by and display some of their historic photographs and artworks.

The 25th continental regiment was also invited to give an insight into historic life in this area.

The members of the historic associations wanted to help spread the stories of history in their towns through photography and art.

They hoped that their stands would help to keep the histories of their towns alive.

“I have had people born and raised in Westfield ask me why Westfield was called the Whip City,” Agawam and Westfield Historic Associations Member Bruce Cortis said. “It made me realize that without these organizations presenting the history, much of it will be forgotten.”

Also present at the art festival was Steve Jones from Warriors Art Room Inc. Jones is a veteran and he has found art to be healing for his PTSD.

“We were all made to create and when we are able to create, we are able to heal,” Jones said.

Once he discovered this, he wanted to make art more accessible for other veterans. So, he created Warriors Art Room, which is open to veterans and their immediate families.

“It gives veterans a place to be with people who understand, and it brings back that sense of camaraderie that they may not have had since they came back from war,” Jones said.

Jones encourages any veteran to come by and enjoy the programs and workshops at the art room. He also is looking for veterans who want to display their art for an upcoming art show in November.

To find out more about the Warriors Art Room, go to their website at <https://warriorsartroom.org/>.

On top of this art festival, the ACAA has a variety of opportunities for people to get involved in the arts throughout the year.

One of their biggest arts opportunities is their arts education program. They offer introductory through advanced level art courses throughout the year that anyone is welcome to participate in.

For the introductory level courses they even provide materials for participants, so they can have a chance to find their art style without purchasing materials visit <https://www.agawamarts.com/>.



The New England Mosaic was on display at the Agawam Community Arts and Artisans Art Festival.

Turley photos by Quinn Suomala



Don Jones had some of his pottery up for sale at the Agawam Community Arts and Artisans Art Festival.



Betty Boffing and Dori Nekwirth represented a partner organization called Art 4 Good, which donated proceeds to local food pantries.



Agawam High School Art Teacher Rebecca Osborn had some of her artwork on display.



Cindy Bouley and Karen Conkey from the Agawam Community Arts and Artisans were in charge of the New England Mosaic display.



Alexandra Walters displayed her incredible drawings.



The festival featured some work by Noah Aguiar.



The 25th Continental Regiment enjoyed their time at the festival.



Agawam High School graduates Hannah Parker and Lisa Pikulka displayed their artwork.



Jennifer Baginski-Pronovost encouraged kids to come by and get creative with some rock paintings.



For those interested in woodcarvings, George Marek had his work on display.

SPORTS

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Girls soccer gets bronze at Bay State Games

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

FITCHBURG – Both the Central and West girls' soccer teams began the annual Bay State Summer games with losses last month from July 10 to 12.

A couple of hours later, the West squad celebrated a 6-1 victory over the Central team at the Game On Sports and Performance Center in Fitchburg.

"We didn't play very

well in our first game this morning," said West head coach Matt Mosher, who also coaches the St. Mary's (Westfield) girls' varsity soccer team. "Once we got into a rhythm, especially during the second half, we took it to them in this game. We were a lot more aggressive."

The members of the West team, who are from the Turley Publications coverage area, are Allison Fleury (South Hadley), Kiana Ramos (South Hadley), Hannah



Hannah Haesaert, of South Hadley, plays the ball off her chest.

Haesaert (South Hadley), Kayleen Sullivan (Agawam), Lylia Ellis (Monson), Kyra Lippmann (Holyoke), Mia Oylar (Agawam), Riley Platt (South Hadley/Williston Northampton School), Kylie Warner (Agawam), Gabriella Ramos (Agawam), Alexis Canoa (Belchertown) and Laura Parolo (Agawam).

Mosher has been coach-

See GIRLS, page 9



Grace Sherman, of Holyoke, passes the ball up the field.
Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

West dominates Bay State Games

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

FITCHBURG – The West boys' soccer team won the gold medal at the 2022 and 2023 Bay State Summer Games. After finishing in third place a year ago, the West squad didn't have very much trouble capturing the gold medal this year.

The boys' soccer showcase took place at the Game On Sports and Performance



Evan Tyrrell looks up the field as he makes a pass.



Enrique Galfour heads up the field.
Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Center in Fitchburg last month July 10 to 12.

The West team began the tournament with a pair of victories.

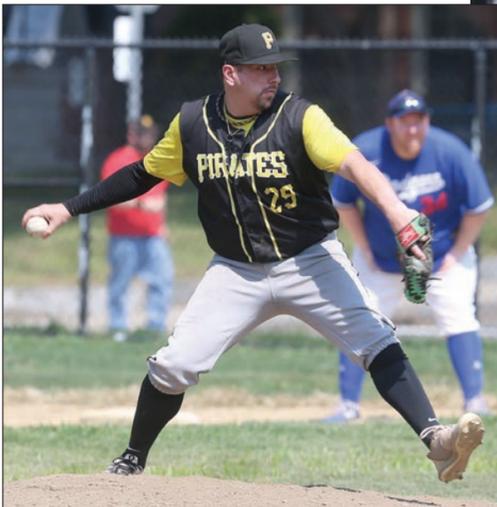
After overcoming an early 1-0 deficit to defeat Metro, 5-1, in the morning match last Thursday, the West team dispatched the Central team, 6-0, in the afternoon affair.

