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Mayor announces meet and greets throughout September

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer



Mayor Joshua Garcia

HOLYOKE – Mayor Joshua Garcia will be holding “Meet the Mayor” sessions around Holyoke throughout the month of September and, ideally, continuing far into the future.

Throughout the month of September there will be three of these sessions. The first is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 8 at 2 p.m. at the Holyoke Senior Center located at 291 Pine Street. The second is set for Friday, Sept. 15 at 3 p.m. at El Mercado, 413 Main Street. Finally, the third is set for Friday, Sept. 22 at 10 a.m. at the Holyoke Public Library.

The goal of these sessions is to give residents a chance to ensure the problems they are encountering are heard.

“What’s important to me is that people feel acknowledged and heard,” Garcia said. “I know that communication is the strongest form to be able to de-escalate concerns and I want to be able to have an opportunity to respond to those residents who may feel like the government isn’t doing anything.”

While the exact details on how the sessions will go will be dependent on turnout, Garcia said that typically the sessions will be arranged to begin with an opening statement by him, followed by a Q&A.

The statement will include updates on what the mayor’s office is working on at the moment, their plans for the

future and their top concerns and priorities at the moment.

Each of the locations for these sessions were carefully chosen by Garcia and his office. They wanted to ensure that people from all corners of Holyoke would have a chance to

get out and have their voices heard.

“Every corner of our city is so vastly different...and so the intent is that if we want to be accessible, we need to be intentional in location,” Garcia said. “The intent is to go to that neighborhood and space where it’s accessible in the environment people are used to calling home.”

Moving forward, Garcia mentioned hoping to have future sessions at locations such as OneHolyoke CDC and potentially at the summit view location or a public school setting in ward 7.

Should these first sessions go well, Garcia hopes to continue having them into the future.

“We’ve been talking about making a habit of doing these outside the office, office hours,” he said. “Depending on how successful it is...this first month and if we can cultivate some level of popularity or need for it, then we will ensure we’re out there as much as possible to make sure the community feels heard and acknowledged.”

Garcia looks forward to

See **MAYOR**, page 9

Getting off to a **GOOD START**



Julio Cubero Morales, Kalisha Rosada, Maria Rivera, Rosa Galindrez and Sabrina Bolden from Joseph Metcalf Middle School welcome families to the back-to-school event.

Turley photos by Quinn Suomala

Holyoke celebrates the beginning of new school year

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Public Schools celebrated the beginning of the school year over the last week with a series of back-to-school events for families to enjoy.

Each school in the district put on a back-to-school event to give families an opportunity to get their children’s schedules, meet their teachers and ask questions about the upcoming school year.

“We want to ensure that

See **SCHOOL**, page 6



Teachers Chloe Blauner, Brianne Ackley, Danielle White and Stephy Cho attend Maurice A. Donahue’s back-to-school event to meet their new students for the year.

Business owner seeks zone change to rebuild business

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – Holyoke resident Jose Almonte applied to the ordinance committee and the planning board to change his zoning permit from downtown residential to downtown business so that he can rebuild his bodega.

Almonte’s bodega, a small convenience store, burned down on July 1, 2022 and he applied for this zone change so that he can afford to rebuild it. The property is located on 549 to 551 South Bridge Street.

“He is not able, financially, to build what would be required in downtown residen-

tial because that would require a three-story building with at least two residential tenants in the building,” Almonte’s lawyer, Andrea Brunault-McGuinness

ed to pay relocation costs for seven families who were living at the property. The relocation cost \$20,000 and then he paid \$33,000 when the city

to rebuild the bodega again, he fears he will not be able to afford to reconstruct the building to meet the residential downtown zoning requirements.

The new bodega would be a one-story building, with an estimated cost of \$120,000.

“He would really like to reopen and get back into business,” Brunault-McGuinness said. “It has been historically a store there so he feels the neighbors—many of whom are here tonight—are in support of the store reopening.”

Almonte’s bodega had been present in the community for over 20 years, and all members of the community who spoke on this issue spoke in favor of this

zone change as they want this bodega to return to their neighborhood.

“We need a bodega because that was my place to go every morning, every time...he always gave me what I needed,” resident Josefina Torres said.

“That store is really needed there at that corner,” resident Carmen Ocasio said. “One of the other stores is not open all the time and the other store on South Canal and Adam Street rarely has anything we need there. And ‘C-Town’ or Key Market, their prices are sky-high...but he [Almonte] is there for the community.”

See **REBUILD**, page 9

“We need a bodega because that was my place to go every morning, every time... he always gave me what I needed.”

- Josefina Torres

said. “He simply does not have the resources to do that.”

Following the fire, Almonte’s insurance did give him \$259,000. But he need-

to pay relocation costs for seven families who were living at the property. The relocation cost \$20,000 and then he paid \$33,000 when the city

While Almonte would like

Residents must use newly distributed trash carts

HOLYOKE – Starting Sept. 18, the Department of Public Works will distribute new, 96-gallon trash carts to city residents.

Effective the week of Sept. 25, bags of garbage left in front of homes will no longer be picked up. Garbage placed in cans, containers, or carts other than the city-issued models also will not be picked up. Only trash in the new carts will be collected. All trash must be bagged before being placed in the cart.

On Friday, Sept. 1, postcards in English and Spanish announcing the dis-

tribution of the new carts will be mailed to all Holyoke residents. There is no charge for the new trash carts. Single-family homes will receive one trash cart. Two-family, three-family, and four-family homes will receive one trash cart per family. Residents must start using the new trash carts the week of Sept. 25. Residents' collection day will remain the same.

Also, Holyoke is recommitting to dual-stream recycling, which had been suspended during Covid because of the deluge of cardboard brought on by

online shopping.

All recyclables must be separated into two bins, one for paper and cardboard and a separate one for glass, metal, and plastics. Residents can obtain additional recycling bins at the Department of Public Works office, 63 North Canal St., for \$10 each. Residents with their own trash cans can use them for recycling, as well as for leaves and yard waste.

The city plans to roll out recycling carts in the future. An announcement will be made when this comes about.

To dispose of an old trash can, label it in large letters "TRASH" and place it beside the new cart on your collection day for disposal.

Items and materials that cannot be placed in trash carts include yard waste, recyclables, hazardous materials, paint, appliances, televisions, and demolition waste. If these or similar materials are found in a trash cart, the cart will not be picked up that day.

For more information please call the Department of Public Works, 413-322-5645.

Massachusetts launches free community college program

WELLESLEY – Holyoke Community College President George Timmons joined Gov. Maura T. Healey today to launch MassReconnect, the administration's new program establishing free community college for Massachusetts residents aged 25 and older.

The announcement event, held this morning at MassBay Community College, was attended by representatives from the Healey administration and Department of Higher Education, as well as the presidents of the state's 15 community colleges.

"MassReconnect will be transformative for thousands of students, for our amazing community colleges, and for our economy," Healey said. "It will bolster the role of community colleges as economic drivers in our state and help us better meet the needs of businesses to find qualified, well-trained workers. We can also make progress in breaking cycles of inter-generational poverty by helping residents complete their higher education credentials so they can attain good jobs and build a career path. Our administration is grateful for the partnership of the Legislature to move forward on this critical program that will make our state more affordable, competitive and equitable."

The state is investing \$20 million in MassReconnect for the first year of implementation. The funding covers the full cost of tuition and fees and includes an allowance for books and supplies for qualifying students. Additionally, each



Massachusetts launches free college programs for residents 25 plus.

Submitted Photo

community college will receive \$100,000 to support student and community program awareness, staffing, and program administration.

"This is an exciting moment for HCC and all Massachusetts community colleges," said Holyoke Community College President George Timmons. "Our college's financial aid and student affairs teams have been working diligently to prepare for MassReconnect and to guide students through the process of enrolling at HCC. MassReconnect will enable our community colleges to do more of what we do best, which is serve students from all ages and all backgrounds, and provide

them with an exceptional education that leads to employment and, ultimately, a stronger economy and thriving region."

MassReconnect starts immediately. There is still time for students to enroll for the fall 2023 semester. Qualifying students must be enrolled in at least six credits per semester in an approved program of study leading to an associate degree or certificate at one of the Commonwealth's 15 community colleges and complete the 2023-2024 FAFSA. There is no deadline to sign up.

Fall semester I classes at HCC begin Tuesday, Sept. 5, but there are also two additional flexible fall start dates, on

Sept. 25 and Oct. 30.

For more information about MassReconnect at HCC, please go to: hcc.edu/massreconnect.

To qualify for MassReconnect, students must be 25 or older on the first day of their classes and be a permanent Massachusetts resident for at least one year at the start of the enrolled term. The program is limited to residents who have not previously earned a college degree (associates or bachelor's) who enroll in at least six credits per semester in an approved program of study leading to an associate degree or certificate at a community college.

Holyoke Community College offers free line cook training

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

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

Line Cook a.m. Training

Sept. 18 to Oct. 20, 2023

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

Line Cook p.m. Training

Sept. 18 to Nov. 9, 2023

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

Line Cook AM Training

Oct. 30 to Dec. 8, 2023

Monday is from 9 a.m. to Noon
Tues to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Holyoke Medical Center holds overdose prevention training

HOLYOKE – In advance of Overdose Awareness Day, Aug. 31, Holyoke Medical Center invites the community to join recovery support experts for an overdose prevention training event on how to respond to an opioid overdose, including the use and distribution of Naloxone (Narcan: a medication that quickly reverses an opioid overdose).

The training will be held Wednesday, Aug. 23, at 5:30 p.m. at

the Holyoke Medical Center Auxiliary Conference Center, 575 Beech St.

Holyoke Medical Center is partnering with Tapestry Health to provide this training.

Representatives from Learn 2 Cope and SADOD will also be available to provide additional education, resources, and support for family members and friends who have loved ones in active addiction or recovery, as well as to those who have lost a loved one to overdose.

UCCH choir is looking for singers to join

HOLYOKE – The United Congregational Church of Holyoke Choir is getting back into rehearsals after a summer break, and they are searching for singers to join them ahead of their first rehearsal on Wednesday, Sept. 6 at 6:30 p.m.

"You don't need to be a member of the church to join the choir," said Music Director Dorothy Claire Glover. "Auditions are not required, and new

members are welcome any time."

The choir will meet for rehearsals on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. at 300 Appleton St.

Anyone interested in joining the choir should contact the church office at 413-532-1483. All voices will be welcome.

The United Congregational 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.

To learn more about UCCH, please visit the website at www.uccholyoke.org, find on Facebook or Instagram, or call our office at 413-532-1483. Monday through Wednesday and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and Thursdays 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Fall Festival to be held Sept. 23

HOLYOKE – St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 485 Appleton St., will hold their Fall Festival on Saturday Sept. 23, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Parish Hall and on the Church grounds. There will be Gift Basket Raffles, 50/50 Raffle, Vendors, Plants, Bake Sale, a Cafe' and Outdoor Activities for Families. Free parking is located behind the Church. For more information, please call 413-532-5060.

City issues sale notices for tax foreclosed property

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

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

118 Newton Street and two adjacent lots: Proposals are being sought for a development that will improve the area for residential, commercial, or other uses

that complement the City's efforts to revitalize the area.

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

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

advantageous proposals."

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

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

The RFP and the Sale Notices,

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

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

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

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

Healing Voices Project embraces National Overdose Awareness Day

Nonprofit, podcast continue to make an impact in community

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff writer

National Overdose Awareness Day falls on Aug. 31, and the Healing Voices Project is looking to maximize its outreach.

The podcast and newly established nonprofit counter addiction in northern Connecticut and western Massachusetts by sharing stories of addiction, grief, recovery and courage. Through multimedia platforms, it provides education on prevention, intervention and treatment.

Led by Mike Tourville, a former Chicopee resident, the Healing Voices Project is establishing itself as a community leader.

"I don't want to be the tree that falls in the forest, and nobody hears it," Tourville said. "If this program has the potential to heal broken families and to save lives, is there anything really more important than that to share?"

The Healing Voices Project became an official 501(c)3 nonprofit earlier this month. The podcast began in 2021 and has reached the 50-episode milestone, featuring guests such as Dr. Peter Friedmann of Baystate Health, an expert in the field of substance abuse

disorder, as well as Agawam Mayor William Sapelli and State Sen. John Velis (D-Westfield).

When launching the podcast, Tourville debated who he sought to reach and what guests could best deliver the best message. As more guests became involved, he received an unexpected positive reaction from others seeking to help.

The Healing Voices Project teamed up with the Hampden County Addiction Task Force, which reiterated to Tourville why the podcast is so valuable. He explained the importance of sharing information, as there are few similar podcasts broadcasting in the region.

"It's a great platform because you can share stories, and care providers can talk about what they're doing, (give) updates and the pros and cons of medically assisted treatments, and they can share different treatment options. So, they've been very eager to share their updates and information," Tourville said.

Tourville said the podcast has booked guests through the coming months. The podcast addresses information such as what the first call you make should be if you discover a friend or loved one is struggling with addiction.

"I don't have a reason to contact



Mike Tourville

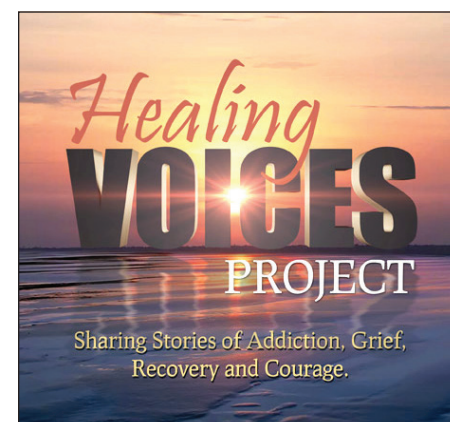
this place until I do... Once I do, well which place do I call and why do I call this one instead of that one? This is the type of thing that we're doing," Tourville said, noting, "at least they have a 'what do you do now' answer."

Tourville said that uninformed people are more likely to make uninformed decisions, which can be detrimental to a person's healing, a family dynamic or a relationship because they handle it the wrong way.

Before the Healing Voices Project podcast launched, Tourville published "Voices from the Fallen: True Stories of Addiction, Grief, Recovery and Courage", which shares stories from community members affected directly and indirectly by opioid addiction. Following the 2021 book, Tourville felt a desire to continue the mission, and the podcast was established.

"We have parents who share their stories of what they dealt with, with their children going through this or sadly or even how they coped with the grief of losing something, which is helpful for people to hear that they're not alone," Tourville said.

On the Healing Voices Project website, at <https://www.mtmedianetwork.com>,



The Healing Voices Project, a nonprofit and podcast, counter addiction in northern Connecticut and western Massachusetts by sharing stories of addiction, grief, recovery and courage.

com, one can donate to the program. Tourville explained why every dollar counts; he said his job is to facilitate a message and it takes a team to do it.

"The thing is I'm not an expert at social media, promotion, website management and YouTube editing so we need to get the message out through people who can actually enhance and bring that promotion to the people who need to hear it, and that takes on many paths," Tourville said.

One can listen to the Healing Voices Project podcast on YouTube.

Holyoke to hold public cable license renewal hearing on Sept. 14

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

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

Interested persons may attend and

directly participate in person or they may access the hearing remotely via www.zoom.us Meeting ID: 881 3755 3176 Passcode: 393722 or by call in at 1-929-205-6099 with same Meeting ID and Passcode. The hearing can be observed without remote participation for viewing only on Comcast Channel 15 in Holyoke.