"We're off to a very good start in this tournament, but we haven't accomplished anything yet," said Hugo Destapdo, who coached the West boys' soccer team at the Bay State Summer Games for the first time. "We do have a solid group of players, but we're going to be facing some very good com-

See WEST, page 8

Quabbin Valley playoffs get underway

SOUTH HADLEY – Last Sunday, the Quabbin Valley Baseball League playoffs got underway with a pair of quarterfinal games. In one match-up, the Tigers defeated the Braves 12-8 thanks to some great pitching late in the game by the Tigers' Brad Bullough. The Dodgers walked off on the Pirates in the other matchup 17-16 when a hit by Andrew Tuck plated the winning run. The Cardinals defeated the Dodgers 9-7 and the Orioles defeated the Tigers 17-7 in the semifinals held on Aug. 24, setting up a Cardinals-Orioles championship game on Sunday, Sept. 7 at 10 a.m. Booster Field in Easthampton.



The Pirates' Sam Crotto delivers to the plate.
Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Steven Bilodeau slings a throw to first.



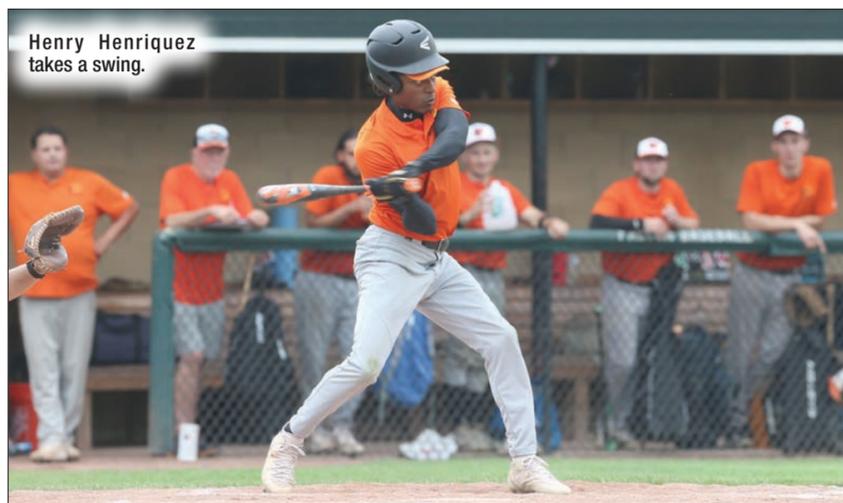
Pitcher Mike Afflitto sends a pitch home.



The Dodgers' Josh Turner attempts to make a backhand.



Jorge Figueroa fields a grounder to short.



Henry Henriquez takes a swing.

Orioles hold on for Valley Wheel title

WILBRAHAM – On Sunday, Aug. 17 at Spec Pond, the Orioles staged off a big comeback from the top-seeded Twins to win the Valley Wheel Over-28 Baseball League championship. The Twins would hold a 4-2 lead until the Orioles rallied and eventually held an 8-4 lead going into the bottom of the ninth inning. The Twins would score three times and get the tying run to second base before the Orioles were finally able to close it out for the title.



The Orioles claimed the 2025 Valley Wheel Over-28 Baseball League Championship on Sunday, Aug. 17, beating the Twins 8-7.
Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



The Twins Jordan McCarthy fires away.



Mike Burgos delivers a pitch home for the Orioles.



Todd Bergstrom sends a throw to first.

Meservey, Riendeau, Farnum win at Monadnock Speedway

WINCHESTER, N.H. - Third-generation open-wheel ace Brett Meservey dominated Saturday night's 75-lap MRS Modified main event at Monadnock Speedway, as the Bay State blaster - last summer's series' Rookie of The Year - led 63 of the last 64 laps en route to his first career MRS win.

With Saturday's breakthrough victory, Meservey stayed atop the series' airtight 2025 championship points race - he came into the night's event only four markers ahead of Brian Robie, third in Saturday's 75-lapper - and, with the win, secured a guaranteed starting berth in Thompson Speedway's Race Of Champions biggie set for later this season at the Nutmeg State oval.

Other winners at the Aug. 16 event on the high banks of Monadnock Speedway included Chris Riendeau, the quarter-mile speedplant's reigning Super Street champion, who put his sluggish 2025 campaign back in high gear by soaring to his first win of the summer, and four-holer star Gordon Farnum, victorious for the second time this month.

Aaron Thompson rebounded from a mid-race drubbing to top the Pro V8 Sportsmen.

Young Gun dominator Hunter Duquette earned his sixth victory lap of the summer, and Hayden Kingsley won the visiting 603 Mini

Cup series Saturday night feature.

Ryan Doucette and Joey Jarvis led the thundering Modified Racing Series field to the green Saturday, with Doucette immediately taking charge. Previous series winner Matt Kimball, from row two, was close behind and rocketed up to second on lap five.

Meservey, who'd started alongside Kimball, blasted to the deuce spot four laps later, but Kimball wasn't done. Meservey took command on lap 11, with Kimball blasting back to second six circuits later. And the chase was on.

While the 24-year-old Meservey would be strongly tested most of the way, he never wavered en route to his first MRS feature win. Kimball inched ahead on a lap-18 restart but Meservey was soon back at the point and, once in clean air, was unbeatable on this Saturday night.

Brian Robie, the points leader in Monadnock's weekly 604 Modified division, was up to third on lap 28 aboard a new tour car completed only earlier in the day but could advance no further as he settled for Saturday's bronze medal finish behind Meservey and Kimball. Joey Jarvis, strong all night, finished fourth at his 2025 home track, and Brad Zahensky was fifth.

Michael Lashua, stronger and better every week,

led the first five go-rounds of Saturday's 30-lap Twin State Truck Services Super Street main event. Chris Riendeau, though, firing from row three, took charge on lap six and quickly opened a huge lead.

While Riendeau, fully shaking off his summer-long slumber, raced all alone, points leader Dylan Zullo, from way back in row five, passed Zach Zilinski for second but ran out of laps pursuing the blazing Riendeau.

With Zullo padding his 2025 championship points lead in second, Zilinski impressed in third, just ahead of Hillary Renaud. JD Stockwell, second in points entering Saturday's event, finished the night as an infield spectator, credited with a disappointing 11th.

There were two levels of competition in Saturday's Brattleboro Towing and Recovery Pure Stock feature. There was Gordon Farnum, and then far behind him, everyone else, with some terrific battles for position waged from green to checkers in the one-caution 25-lapper.

Farnum, from row two, took charge on lap three and rocketed off into another time zone to win for the second time this season. Behind him, early leader Addison Brooks, bidding for her first win, held a perfect line until being bumpered aside on the final lap.

Andrea St. Amour fin-

ished second, with Brooks inches behind in third. Jimmy Zellman, the winner a week earlier, was fourth, and points leader Kyle Kenny completed the top five.

Mikey Bollinger took the lead on lap four of the Pro V8 Sportsman feature, with Aaron Thompson soon glued to his bumper. Thompson, though, was ushered to the outside lane on lap 14, his hope for victory then suddenly in doubt,

Thompson low-lined

back to the front on lap 17, taking the lead from Seth Lamotte and sailing off into the sunset to score a popular victory at his former weekly track. Lamotte held strong for second, and Wollinger finished third.

Racers in the speedway's youth division Young Guns don't compete for points but if they did, Hunter Duquette would be well on his way to the 2025 title town, The Thorndike, Mass. teen led all the way Saturday to score his

track-high sixth win of the summer. Maya Bell, victorious a week earlier, was second, and Sofia Rego, shaking down a new ride, came home third.

In the visiting 603 Mini Cups, a division equally powered by motors from Harbor Freight, Hayden Kingsley won by six lengths over Jacob Raby, who rebounded from a mid-race thumping to come home second. Kendall Whitehill was third on the night.

Volleyball Hall of Fame announces Class of 2025 induction celebration

HOLYOKE - The excitement is building in Holyoke as we prepare to welcome the volleyball world for the International Volleyball Hall of Fame's 2025 Induction Celebration, taking place Saturday, Oct. 18. This year's milestone event promises to be a weekend to remember, filled with inspiring speeches, historic moments, and the shared pride of honoring the sport's greatest contributors.

The Class of 2025 brings together nine exceptional individuals whose achievements have left an indelible mark on volleyball across the globe. They include Kent Steffes of the USA, a dominant force in

men's beach volleyball; Laura Ludwig of Germany, one of the most decorated women's beach players in history; Dimitar Karov of Bulgaria, a trailblazing men's indoor player; Ivan Miljkovic of Serbia, a powerful and prolific scorer on the men's indoor stage; Rosa Garcia Rivas of Peru, a legendary women's indoor player; Francesca Piccinini of Italy, a beloved women's indoor star; Jürgen Wagner of Germany, an Olympic medal-winning beach volleyball coach; Barry Couzner of Australia, a transformative leader in ParaVolley; and Guillermo "Willy" Paredes of Argentina, a respected inter-

national referee. In addition to this extraordinary class of inductees, five special award winners will also be recognized for their outstanding contributions to the sport. Joop Alberda will receive the Mintonette Medallion of Merit Award, Peter Diamond will be presented with the Mayoral Award for Excellence, Paul Sunderland will be honored with the Award for Media Excellence, the Court of Honor Award will go to PAVO - Professional Association of Volleyball Officials, and Elegant Affairs will be recognized with the William G. Morgan Award.

WEST, from page 7

petition during the next couple of days."

During the fall, Destapdo is the boys' varsity coach at Chicopee High School. He replaced Marc Atkins as the West coach at the Bay State games.

The members of the 2025 West boys' soccer team, who are from the Turley Publications coverage area, are John Carra (Agawam), Timothy Haley (Belchertown), Yousif Hamid (Chicopee), Spencer Parsons (South Hadley), Tyler Supczak (Wilbraham), Evan Tyrrell (Chicopee), Griffen Wrisley (Chicopee), Chase Henderson (Wilbraham), Tiago Destapdo (Chicopee), and Braeden Fitzgerald (Agawam/Pope Francis).

"Several college coaches will be attending these games, so this is a very good

showcase for the players," Destapdo said. "There are a lot of talented soccer players in Western Mass."

The worst part of being a coach of an All-Star team is having to make cuts at tryouts.

"We had 35 players try-out, and we have 20 players on our team," Destapdo said. "Having to make cuts is very difficult. I wish we could've taken all 35 players."

The duo Henderson and Max Graham (Southwick/Pope Francis) combined to post the shutout against Central.

"They're different types of goalies," Destapdo said. "Chase is just tremendous with his feet. If he wasn't a goalie, he would be a very good field player. Max is a physical goalie."

Henderson, who's a raising senior, played the first half against the Central team.

Graham, who's a raising

sophomore, played the second half.

The West goalies received plenty of support from a locked down defensive unit led by Fitzgerald, Supczak, Hamid, and Casey Bestler (Frontier Reg.).

The West scored four

goals during the first half against Central.

Glodie Manyegezi (Springfield Central) scored two of the goals. The other two first half goals were netted by Brandon Barker (West Springfield), and Will Sean-McNally (Northampton).

The two second half goals were scored by Cajun Benson (Smith Academy). Sean-McNally was credited with both assists.