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

150th anniversary celebrations continue

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

Pre-sales for the Holyoke 150th Commemorative Book will begin in September. Filled with photos and chapters written by event organizers, business owners, and community leaders, this will be a book to pass down to future generations.

On Saturday, Oct. 28, Holyoke will hold its 150th Gala, a masquerade ball in the historic City Hall Ballroom. This event will feature food by Log Rolling, an open bar, valet parking, music by the Maxstones, a silent auction, and more. Tickets will be available soon. Save the date! You won't want to miss this once in a lifetime event.

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

Ride Like an Animal Motorcycle Run, event to benefit TJO animals on Sept. 9

SPRINGFIELD – The Foundation for TJO Animals will be holding its annual Ride Like an Animal Motorcycle Run on Saturday, Sept. 9, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Registration begins at 9 a.m. at the Thomas J. O'Connor Animal Control & Adoption Center at 627 Cottage St.

Kick stands up at 10:45 a.m. with the ride leaving at 11:00 a.m. for a scenic ride through western MA.

The event wraps up with a celebration at the Ludlow Elks located at 69 Chapin St., from noon to 3 p.m.. Guests

will enjoy live music, great food, vendors, and raffles.

Pre-registration is now open and runs through Aug. 31.

A \$30 registration fee includes an event t-shirt, wrist band, entrance to the after party, and one meal ticket.

Participants interested in the



after party only, can register online for \$15 and receive admission and a meal coupon.

Children under 12 are free. Pre-registered riders are guaranteed an event t-shirt. Register online at https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/V0wocELADiDSAav4FyYpQ.

Proceeds from the Ride Like an Animal Motorcycle Run go directly

to the Foundation for TJO Animals to benefit animals in need at the Thomas J. O'Connor Animal Control and Adoption Center.

Event sponsors include Fontaine Community Foundation, Florence Bank, Keller Williams, Western Mass Collision, Bacon Wilson, Greater Springfield Credit Union, and Hazen Paper Co.

More information is available on www.tjofoundation.org, by emailing info@tjofoundation.org or by calling 413-306-5161.

Guest Column



By Kimberly Palmucci

Ten ways to help adoptable pets

By Kimberly Palmucci
Staff Writer

Volunteer - There are many different ways one can volunteer with an animal rescue organization, and the experience is truly rewarding. Volunteering offers a way to personally get involved with adoptable pets while eschewing the responsibility of pet ownership itself.

Volunteering duties might include: walking dogs; cleaning; socializing cats; taking photos; office tasks; community outreach; fundraising; transporting animals; attending adoption events; and more.

Donate

Animal rescues and shelters need financial assistance, and monetary donations are a welcome way to aid the mission. Certain shelters and rescues don't even have an operating budget, funded solely through donations.

Donations can assist with daily operations, supplies, food, veterinary care, vaccinations, community outreach, and much more.

And if a financial donation is not possible, animal organizations are also in need of many items, such as: food; towels; blankets and pet beds; crates and carriers; pet toys; collars, leashes, or harnesses; cat litter; and more.

Educate

By educating others about the importance of adopting, as well as spaying and neutering our pets, we lay the groundwork needed for actual change. However, educating should not be confused with arguing; creating conflict and tension over these topics may feel befitting at times, but we can spend our time more wisely by having respectful, compassionate conversations with people who are willing to listen.

Advocate

Supporting legislation that improves the lives of animals is a pivotal step toward making change. There must be regulations in place for certain actions and behaviors—including legal consequences—to set a precedent. Also, many municipal animal shelters are relying on antiquated budgets to function. Contact your representatives by calling or writing a letter so that you can share your thoughts regarding local and state bills.

Wishlists

An animal group near you may already have a "wish list" on its website, go check it out! These lists, which highlight the current needs and donation requests of the organization, can be independent or linked directly to a website such as "Amazon" or "Chewy."

Additionally, when shopping online, consider choosing one of your local animal rescues as your "AmazonSmile Charity"—this is a separate entry from the main website that offers consumers the same items and prices while also contributing a certain percentage of qualified purchases to a charitable group.

Spay/Neuter

Spaying and neutering our pets is unbelievably important. Pet overpopulation can best be described as a crisis, both in the U.S. and around the world, and unconstrained cat and dog breeding creates lasting impacts. Spaying/neutering presents pet owners with a way to not only be part of the solution, but also to keep their pets healthy and safe.

Three benefits of spay/neuter include: diminishing the burden on animal groups;

See *ADOPT*, page 5



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Guest Column

What about all the money Congress stole?



By Russell Gloor

Dear Rusty

Is there any way that Congress will vote to pay back the Social Security funds they took for their stupid reasons, and left IOUs in place of the funds?

Because of the funds they took going back many years, we didn't have any decent Cost Of Living Adjustments for a few years. In fact, there were I think three to five years that we didn't get any COLA. Please Rusty, can you find out if this is true or false? Help us seniors.

Signed: **Resentful Senior**

Dear Resentful Senior

I can assure you that I've fully investigated the allegation that politicians have squandered Social Security's money and found that charge to be, simply speaking, a myth. I've gone back and looked at Social Security revenues and expenses since the government first started collecting FICA payroll taxes in 1937 and found that every dollar ever collected for Social Security has been used only for Social Security purposes. Over the years, various claims have been

made that the money has been used for other things, but I've researched each of these charges and found them all to be false.

Where the misconception mostly originates is that any excess money collected from working Americans for Social Security is invested in "special issue government bonds," which pay interest, as mandated by President Roosevelt when Social Security began. As with any investment, a financial obligation instrument is given in return for dollars received.

Remember when we used to buy "U.S. Savings Bonds?" We'd use our money to buy those bonds, hold them and later redeem them for a higher amount than we paid. That's exactly how Social Security contributions have always worked – excess money collected from working Americans is used to purchase special issue government bonds, which are held in reserve, earning interest, for future Social Security needs.

These special bonds reside in a Social Security Trust Fund and, as of the end of 2022, were worth about \$2.8 trillion. Are these bonds "worthless IOUs" as some would claim? Hardly, since they are redeemable as needed to pay Social Security benefits.

Considering that, since 2010, Social Security's income from payroll taxes on American workers has been less than needed

See *SECURITY*, page 5

The time we put a fort in the wrong place

By J. Mark Powell
jmarkpowell.com

We all make mistakes. To err is human, after all. For example, flowers sometimes get inadvertently planted or fences built on the wrong side of the property line. It's an imperfect world after all.

When armies and nations make such a faux pas, war can result. Fortunately, that didn't happen with this week's tale.

Although the story does begin with a war. Two of them, in fact.

We know Canada today as a mellow place, a country famous for its politeness and good manners (along with trying to stay warm half of the year). But that wasn't always the case.

When the American colonies launched the Revolutionary War, our neighbor to the north stayed loyal to England.

Twice, (during the Revolution and again 37 years later during its sequel, the War of 1812) the U.S. invaded Canada. Twice, we had our fanny handed to us on a platter; and, as my Canadian friends in college were fond of gleefully pointing out, "We burned your White House, too!"



J. MARK POWELL'S
HOLY COW! HISTORY

After narrowly surviving the War of 1812, President James Madison said it was time to seriously invest in defense spending. Since a fort had famously stopped the British fleet at Baltimore (giving us The Star-Spangled Banner in the process), the War Department set about building a string of fortifications along the Atlantic coast, many of which still stand today.

An imposing fort was planned to protect America from Canada as well. Money was authorized to build an eight-sided fortification with 30 foot stone walls and armed with 125 powerful cannons.

It would be built in New York state on the northern end of Lake Champlain within sight of the border. Twice during both wars, the British had used that waterway to launch their own invasions of our country.

Once the new fort was in place, no warship could get past it.

So, the Army set to work building the new fortress in 1816. Dozens of workmen and soldiers, overseen by the Corps of Engineers, commenced the mighty task.