The following day, the West team won two more matches against Northeast, 2-0, and

Southeast, 5-0. The West team then captured the Gold medal by squeaking out a 2-1 win against Coastal last Saturday morning. In their five Bay State matches, the West team out-scored their opponents, 20-2.



Will Senn-McNally takes the shot.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Nicholas Jennings attempts to settle the ball.



A Central midfielder is pressured as he stops the ball.



Griffen Wrisley, of Chicopee, heads for the goal with possession of the ball.



Fikayomi Ankitan starts up the field after making a play on defense.



Brandon Barker is pressured near the opposing goal.



Tiago Despatado, of Chicopee, goes after the loose ball.



Caleb Iborra sends a pass away for Central Mass.

GIRLS, from page 7

ing at the Bay State Summer Games for the past five years. His teams have won two Silver Medals and two Bronze Medals.

Mosher was assisted by Laura Wray-Ramos, who's the longtime girls' varsity soccer coach at Agawam High School.

"It took Laura and I a game to find out which players play well together. We moved some players around to different positions," Mosher said. "A lot of the players have played on the same club teams. It's been a lot of fun coaching at the Bay State Summer Games."

Both starting goalies in last Thursday afternoon's match attend Agawam High School

Sullivan was the starting goalie for the West team, while Talia Oliveira was the starting goalie for the Central squad, which took home the Gold medal last year.

Because there weren't enough girls' soccer players from Central Mass. to fill the Central team roster, more than half of the players listed on their roster are from Western Massachusetts.

"About five years ago, we noticed that the Central team didn't have enough players," said Central head coach Eric Wood, who also coaches the girls' soccer team at the MacDuffie School in Granby. "We now fill out the Central roster with the players who don't make the West team. We have 15 players from Western Mass. on this year's team. It's been a great situation."

The other members of the Central team, who are from the Turley Publications coverage area, were Rylee Joseph (Holyoke/Hampshire Reg.), Eleanor Szlosek (Granby), Taylor Bartosz

(Wilbraham/Minnechaug Reg.) Filomena Stellato (Agawam), Brenna Moreno (Granby), Grace Sherman (Holyoke), South Hadley H.S.) and Kali White (Granby).

Even though the Central team went 0-4, it was still an enjoyable experience for the players.

"I just want my players to have a lot of fun here," Wood said. "I also keep in touch with the players throughout the year."

The Central squad took an early 1-0 lead following an unassisted goal by White.

A couple of minutes later, White had another shot attempt that clanged off the post.

The West team tied the score at 1-1 with less than two minutes remaining in the opening half.

Willow Claps (Northampton) blasted a shot that deflected off the goalie's hands into the left corner of the net.

At the start of the second half, Warner put a shot into the upper left corner giving the West squad a 2-1 advantage. She also scored the final goal of the match.

The other three second half goals scored by the West team during the second half were by Kate Moccio (Longmeadow), Addison Perich (Westfield), and Haesaert.

Central would end up going 0-4 during the Bay State Games while the West prevailed in the Bronze Medal Game on July 12, defeating Southeast 3-0. Coastal won the Gold for girls soccer.

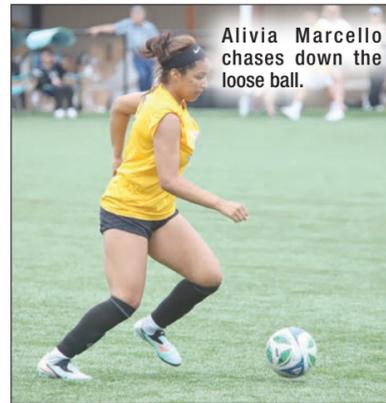
Right, Rylee Joseph sends a pass away ahead of pressure.



Talia Oliveira brings in a save for Central.



Allison Fluery, of South Hadley, socks a shot away.



Alivia Marcello chases down the loose ball.



Laura Parolo makes her way up the field. Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Willow Claps is pressured for the West team.



Kallie Tevepugh clears the ball away for Central.

Public Notices

**City of Holyoke
Notice of Public Hearing**

The DGR Committee of the Holyoke City Council will hold a public hearing to hear a special permit application for home occupation of Kristin Fontaine for a cottage kitchen to bake bread at 1 Meadow Street (081-00-012) per sec 4.8.2. Hearing will take place on **Tuesday, September 9, 2025 at 6:30 pm** at Holyoke City Hall 536 Dwight St and can be accessed remotely via www.zoom.us Meeting ID 827 1122 5429 Meeting Passcode 035924 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 with same Meeting ID and Passcode. For a copy of the application or to provide comments, please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org or by phone 413-322-5525.

DGR Chair, Kocayne Givner 08/22, 08/29/2025

**City of Holyoke
Notice of Public Hearing**

The DGR Committee of the Holyoke City Council will hold a public hearing to hear a special permit application of Christian Carde-Guzman to construct a front yard driveway at 203 West Franklin Street (077-03-009) per sec 6.1.8.1. Hearing will take place on **Tuesday, September 9, 2025 at 6:30 pm** at Holyoke City Hall 536 Dwight St and can be accessed remotely via www.zoom.us Meeting ID 827 1122 5429 Meeting Passcode 035924 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 with same Meeting ID and Passcode. For a copy of the application or to provide comments, please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org or by phone 413-322-5525.

DGR Chair, Kocayne Givner 08/22, 08/29/2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No.
HD25P1732GD
In the matter of:**

**Anthony J Gambardella, Jr. 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 **Charlene A Vessichio** of Guilford, CT in the above captioned matter alleging that **Anthony J Gambardella, Jr.** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Charlene A Vessichio** of Guilford, CT (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 **09/24/2025**.

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 20, 2025
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
08/29/2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No.
HD25P1649GD
In the matter of:
Zamayka Ivelis Santiago Ocasio 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 **Francisco Santiago** of Holyoke, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Zamayka Ivelis Santiago Ocasio** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Francisco Santiago** 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 **09/16/2025**.

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 19, 2025
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
08/29/2025

City of Holyoke
The Holyoke License Board will be holding a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, September 3, 2025, at 5:15 pm**. You can join via Zoom.com: ID 83974921923; CALL IN: *67 646 558 8656 or in person at **City Hall 536 Dwight Street in the Old Tax Collector Office**, regarding the application for a **New Seasonal Wine & Malt Beverages Off Premises License for Shah Stores LLC DBA R & R Variety, 207 1/2 Sargeant Street** pursuant to M.G.L. Ch.138.
Applicant: Shah Stores LLC
License Board:
Jose Correa, Chairman
08/22, 08/29/2025

City of Holyoke
The Holyoke License Board will be holding a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, September 3, 2025, at 5:15 pm**. You can join via Zoom.com: ID 83974921923; CALL IN: *67 646 558 8656 or in person at **City Hall, 536 Dwight St. in the Old Tax Collector Office**, regarding the application for

a **New Annual On-premises Wine, Malt & Distilled Spirits License for SJS Enterprises, LLC DBA Waterfront Event Venue 920 Main St.** pursuant to M.G.L. Ch.138.

Applicant:
SJS Enterprises LLC
License Board:
Jose Correa, Chairman
08/22, 08/29/2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No.
HD25P1719EA
Estate of:
Theodore Richard Wojczyk Also known as:
Theodore R Wojczyk,
Theodore Wojczyk
Date of Death: 05/14/2018
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **Richard A Wojczyk of Russell, 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: **Richard A Wojczyk of Russell, 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 09/16/2025**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely writ-

ten 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 19, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
08/29/2025

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEETING
Burn Bright LLC., a proposed marijuana manufacturer and courier, is giving notice of a Community Outreach meeting on **September 3, 2025, 5:15 pm (in the parking lot) at 110 Winter Street, Holyoke, MA 01043**, the proposed location. There will be an opportunity for the public to ask questions. Or, email questions to BurnBright2022@gmail.com.
8/29/2025



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9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	Base Price \$26.50	Base Price \$27.00	Base Price \$27.50
22	Base Price \$28.50	Base Price \$29.00	Base Price \$29.50
23	Base Price \$30.50	Base Price \$31.00	Base Price \$31.50
24	Base Price \$32.50	Base Price \$33.00	Base Price \$33.50
25	Base Price \$34.50	Base Price \$35.00	Base Price \$35.50
26	Base Price \$36.00	Base Price \$37.00	Base Price \$38.00
27	Base Price \$39.00	Base Price \$40.00	Base Price \$41.00
28	Base Price \$42.00	Base Price \$43.00	Base Price \$44.00
29	Base Price \$45.00	Base Price \$46.00	Base Price \$47.00
30	Base Price \$48.00	Base Price \$49.00	Base Price \$50.00
31	Base Price \$51.00	Base Price \$52.00	Base Price \$53.00
32	Base Price \$54.00	Base Price \$55.00	Base Price \$56.00
33	Base Price \$57.00	Base Price \$58.00	Base Price \$59.00
34	Base Price \$60.00	Base Price \$61.00	Base Price \$62.00
35	Base Price \$63.00	Base Price \$64.00	Base Price \$65.00
36	Base Price \$66.00	Base Price \$67.00	Base Price \$68.00
37	Base Price \$69.00	Base Price \$70.00	Base Price \$71.00
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BBB offers tips on how to get ready to go back to school

As the back-to-school season approaches, parents and students are gearing up for the annual shopping spree. Whether you prefer in-person shopping or browsing online, staying informed and prepared can make this busy time more manageable and cost-effective. BBB has tips to help you navigate back-to-school shopping.

What you'll learn:

- Steps to take to prepare for back-to-school shopping.
- How to maximize savings from sales and tax-free weekends.
- The types of sales and discounts you may be able to leverage.

Before determining what students may need for the year, set a budget. Planning ahead as much as possible will help keep expenses to a minimum and help everyone involved stay on task.

BBB recommends the following tips when looking for school-related items, either in person or online:

In-person shopping

- Create a shopping list before heading to the

store. This helps you stay focused and avoid impulse purchases.

- Shop early. To avoid crowds and ensure you get the best selection, start your shopping early in the season.
- Compare prices between retailers, save coupons, sign up for email alerts, and redeem any cash-back or rebate offers. This will help you get the best deals and stay within budget.
- Check store policies. Be aware of return policies, especially for electronics and clothing, in case you need to make exchanges or returns.

Research big-ticket items

- Read reviews. Look for reviews from credible sources to understand the pros and cons of different models.
- Check specifications. When buying new equipment, check with your child's school to learn about any technical requirements and determine if any changes are necessary to the home's high-speed internet. Before purchasing an expensive laptop, tablet, or computer accessory, research the



brands, warranty, customer reviews, and prices at various stores to ensure the best deal. Also, look up the retailer's reputation on BBB.org.

- Look for student discounts. Many tech companies offer discounts for students. Verify eligibility and take advantage of these savings.

Shop smart with sales and tax-free weekends

- Plan ahead. Mark your calendar for upcoming sales and tax-free weekends. These are ideal times to buy school supplies, clothing, and electronics without paying sales

tax. Check out this resource from the Federation of Tax Administrators to see what your state offers.