See *FORT*, page 5



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A Quote

OF NOTE

"You cannot swim for new horizons until you have courage to lose sight of the shores."

William Faulkner

Letters to the Editor Policy

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

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

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

Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

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

Cherry tomatoes cracked? Mine are too.



I love it when my good friends pose me gardening questions. Lots of times I turn the questions into columns. My friend Jacque sent a text with a question about her cherry tomatoes.

She was curious if she could eat them even though they were cracked. Alas, I will delve a little deeper into this topic.

Tomatoes crack when the inside of the fruit expands at a rate that the outer skin can't support. Usually, a soaking rain after a period of drought causes this to happen.

This year we have had pretty constant precipitation, but the cracking happened anyway. As soon as the rain ended a couple days back, I went out to the garden and began picking my cherry tomatoes.

Anything that cracked in my hand or when I put it into the basket could be used.

Cracked fruit still on the plant that had started to heal over I decided to give to the chickens. I didn't want to risk eating fungus, mold or bacteria from fruit flies in the fruit that had scabbed over.

If you don't have chickens, the fruit is perfectly safe to add to the compost pile.

There is little you can do to stop tomatoes from cracking. Some people purposely pick almost ripe tomatoes prior to a storm, and let them finish ripening on the counter.

You can also pick unripe tomatoes and place them in a bag with a ripening banana or an apple and the ethylene gas they release will induce ripening.

For this to work, the tomatoes have to feel softish and show slight coloration. You can also use this trick just prior to the last frost.

Pick all of your unripe fruit and try it!

Taste is sacrificed here somewhat - think of a grocery store tomato but



maybe a step above. I usually risk the inevitable cracking after a storm because the whole point of growing your own tomatoes is to eat them ripened by the sun!

There are a few varieties that are touted as being resistant to cracking. I have never grown a cherry tomato, at least in my most recent memory, that was truly crack resistant, but I am willing to experiment.

You may wonder what I do with all the tomatoes I pick.

After separating out the bad tomatoes, I cut the good ones in half, added a splash of olive oil, some garlic cloves and slivers of basil and set it all in a shallow roasting pan at 375 degrees. I moved them around every 20 minutes or so, taking the tray out in about an hour, after the skins had blistered.

You can either eat the roasted tomatoes this way, as a chunky topping for pasta or pizza or blend it into sauce. Add seasonings to your specific taste. It can be frozen either way.

Cherry tomatoes are also great dehydrated or sun dried. One summer years ago I sliced some and set them on a tray in the greenhouse at work.

The greenhouse was closed up for my annual weed and bug "fry." In a matter of two days, I had the tastiest little tidbits.

It's amazing how all that tomato flavor can be so incredibly concentrated in this round disk! I stored them in a zip lock bag in the fridge.

Some people don't feel it necessary to refrigerate sun dried tomatoes, but I wanted to be extra cautious since I didn't use any sort of preservative on the fruit.

Dehydrators are all different. I think it took at least 8 hours for ours to produce that leathery, "done" texture.

Sun dried tomatoes are a great pizza topping, and can be blended into hummus or other savory dishes.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

FORT, from page 4

It was so important; President James Madison even inspected the site in 1817.

Things were progressing nicely. Dozens of acres of woods had been cleared and the massive stone walls were going up.

Then it happened. A clerk in Washington discovered a mistake.

A bad mistake. A make-your-face-turn-red and hang-your-head-in-shame mistake.

The survey that had been used to select the new fort's site was wrong. Way wrong.

It mistakenly placed the international border three-quarters of a mile to the south. Meaning the fort intended to protect us from Canada was being built - in Canada!

President Madison was mortified. He ordered construction to stop, told the Army to immediately withdraw, then apologized profusely to the Canadians, who shrugged it off with a "these things happen" response.

Washington had spent \$175,000 (about \$3.5 million today) on the proj-

ect. Now it was all wasted in a textbook example of a government boondoggle.

With the Army gone, local residents took stone and other materials for use in their houses, buildings and barns. In a few years, the site was picked clean.

No trace of it now exists.

The fort had never been officially named. Americans and Canadians alike eventually called the place exactly what it was: Fort Blunder.

Twenty years later, the Army built another fortification nearby. Called Fort Montgomery, it was smaller and less imposing than the original.

By then U.S.-Canadian relations were warming significantly.

In 1909 it was abandoned. Today it sits empty on the shores of Lake Champlain, a decaying relic from a bygone era.

But one thing was certain: when the Army began building Fort Montgomery, you can bet they made darn sure they went to work on the right side of the border that time!

Holy Cow! History is written by novelist, former TV journalist and die-hard history buff J. Mark Powell.

SECURITY, from page 4

to cover benefits paid out, redemption of bonds held in the Trust Fund is the only reason that Social Security has been able to continue paying full benefits to every beneficiary. The Trust Fund is a financial safety net, which is now protecting all SS beneficiaries from having their benefits cut.

Problem is, unless Congress acts soon to reform Social Security's financial picture, the Trust Fund will be fully depleted in about 2033 resulting in about a 23% cut in everyone's monthly Social Security benefit. I'm optimistic that will not happen (it would be political suicide) and, hopefully, Congress will act soon to reform Social Security and restore it to financial solvency and avoid a future cut in everyone's benefits.

Regarding Cost of Living Adjustment and the lack thereof for several past years, COLA is determined by the government's standard inflation measure, the Consumer Price Index (CPI). There were several years (2010, 2011, and 2016) in which the CPI showed no inflation so, therefore, no COLA increase was given.

Last year, due to soaring inflation, everyone got an 8.7% increase in their Social Security benefit, but that doesn't happen every year. FYI, the average annual COLA increase over the last two decades has been about 2.6%, although COLA for each year can be wildly different depending on each year's inflation measure.

In any case, the lack of a COLA increase in past years was not a result of any political chicanery, it was the result of low inflation during those years.

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 ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

ADOPT, from page 4

keeping stray/feral pet populations in check; and protecting pets from health concerns.

Events

Hosting a fundraising event for an animal group is a unique and valuable way to help. You can design your own event, or combine efforts with an existing or upcoming event, such as a birthday party, wedding, or school function, asking attendees to bring a gift or donation for the animals.

Share

Talk about your own stories of adoption, both on social media and in your day-to-day life. The more we talk about our stories of adoption, the more we can share the message that shelter pets are not less or broken because of their circumstance. They are resilient and capable of such a powerful love. Additionally, "sharing" can quite literally mean getting on social media and sharing posts or adoption profiles from animal groups, who are constantly posting their needs, adoptable pets, wishlists,

and more. When you "like," "comment," or "share," those posts, you're boosting engagement and allowing more people to see and help.

Adopt

According to various reports and statistics, more than 6.3 million domestic animals enter into animal shelters and rescues across the U.S. each year. Adopting a pet is a tremendous decision that not only saves one animal, but also creates space in an already overburdened system for another, doubling the impact with every adoption.

When you adopt a pet, it's a lifelong promise (the pet's life, of course). This is not a decision that should be made lightly; before you adopt, consider whether you will be able to provide that animal with the following basic needs for the pet's entire life: love and attention; food, water,

and shelter; exercise and medical care.

Foster

Fostering a pet entails the temporary housing of an adoptable pet in one's home prior to adoption. Foster homes afford shelters and rescues the ability to save even more animals, and it helps animals that would otherwise be in a cage find comfort and support.

Fostering is not for everyone. The

foster must be able to transport the pet to various places and provide the animal with care. It is also important to consider that fostering is intended to be temporary—many folks (like myself) have trouble saying goodbye, and that's okay, but if this is you, perhaps there's an alternative way to help.

Here are some questions you might ask yourself before fostering a pet:

Am I emotionally prepared to say goodbye?

Is everyone in my home equipped for this experience (other pets included)?

Am I able to transport this pet to vet visits and adoption events?