- Make a priority list. Decide which items are most crucial to purchase during these sales to maximize your savings.
- Combine discounts. Look for opportunities to combine store sales with manufacturer rebates or coupons.

Asking for discounts

- Don't hesitate to ask. When shopping in person, inquire if there are any

available discounts, especially for bulk purchases or floor models.

- Leverage loyalty programs. Sign up for store loyalty programs, which can offer exclusive discounts and points on purchases.

• Use student IDs. Some store discounts are available to students with either a ".edu" email address or a student ID. If you're a student or have a student in your family, ask if there are any student discounts available.

- Visit school supply drives. Many communities and organizations host school supply drives where you can either donate or receive supplies. Check with local schools, community centers, or non-profits.

Consider buying in bulk

- Team up with other parents. Consider pooling resources with other parents to buy supplies (like paper towels, tissues, wipes, hand sanitizer) in bulk, which can be more cost-effective.

• Warehouse stores. Check out warehouse clubs for bulk deals on school supplies and snacks.

Shop wisely and safely online

• When shopping online, be wary of ads that feature items that imply that you may want or need them based on your search history. Scammers could be trying to drive you to a different website. Take note of the ad and go to the store's website by directly typing into the search bar. Note the website's privacy policy and contact information, and always use a credit card when purchasing.

• Shop on reputable websites. Ensure you are purchasing from well-known and trusted websites. Look for HTTPS in the URL.

• Use secure payment methods. Opt for secure payment methods like credit cards or payment services that offer buyer protection.

By following these tips, you can make your back-to-school shopping experience smoother, safer, and more economical. Whether you're shopping for essentials or splurging on big-ticket items, a little planning and research can go a long way in ensuring you get the best value for your money.

MASSDOT, from page 1

with the MassDOT since November 2020 due to the high crash rate history at the affected intersection resulting in the area being identified as one of the top 200 high crash locations in Massachusetts from 2015-2017, which according to statistics is considered 'a crash cluster for both vehicle and pedestrian incidents over the past decade.'

At this moment, the project is still in the design phase, which is set to be completed in the summer of 2027, and the overall construction of the project is set to run over the course of 3 years with an estimated completion in the range of 2029-2030, and the total cost is \$6.8 million, with 90% of the funding coming from federal aid through the Federal Highway Administration, and the remaining 10% will be covered by MassDOT, however that doesn't include right of way addition costs, which according to Garcia via social media outlines "we might need to acquire some small pieces of land or easements from private or public properties, including a tiny bit from John Young Field (without touching the active play areas). The City of Holyoke will handle this."

It was then revealed that the project must be programmed in the statewide transportation improvement program in the appropriate fiscal year, to allow MassDOT to begin the bidding process, to then green-light construction.

Garcia looked to quell all rising concerns by calling for a point of ensuring that after the forum was completed, the public would have a bit of understanding to walk away with, while citing the impact of diversity in Holyoke, when it came to revealing this new project.

"I know that these public meetings can sometimes feel a little institutional and wonky," Garcia said. "I just want to stress we are a community of differences, and I appreciate MassDOT being as inclusive as possible in its design when trying to navigate perspectives, because at the end of it all, that's what community development is truly about."

Offering insight about the project was Designer, Aaron Keegan, from Fuss & O'Neill, who revealed a developmental timeline, which showed that a year after being initiated, a road safety audit was conducted.

"It's a meeting that takes place, consisting of first responders, city engineers, and design consultants, public transition providers, and Holyoke school representatives, where all parties walk in the area, and all problems and solutions are discussed," said Keegan. He then revealed that the design schematics began in 2022, and to this date, the design was about a quarter way completed.

Keegan then transitioned into the goals of the project, which were centered around safety improvements in the hope of reducing crashes of all kinds from vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle. Other objectives were updating the intersection design, such as providing shared-use paths, and replacing outdated traffic equipment. While also looking to improve flow and accessibility for non-drivers by connecting to local spots like schools, businesses, parks, and bus stops.

In addition, during the presentation noted that at the time of inception, there were two types of roundabouts: the traditional circular, and a custom shape one, which is the preferred alternative that all parties involved would like to pursue.

Keegan then took a moment to discuss what improvements would be implemented.

"We designed it specifically to fit into the intersection, while also accommodating the trucks that might be using the intersection," he said. "There would also be two lanes on the eastbound approach to Beech Street with a right turn exclusive lane, and we would keep the two lanes on the northbound approach on Resnick Boulevard. However, on West Franklin St., there is one lane in each direction, and on Beech St., coming westbound, there is one lane approaching the intersection. And that was all designed based on traffic volume at the intersection, and the extra lane is needed to prevent a long queue."

Keegan also called a point of urgency to the improved crosswalk safety, citing that three of the crosswalks from the west side of Beech St., Resnick Boulevard, and West Franklin would have a new rectangular rapid flashing beacon.

"It's an enhanced type of crosswalk treatment, essentially, you hit a button, and it's a yellow flashing light to let drivers know

that the pedestrian intends to cross," Keegan explained. He also talked about the involvement of a pedestrian hybrid beacon as well, and a mountable truck apron, all in service of keeping traffic not only flowing, but ensuring pedestrian safety just as well. Keegan also touched upon the small revisions that would also be made throughout the project, noting that updated signal timings at Beech Street/Sargeant Street and Resnic Boulevard/Pine Street would be included to cut down on backups. Along with the move to combine bus stops for better access, for example, combining the one near Holyoke High School. And finally, the removal of seven on-street parking spots on Beech Street's east side quickly remedies concerns by assuring there would still be off-street parking at the Senior Center.