The best way to discover the needs of your local animal groups is by doing a search online, checking recent social media posts from the organization(s), or by contacting them directly and asking how you can help.

Editor's Note: The following information was acquired over the course of my career as a journalist, through my work as an animal advocate, and through common knowledge.



In The News



Eighth grade teachers Maggie Murphy and Gale Pittman help pass out schedules to attending kids.



Amy Bonilla and Alex Dow from Girls Inc. of the Valley give out information about their organization's programs.



Sixth grade teachers Rachel Flint, Java Rleir, Hannah Harris, Franshesca Torres and Bana Almoula from Joseph Metcalf Middle School welcome students to the back-to-school event. *Turley photos by Quinn Suomala*



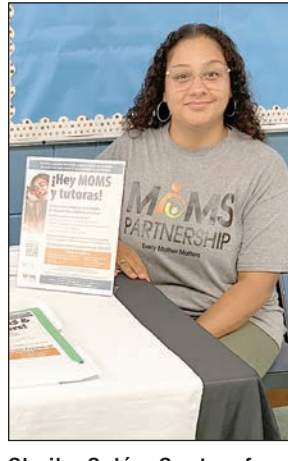
FACE coordinator Eric Rodriguez helps families get the information they need as the school year begins.



Superintendent Anthony Soto attends the back-to-school events in order to meet with families.



Principal Katie Ritchie and Teacher Caitlin O'Hare enjoy the back-to-school celebration



Sheila Colón Santos from Western Mass. Moms Partnership helps to give out information about her program to families.



Sunibel Cuerrero and Adlyn Colón Santiago inform attending families about the educational programs Holyoke Community College offers.



Eleyna Scarbro from Food Corps helps families learn about how Food Corps helps children have access to food education and nourishing food in schools.

SCHOOL, from page 1

families can get a schedule for the school year and a sense of who the teachers are," Principal at Joseph Metcalf Middle School Katie Ritchie said.

These events were truly dedicated to the students and the families within the schools. The staff of HPS wanted to ensure that students could feel comfortable going into a new school year, and figured that having a chance to meet their teachers before the first day of school would help greatly.

"It's important to have events like this because we want to give parents an opportunity to see the schools and meet the teachers," Superintendent Anthony Soto said.

These events allowed families to be welcomed into the school community, something Donahue School Counselor Oliver Prato said was crucial to HPS.

"Contact between schools and families is so important and nothing is better than face-to-face," Prato said. "They're our community and we're their community, we're neighbors, and we want this to be a place where parents feel comfortable walking over to say 'how did my kid do today?'"

With the recent rezoning of HPS,

staff felt these events were even more important to ensure that families felt secure in where their children would be going for school this year.

"We just went through a recent rezoning and as part of that process there's a lot of teachers and a lot of students that are moving to different school communities, so we wanted to make sure that every school created an opportunity for the kids and the families to come show up and get a sense of what the school community is going to be," Soto said.

Throughout these events the schools had activities for the kids to enjoy, from bounce houses to snow cones, it was a great opportunity for families to get outside and into the community before the school year began.

Also available at each of the back-to-school events was a variety of information tables about different programs families can get involved in.

"We have resource tables in the hallways," FACE Team Member of Maurice A. Donahue School Stefany Garcia said. "We have a group called Moms that holds workshops to help Moms learn to deal with stress, we have the Boys and Girls Club, we have Food Corps and HCC."

Girls Inc. of the Valley and the Boy Scouts of America were also present at many of the events.

All of these programs passed out information so that families could stay informed about what they offer the community.

Food Corps—which is a national non-profit—in particular will be working closely with the schools throughout the year to help provide healthy food and healthy food education to students.

"I'll lead special lessons out in the school garden about nutrition and gardening," Will Taylor from Food Corps said.

There are three representatives from Food Corp who will be working at the elementary schools in Holyoke throughout the school year. All of them look forward to having the opportunity to work with the kids and help them learn more about nutrition.

Overall, all involved in pulling together these events looked forward to getting the opportunity to meet the families and students who would be attending the schools this year.

"Having this be the first thing that we do together, getting to have some fun and meet everybody, it starts off the school year right," Prato said.



Maurice A. Donahue's back-to-school event had a bounce house for the children in attendance to enjoy.



Will Taylor from Food Corps and Counselor Oliver Prato meet the families attending Maurice A. Donahue's back-to-school event.

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USDA INSP. STORE MADE BEEF KABOBS W/ VEGGIES	\$7⁹⁹ lb	USDA INSP. NATURAL CASING KAYEM HOT DOGS.....	\$8⁸⁸ ea	USDA INSP. FROZEN BAR S HOT DOGS 1 LB PAK.....	\$1⁴⁹ ea	USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN RAW SHRIMP 51/60 CT, 2 LB BAG	\$7⁷⁷ ea
USDA INSP. STORE MADE BEEF KABOBS W/ VEGGIES	\$7⁹⁹ lb	USDA INSP. NATURAL CASING KAYEM HOT DOGS.....	\$8⁸⁸ ea	USDA INSP. FROZEN BAR S HOT DOGS 1 LB PAK.....	\$1⁴⁹ ea	USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN RAW SHRIMP 51/60 CT, 2 LB BAG	\$7⁷⁷ ea

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Knights take on Terriers

Jaiden Cauley gets moving after a kickoff.



Lexan Fontanez punts the ball away.



Ethan Zayas starts a run.



Nathan Pok attempts a pass.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Aliesha Cotto Torres sends a serve away.



Anaya Rosario goes low to keep the ball in play.

Girls volleyball set for new season

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke High School girls volleyball has seen moderate success over the past several years. The Knights have made the state tournament as well since it was installed. Holyoke was in preseason action on Tuesday as they get ready for their opener, which is set for Tuesday, Sept. 5 against Mt. Everett.



Nayshaliz Gonalez nearly collides with a teammate as she gets the bump.



Melliani Santana sizes up a hit from the back line.



Yeseida Mercolino gets the first hit off a serve.



Kierste St. Lawrence gets the bump to her side.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Holyoke High School 2023 fall varsity schedule

FOOTBALL				GIRLS SOCCER				BOYS CROSS COUNTRY			
Friday, Sept. 8	Away	Pittsfield	7 p.m.	Tuesday, Sept. 5	Away	SICS	4:30 p.m.	Tuesday, Sept. 5	Home	Duggan	4:30 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 15	Away	Agawam	7 p.m.	Thursday, Sept. 7	Away	Frontier	4:30 p.m.	Monday, Sept. 11	Away	SICS	4:30 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 21	Home	Amherst	7 p.m.	Monday, Sept. 11	Away	Easthampton	4:30 p.m.	Tuesday, Sept. 19	Home	E. Longmeadow	4:30 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 29	Home	Longmeadow	7 p.m.	Wednesday, Sept. 13	Away	Ware	7 p.m.	Tuesday, Sept. 26	Away	Central	4:30 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 6	Home	Chicopee Comp	7 p.m.	Friday, Sept. 15	Home	Mahar	4 p.m.	Thursday, Oct. 12	Away	Hampden Charter	4 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 13	Away	Minnechaug	7 p.m.	Tuesday, Sept. 19	Home	St. Mary's	4 p.m.	GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY			
Friday, Oct. 20	Away	Westfield	7 p.m.	Thursday, Sept. 21	Home	Frontier	4 p.m.	Tuesday, Sept. 5	Home	Duggan	4:30 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 27	Away	Central	7 p.m.	Friday, Sept. 22	Away	Lenox	7 p.m.	Monday, Sept. 11	Away	SICS	4:30 p.m.
Nov. 3/4	TBD	Week 9 - TBD	TBD	Tuesday, Oct. 3	Home	Easthampton	4 p.m.	Tuesday, Sept. 19	Home	E. Longmeadow	4:30 p.m.
Nov. 10/11	TBD	Week 10 - TBD	TBD	Thursday, Oct. 5	Home	Ware	6 p.m.	Tuesday, Sept. 26	Away	Central	4:30 p.m.
Thursday, Nov. 23	Home	South Hadley	10 a.m.	Monday, Oct. 9	Away	Hopkins	11 a.m.	Thursday, Oct. 12	Away	Hampden Charter	4 p.m.
BOYS SOCCER				Wednesday, Oct. 11	Away	Mahar	4:30 p.m.	GIRLS VOLLEYBALL			
Wednesday, Sept. 6	Away	Chicopee Comp	7 p.m.	Friday, Oct. 13	Away	St. Mary's	4:30 p.m.	Tuesday, Sept. 5	Away	Mt. Everett	6 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 7	Home	Central	4 p.m.	Wednesday, Oct. 18	Home	Taonic	6 p.m.	Thursday, Sept. 7	Home	Ware	5 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 12	Home	Northampton	4 p.m.	Friday, Oct. 20	Home	Greenfield	4 p.m.	Monday, Sept. 11	Away	Taonic	6:30 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 14	Away	Monson	4:30 p.m.	Monday, Oct. 23	Away	Central	4:30 p.m.	Wednesday, Sept. 13	Away	Sci-Tech	5:30 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 18	Away	Chicopee	6 p.m.	FIELD HOCKEY				Friday, Sept. 15	Home	South Hadley	5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 20	Away	West Springfield	5 p.m.	Wednesday, Sept. 6	Home	Belchertown	4:15 p.m.	Monday, Sept. 18	Home	Monument Mtn	5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 26	Home	SICS	6 p.m.	Friday, Sept. 8	Away	Franklin Tech	4:30 p.m.	Tuesday, Sept. 19	Home	Easthampton	5 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 27	Home	Belchertown	4 p.m.	Monday, Sept. 11	Away	Amherst	5 p.m.	Thursday, Sept. 21	Home	Putnam	5 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 29	Home	Chicopee Comp	4 p.m.	Thursday, Sept. 14	Home	Hampshire	4:15 p.m.	Wednesday, Sept. 27	Home	Mt. Everett	5:30 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 6	Home	Monson	4 p.m.	Friday, Sept. 15	Away	Greenfield	4:30 p.m.	Monday, Oct. 2	Away	Ware	5:30 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 9	Away	Northampton	12 p.m.	Monday, Sept. 18	Away	Palmer	4:30 p.m.	Wednesday, Oct. 4	Home	Taonic	5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 10	Away	Turners Falls	6 p.m.	Friday, Sept. 22	Home	Frontier	4:15 p.m.	Friday, Oct. 6	Away	Smith Vocational	6 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 12	Home	Chicopee	6 p.m.	Monday, Sept. 25	Home	Amherst	4:30 p.m.	Tuesday, Oct. 10	Home	Sci-Tech	5 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 13	Home	Turners Falls	4 p.m.	Tuesday, Sept. 26	Home	West Springfield	4:15 p.m.	Monday, Oct. 16	Away	PVCA	5:30 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 16	Away	SICS	4:30 p.m.	Thursday, Sept. 28	Away	Belchertown	5 p.m.	Tuesday, Oct. 17	Away	Putnam	5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 18	Away	Central	6:30 p.m.	Monday, Oct. 2	Home	Franklin Tech	4:15 p.m.	Thursday, Oct. 19	Away	Monument Mtn	6 p.m.
				Wednesday, Oct. 4	Home	Agawam	4:15 p.m.				
				Tuesday, Oct. 10	Home	Palmer	6 p.m.				
				Tuesday, Oct. 17	Away	Southwick	4:30 p.m.				
				Thursday, Oct. 19	Home	Northampton	6 p.m.				
				Saturday, Oct. 21	Away	Hampshire	2 p.m.				
				Monday, Oct. 23	Away	West Springfield	6 p.m.				

Kennedy looks for new additions to Tri-County next season

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

CHICOPEE – While Mike Kennedy was a three-sport athlete at Holyoke High School forty years ago, his favorite sport has always been baseball.

Kennedy was a member of Holyoke's 1985 state championship baseball team.

"We defeated Boston College High School in the Division 1 baseball state finals," said Kennedy, who played first base. "It was a fun experience, especially being a group of city kids. Baseball has always been my favorite sport."

Holyoke, who defeated B.C. High, 4-2, in the state championship game, finished the 1985 season with a 24-1 record. They squeaked a 1-0 victory over Minnechaug Regional in the Western Mass. finals.

After graduating from High School, Kennedy was a member of the PeoplesBank baseball team in the Tri-County League for the twenty four years. During that time, PeoplesBank won eight Tri-County League championship titles.

Kennedy recently completed his first season as the President of the prestigious Tri-County League. He took over the reins from Don LaValley.

"This is my first year as the league President," Kennedy said. "I think it was a very successful season."

Kennedy has received a lot of support and his right hand man is Eric Emet "Eric has been a very big help to me," Kennedy said. "He has kept my head above water in my first year as President."

In his role as the T.C.L. President, Kennedy presented the 2023 championship trophy to PeoplesBank player/manager Joe Ferry.

Top-seeded PeoplesBank didn't have very much trouble sweeping second-seeded Chicopee Falls Tigers in the best of three championship series.

PeoplesBank captured the T.C.L. championship title for the tenth consecutive year, and for the 18th time since 1995.

While PeoplesBank has been the dominant team in the T.C.L. during the past 30 years, there were only five other teams in the league this summer.

Kennedy is looking to add a few more teams before the start of the 2024 season.

"My main goal is to add a few more teams," Kennedy said. "I would like to have at least ten teams in our league during the next couple of years. I want this league to get back to where it used to be."

The three teams that dropped out of the T.C.L. following the 2022 season were Pa'Lante, Easthampton and Teddy's Bear Pool.

On a positive note, 413ATC was a first-year member of the T.C.L. this summer. They finished in third place behind PeoplesBank and the Chicopee Falls Tigers in the regular season standings. They were swept by the Tigers in the semifinals.

"The 413 team had a bunch of young players," Kennedy said. "For being a first-year team in this league, I thought they had a very good season."

Kennedy is hoping more of the high school and Legion baseball players will join the Tri-County League during the next couple of years.

"What we really need to do is to

get the younger baseball players from the area to play in this league," he said. "Most of our current players are older."

The other three T.C.L. teams this summer were St. Joseph's, DiFranco Realty, and the Longmeadow Cardinals.

The Tri-County League teams play their games on some of the best kept baseball fields in Western Massachusetts.

PeoplesBank homefield is MacKenzie Stadium in Holyoke.

The Chicopee Falls Tigers play their home games at historic Szot Park.

The 413ATC home field was at Westfield State University and St. Joseph's has played their home games at St. Joe's Ballpark in Thorndike for many years.

"All of our baseball fields are high quality," Kennedy said. "Most of the fields have lights, which is always a bonus."

While PeoplesBank will be looking to add another championship title to their collection in 2024, all the other Tri-County League teams will be looking to knock them off the top of the mountain.

Foursomes needed for charity golf tournament Sept. 18

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

The four-person scramble event will take place on Monday, Sept. 18

at Wintonbury Hills Golf Course in Bloomfield, CT.

The event will be an 11 a.m. shotgun start. There will be prizes up for grabs (Closest to Pin/Long Drive) along with a putting contest. Entry fee covers golf, lunch and dinner. Please contact ShootFOREtheStarstoCureCancer@gmail.com more information. We hope you can join us.

Westfield State University Owls picked fifth in preseason poll

WESTFIELD – Westfield State University football has been picked to finish seventh in the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference in the league's annual preseason coaches' poll.

Westfield finished with 19 points. Defending conference champion UMass Dartmouth headed the poll with 63 points and seven of the nine first place votes. Coaches may not vote for their own teams in the polling process.