Garcia then took a moment to inquire about the question that many were bound to ask about the traffic and construction concerns regarding the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day holiday, which includes the road race and parade. Keegan reiterated that the truck apron would compensate for the floats passing through.

"The 72-foot is about as large as any of the floats that you would see; in fact, it's larger than any of the floats you would see," he said.

Keegan then discussed the impact of traffic delays that would arise during the construction process, which takes place all day long, including at night.

"There would be one lane open on each approach to the roundabout at all times," Keegan admitted. "This is important, so first responders and school transportation can get through, and short-term delays would be less than a day, and emergency access to all properties would be maintained, and sidewalk detours would be provided." He then unveiled the overall next steps in the project, from the meeting forth. As the presentation carried on, Keegan noted his hope for the design to be about 75% completed by next spring, which would allow environmental permits to be submitted, paving the way for the project to kick off in 2027 and last through until 2029-2030.

Those in attendance were invited to participate in a survey to share their feedback.

ENERGY, from page 1

over the US and Europe are talking about how the quality of seed is getting harder and harder to maintain," White said. "It boils down to two things, so first, with climate change and how hot and humid more growing regions are getting, you are getting more pathogen pressure on the crops in the field, and the other factor is, since we are growing more food, you are now stretching the existing seed supply further, meaning that seed suppliers are now having to turn to lower quality crops to supply and satisfy all the demands present."

White also noted that other issues that pesticides once used in the past aren't working anymore due to the constant change in organisms, building a tolerance, forcing suppliers to think outside of the box for cleaner alternatives, citing that many look for seeds and crops that are residue-free, leading to where Clean Crop's ingenuity came into play. As White explained that Clean Crop prides itself on using 'Clean Current' technology, which combines electricity and food-grade gasses to remove contaminants from seeds and foods to increase crop yields, reduce food waste, and improve overall food safety.

Garcia then inquired about how the connection between food waste and climate change goes hand and hand. White then reflected on past experiences, citing his knowledge on the topic put forth.

"I used to work on a farm in Pennsylvania, and we grew a lot of produce, most particularly heirloom tomatoes, and even though they are known for being really delicious, it should still be noted that they have terrible resistance to fungal contaminants," he said. "So if we had a rainy year, you would lose up to more than half of that harvest, as they would just rot in the field. White then explained that at the end of the season, the tomatoes were still used for a different purpose."

"We would shove them in a back acre, forming a giant mound, where they would then sit and decompose, anaerobically generating a lot of methane," White said. Before touching upon the staggering number of landfills around the country, doing the same on a much bigger and spread-out scale, essentially contributing to the ongoing climate change crisis.

"And a large percentage of that waste is driven by the

contaminants that come into the farmer's field on the seed itself, so those pathogens are either in the soil or on the seed," said White. He also said that more than half of the contaminants are already on the seed, reinforcing the Clean Crop's mission to reduce the overall farm crop loss before it gets into the supply chain.

After the presentation was over, Kristin Rode, Executive Director of The NREC, passed along the question to inquire why the change for Clean Crop and White to move the business from Northampton to Holyoke. White noted that it came two reasons, such as the Paper City offering 'attractive industrial pricing, along with the location and building layout.

"In this area, the kind of industrial space we were looking to find, we understood we needed a space that could function as an office, wet lab, plasma lab, production facility, and Northampton didn't offer that, which meant we would have had to expand on our own," said White. "On top of that, the main input that we have outside of labor is electricity, and the rates that HG&E are really competitive, so on average, we are paying about 11 cents per kilowatt hour, and we were not looking at building a facility in Sacramento, California, where rates are 4x what they are in Western Mass."

White also revealed Garcia's administration has offered full support, and the relationship built with HG&E has been beneficial, especially when Clean Crops requests additional power increases at certain times.

"So we are talking with them (HG&E) about bringing in a new transformer, and that is something that others in this industry, being in different locations, find quite impossible to receive that equipment," he said. "It's great being kind of a medium-sized fish in this pond, and it's super catalytic to our ability to keep growing at the pace we need to without running into a lot of barriers."

White then disclosed a little bit regarding how the company came together, confessing, "I've just worked on the other side of these problems, my whole career, and I just got tired of throwing the 20% of stuff that we would grow or trade because it would get contaminated, so my partner and I started looking at technology that could solve this problem, so I met a professor and did research for about a year," said White.

Kaitlyn Rode, Communications Director of the NREC, then proposed the question to White why the usage of plasma plays a major role in the research and development being done.

"We looked at UV light, heat, Ozone, and a lot of other things, and we just found that plasma technology was broad-spectrum, and we have seen evidence from academia that led us to feel confident in our choice, he said. White explained that Plasma is instrumental in extending shelf life for poultry and red meat, and it's also able to enhance germination on seeds, along with having the ability to reduce toxins from various foods. He also unveiled that during the research phase, costs played a factor.

"At the time, it was closer to commercially viable costs in terms of structure and scale than a lot of the other technologies we have looked at," White admitted about why Plasma is the main source of output.

White then took a moment to reflect on the accolades garnered through his team's work, as Garcia began to note Clean Crop's achievements as of late.

"There's been a couple of members for Time Magazine's Innovative Companies Award, and Fast Company as well, and several grants, such as USDA, and state level, that we received," he said.

The final thing White touched upon was providing insight into one of the products processed, which was cilantro seeds that were being worked on to combat heat stress, which are set to be shipped out to Yuma, Arizona, by October, where daily temperatures can still reach over 100 degrees.