The Corsairs were followed by Bridgewater State with 53 points, WestConn with 47 points and one first place vote, and Framingham State with 46 points and the other first-place vote. Plymouth State was fifth with 41 points, followed by Mass Maritime (29 points).

Westfield ranked ahead of Worcester State (19) and Fitchburg State (10).

The Owls return a solid nucleus of veterans, which includes leading rusher Jordan Smith (Coventry, Conn.), quarterbacks Gabriel Fernandez (Holyoke, Mass.) and Colby Pires (Milford, Mass.).

On the defensive side, top tackler Tyler Cooley (Randolph, Mass.) and defensive lineman Cade Nelson (Shrewsbury, Mass.) headline a large group of returnees in the front seven.

The Owls have been in preseason camp since Aug. 11. They will kick off the regular season with a non-conference game at Anna Maria on Saturday, Sept. 2 at 12 noon.



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www.sun.turley.com

Holyoke issues sale notices for tax foreclosed property

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

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

118 Newton Street and two adjacent lots: Proposals are being sought for a development that will improve the area for residential, commercial, or other

uses that complement the City's efforts to revitalize the area.

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

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

advantageous proposals."

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

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

The RFP and the Sale Notices,

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

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

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

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

Annual Dragon Boat Festival rescheduled date to Oct. 14

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

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

Twenty-four teams from throughout New England are registered to participate in this year's Dragon Boat races. Community teams include Behavioral Health Network, CRRC-MA (the rail car manufacturer), as well as

the defending champions, Springfield Pharmacy First Responders. With the new date set, registration will be reopened at www.pvriverriverfront.org for additional teams to sign up to race on Oct. 14.

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

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

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

Hundreds of paddlers from New England participate in the festival races. A dragon boat festival team is comprised of up to 20 paddlers who race against other teams in 200-meter races on the Connecticut River. Each race lasts about one minute, and each team races at least three times on the day of the festival. Dragon Boating originated

in China 2,000 years ago and today is one of the world's fastest growing team water sports. The festival makes it easy for anyone to participate and spectate.

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

The Pioneer Valley Riverfront Club has both adult and youth programming throughout the fall and winter months. For more information, visit www.pvriverriverfront.org.

NAMI-WM announces new yoga class

HOLYOKE – The National Alliance on Mental Illness of Western Massachusetts would like to announce Mindfulness Mondays Yoga with Kateri. This class is designed as a gentle, therapeutic yoga class with beginners in mind. It is easy-paced, helps reduce stress and anxiety, and aids in the management of mental health symptoms.

Kateri is a certified yoga instructor

and is a member of our board of directors. The classes will begin in September and will be held on the second and fourth Mondays of the month starting from 5 to 6 p.m.

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

REBUILD, from page 1

According to the members of the public, Almonte's bodega has better hours and pricing than the others in the area. The store is also in close proximity and has a good reputation.

While both the planning board and the ordinance committee appreciated the importance of this bodega to the area around it, they were hesitant to approve this zone change due to concerns about spot zoning.

"From our point of view, this zone change would very obviously result in a spot zone," Chair of the Planning Board Mimi Panitch said. "We would be waving the rules for the economic benefit of a single person and, as far as I can see, there is no BC anywhere particularly near it."

If they were to change the zoning for this property, it would be creating a BC

zone area amongst an area of DR. Given that, while the bodega has been a bodega for several years now, it used to also be used as a place of residence for seven families, both the board and the committee were hesitant to grant this request.

Attorney Jane Mantolesky, who was present at the meeting, found a potential case law that could be used to work around this issue, however there was not full time for all the members of the planning board and the ordinance committee to understand the case law entirely.

In the end, the planning board asked Mantolesky to come to their next meeting on Sept. 12 so that they can figure out a recommendation that will work for everyone involved. The ordinance committee closed their public hearing and will wait for the recommendation from the planning board, which they will consider before making their own recommendation to the full city council.

MAYOR, from page 1

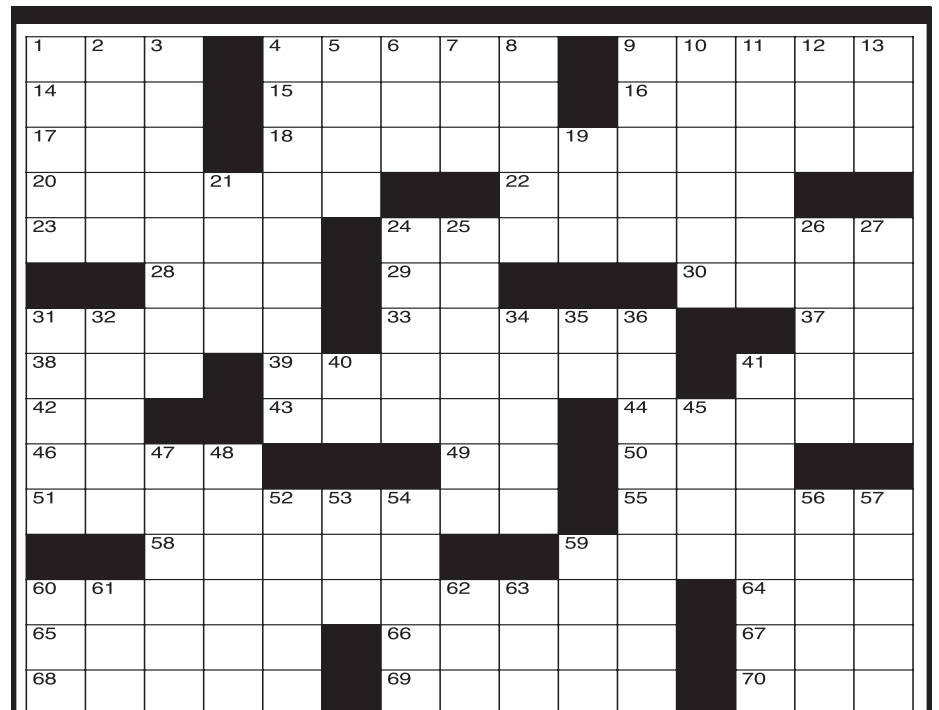
having this as an opportunity to get out and work with the public. He claims that events like this are his favorite part of working in government.

"My favorite part of this job is dealing with every personality that I have in this city," he said. "Everybody is so different and their issues are important to them."

Garcia also hopes to use this as an

opportunity to show that the mayor's office can be easily accessible to the public. He doesn't want residents to feel as though they cannot reach out to him and his staff when they want to bring a concern forward.

"If somebody, a member of the public, knows that I'm going to be in their neighborhood and we're inviting them in to come and have a conversation, if we can meet them there...I feel good, I feel like we're doing our part," he said.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Midway between east and southeast
- 4. At right angles to a ship's length
- 9. William Penn's business partner
- 14. ___ de plume
- 15. Accomplished soccer coach
- 16. Bone cavities
- 17. ___ juris: independent
- 18. Popular Philly sandwich
- 20. Northern Ireland county
- 22. Performing artist
- 23. S S S
- 24. Lacks flavor
- 28. Commercials
- 29. Anno Domini (in the year of Our Lord)
- 30. Qatar's capital
- 31. Indigenous peoples of Alberta
- 33. Popular footwear
- 37. Indicates position
- 38. Anglican cathedral
- 39. Aircraft part
- 41. Before
- 42. Blood group
- 43. Secretary organ
- 44. Fencing swords
- 46. The small projection of a mammary gland
- 49. Technological advancement
- 50. Male parent
- 51. Dissociable
- 55. More cold
- 58. Cape Verde Islands capital
- 59. Blood disorder
- 60. Creative
- 64. Sun up in New York
- 65. Made angry
- 66. Relieves
- 67. Brooklyn hoopster
- 68. Seasonsings
- 69. Movable barriers
- 70. Attempt
- 2. Spiritual essences
- 3. Representative
- 4. Entering
- 5. Nobel Prize-winning physicist
- 6. Midway between northeast and east
- 7. Consumed
- 8. Tablelands
- 9. Kids' craft accessory
- 10. Not known
- 11. Sound directed through two or more speakers
- 12. A major division of geological time
- 13. Wild ox
- 19. Shock treatment
- 21. Turner and Lasso are two
- 24. Genus of flowering plants
- 25. Relating to ductless glands
- 26. Stock certificate
- 27. Satisfies
- 31. Places to enjoy a rest
- 32. Edward ___, author and writer
- 34. "___ but goodie"
- 35. One hundredth of a liter
- 36. Shabbiness
- 40. TV personality Roker
- 41. Triangular upper part of a building
- 45. Speed at which you move
- 47. Offend
- 48. A reference point to shoot at
- 52. Forays
- 53. Biblical city
- 54. Blatted
- 56. Northern sea duck
- 57. Shabby (slang)
- 59. Allege
- 60. Tax collector
- 61. Whereabouts unknown
- 62. Chinese philosophical principle
- 63. Indicates equal