"So Cilantro is usually a cool-season crop; it usually doesn't like the heat, so the big issue they run into is hitting that planting window, where those first couple weeks of production, is where the plant is really at risk of dying due to significant heat stress," White said. "So the idea is for this treatment to build up the resistance so in the long term, we feel that on the supply chain, the biggest impact is helping build buffers as temperatures rise, in more of these production areas, so we can maintain the growth we have today instead of dropping off, as we've been running field trials for the past four years, and each have yielded different results, which tells us that we need to calibrate different settings as we go seed to seed."

In The News

SHERIFF, from page 1

and support, to allow offenders who are incarcerated that opportunity for redemption, and give them a piece of hope," he said.

Cocchi also discussed the overall elation of seeing familiar faces and the foundational pillars of colleagues who helped pave the way for him, such as a former Correctional Officer SGT. James Rooney, who was a mentor to Cocchi when he first started, back during the days of the old York Street Prison being in use.

"It was so great to see Jimmy (Rooney)," Cocchi said. "I have had so much respect for him, since the days of when I was a young CO, and he (Jim) was one of my mentors in one of the toughest areas in the facility. Before adding 'I'm just so grateful to see this level of support in 2025; it's extremely humbling.'"

Providing similar comments to Cocchi's gratitude was Springfield Police Commissioner Tranghese, who kept his thoughts simple, highlighting the support and unity from the community.

"This is a great function for all of Western Mass, and it brings us all together, and it's always a big occasion," Tranghese said.

Touching upon the resilience of the community, showing up strong, despite the rainy and wet conditions, was Mayor Garcia.

"You would think with

rain, you would expect low turnout, but that's not the case," Garcia said. "But this turnout is a testament to Sheriff Cocchi, and again, that has to do with good leadership, good direction, and I'm here to contribute and offer support, and everyone here in some way, shape, or capacity are doing important work in the community, and we show up to show support for each other, for the Sheriff to continue the good work of improving quality life of people."

Offering similar sentiments to Garcia's comments was State Senator Adam Gomez (D-Springfield).

"Even when it rains, people are going to come out and support Sheriff Cocchi," Gomez said. "From the work he and his team have been doing, it shows that the public is still with him, and they enjoy this annual event." Gomez also noted the diversity and overall enjoyment of everyone in attendance.

"We have children here, grandparents, we have everybody, and everyone is enjoying good food and conversation, and just remember to stand tall and keep pushing our region forward," he said.

Following suit in the ode of gratitude centered around Cocchi, while branding a new name for supporters of the Sheriff was Mayor Vieau, who attributed the 'Cocchi army.'

"I'll tell you that Sheriff Cocchi is just beloved by this community, and it's not just Western Mass; it's

beyond," Vieau said. "And Nick (Cocchi) is a great guy, and I'm grateful and thankful to call him a great friend."

In addition, even DA Gulluni offered his initial thoughts about the event, confessing that the support from everyone was 'phenomenal'.

"It's a testament to Cocchi's community outreach and engagement due to the credibility he's achieved as Sheriff over these years, to bring out this number of people in a washout, and I'm happy to be here to support Nick (Cocchi) and his team," Gulluni said. He also talked about the passion for being in the position he is in.

"I feel privileged to have had this job for almost 11 years, and I worked in the office as an assistant DA, so I have a great appreciation for the impact that we can have," he said. Gulluni cited the success as due to his staff.

"I've been really fortunate to have great people around me through all the projects and the initiatives that we have, but particularly on unresolved cases, we've had a lot of success, and that is meaningful to the community, and it's obviously tremendously meaningful to the families and loved ones involved who lost someone and never got answers and that is a trauma I can't even envision, so if we can give back in that capacity, I'm really honored to do so," said Gulluni when reflecting on the progress made during



Volunteers running the raffle table.

Turley photos by Brendan Rooney



Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi and Former Hampden County Sheriff Michael Ashe

his career allowing a sense of justice and closure to be offered families affected by cold case murders.

The all-day event kicked off with a golf tournament in the morning, and for those in attendance were treated to grilled foods like Italian sausage, burgers, corn, grilled chicken, and BBQ ribs, along with plenty of drinks, were provided to bring a classic cookout feel. The event also featured live music, cornhole, and tons of raffle prizes.



Former CO Jerry Crews, Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi, and Former CO SGT Jim Rooney, York Street Jail.



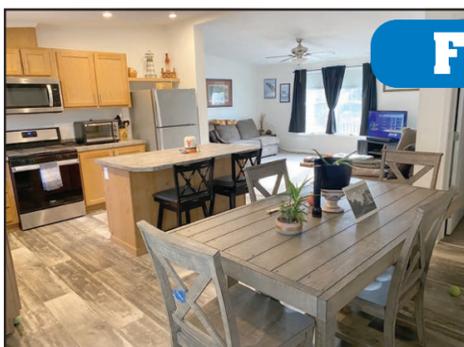
Former Springfield PD Superintendent Cheryl Clapprood, Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi, and Anthony Cignoli, President of AL Cignoli CO.



Former CO SGT Jim Rooney, York Street Jail, Anthony Cignoli, President of AL Cignoli CO, and Springfield Police Commissioner Al Tranghese.



Volunteers who cooked all the food.



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OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries

should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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



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Saturday, September 6th



Jim McArdle & Jerry Murphy

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, Sept. 13th ~ 25th ~ Anniversary Celebration!

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Sun. 12pm - 8pm; Mon.-Thurs. 11:30am-9:30pm; Fri. & Sat. 11:30am - 11:30pm

C	A	B	S		S	S	C		S	O	W				
B	L	O	C	S		U	C	A		S	A	G	A		
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