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Occur as a result of

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 10

Public Notices

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD23D0633DR
Daisy E Cruz Arias vs. Alexis D Arias De Leon
DIVORCE SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION
AND MAILING**

To the Defendant:
The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown.

The Complaint is on file at the Court.

An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. **SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.**

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon:
**Daisy E Cruz Arias
37 Sheri Lane
Agawam, MA 01001**

your answer, if any, on or before **10/26/2023**. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court

WITNESS, **Hon. Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: July 28, 2023

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
09/01/2023

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103**

(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD23C0199CA
In the matter of:
Ana Marie Berrios
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Minor has been filed by **Ana Marie Berrios of Holyoke, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Ana Marie Santos
IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/20/2023.**

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

WITNESS, **Hon. Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: August 22, 2023

Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
09/01/2023

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

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

Holyoke's Comcast cable license expires on March 11, 2024.

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

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

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

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

The City of Holyoke through its Purchasing Office is accepting

INVITATION TO BID FOR PURCHASE OF Cellbrite's UFED 4PC software and Cellbrite Certified Operator (CCO) training for 2 Officers

Bids for furnishing the City of Holyoke FOR PURCHASE OF Cellbrite's UFED 4PC software and Cellbrite Certified Operator (CCO) training for 2 Officers.

Bids will be received at the City of Holyoke's Purchasing Office, 536 Dwight Street, Room 3, Holyoke, MA 01040 starting on Wednesday, August 30, 2023 at 9 a.m. Bid documents can be requested via email from sweeneye@holyoke.org or in person at the City of Holyoke's Purchasing Office. The deadline to submit bid proposals is September 14 at 2 p.m., at which time all bids received will be public-

ly opened in compliance with Chapter 30B and the City of Holyoke's Ordinances. No electronic Submissions will be accepted.

THE CITY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS
09/01/2023

Notice of Public Hearing

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

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

City of Holyoke

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

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

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD23P1716EA
Estate of:
James R. Laptas**

**Date of Death: 08/29/2015
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 **Witman Properties, Inc. As Court of Holyoke, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/18/2023.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, **Hon. Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: August 21, 2023

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
09/01/2023

**City of Holyoke
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

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

suant to the Holyoke Zoning Ordinance Section 6.4.6.4, a Special Permit for an Increase in Sign Size for The Log Cabin, at 500 Easthampton Rd (Parcel 213-00-003), submitted by Ace Signs Inc.

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

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

**City of Holyoke
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

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

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

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

**City of Holyoke
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

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

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

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

APPLICANT:
Brennan Consulting, Inc
PLANNING BOARD:
Mimi Panitch
08/25, 09/01/2023

EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of Labor Day,
PUBLIC NOTICES
EARLY AD DEADLINE
Place your public notice
no later than 2 pm
Friday, September 1
– Thank you!

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

The Holyoke Sun
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

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PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

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

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

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EVENTS

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August 29th through September 9th
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Every Day

PLUS a Huge Tag Sale on Saturday, September 2nd as a part of Monson Town Wide Tag Sale.

Great Items! Bookshelves, Rocking Chairs, RR Ties, Lots of "Country," Bottles, Old Tools, many boxes full as of this writing that will include all Estate Items

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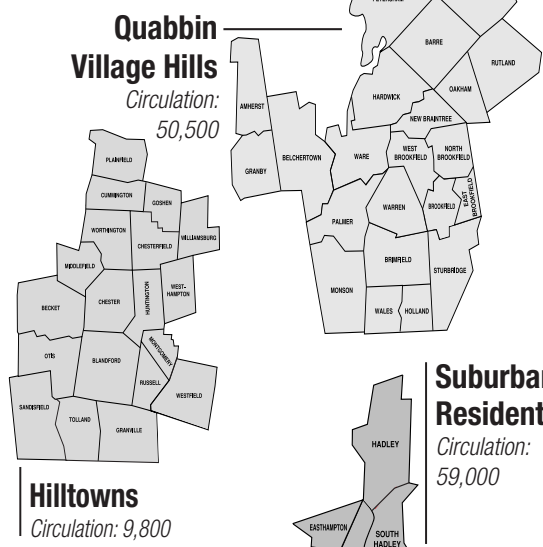
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1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40



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Clean energy incentives for all: a free public forum

WESTFIELD – The Pioneer Valley Library Collaborative and Voices for Climate are pleased to announce the keynote event for climate preparedness week, Sept. 24 to Sept. 30. On Wednesday, Sept. 27, the public is invited to the Clean Energy Incentives For All Forum at Westfield State University in Wilson Hall. There will be a reception with light refreshments beginning at 5:45 p.m. during which clean energy resources and information will be exhibited. The forum presentation will begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by a Q&A segment. The Forum's goal is to highlight state and federal incentives for homeowners, renters, businesses, municipalities, nonprofits and individuals to cut costs by shifting to clean energy sources, move away from fossil fuel use and thus assist Massachusetts in the transi-

tion to a greener, low-carbon economy.

Special opening remarks from Hampden County District Attorney Anthony Gulluni will welcome our audience, followed by a distinguished panel featuring Larry Chretien, CEO of Green Energy Consumer Alliance; Massachusetts Deputy Climate Chief, Jonathan Schrag; and Massachusetts Senator Paul Mark. Beth Spong, the new CEO of Dean's Beans Organic Coffee, of Orange, MA, will share her company's historical journey and successes to become a business committed to ecological accountability and highlight the business benefits of the MA and Federal incentives. A Q&A session will close out the evening.

The PVLC's focus for this year, along with its community partner, V4C, is to turn climate change aware-

ness into action using the incentives that are broadly available. The Collaborative is a partnership of 10 Western Massachusetts libraries that aspires to be a hub of climate education and conversation for communities in the region. The partners annually share their resources and talents to plan events and programming during Climate Preparedness Week. This dedicated group currently includes the public libraries of: Agawam, Granville, Westfield, Northampton, Southwick, Tolland, West Springfield, Easthampton, Williamstown, and Westhampton.

Registration is required for this event. The registration link can be found on the websites of each of the member libraries. Interested members of the public who are unable to attend may watch the forum over livestream on Facebook,

or through the recorded video available approximately two weeks after the event through member libraries' websites. Any questions about the event may be directed to John Meiklejohn at jmiserve183@gmail.com or call 413-348-2848.

The PVLC and V4C are grateful to the Forum's sponsors: Westfield Gas & Electric; Citizens Climate Lobby-Pioneer Valley; Elder Climate Action-MA; Climate Action Now-W. MA.; First Churches' Peace & Justice Team; and the Center for EcoTechnology. We're grateful as well to the Forum's partners: Sierra Club-MA; Mass Audubon; Citizen Climate Lobby-Berkshire; League of Women Voters of the Northampton Area; Kestrel Land Trust; Connecticut River Conservancy; Interfaith Power & Light, and Local Energy Advocates.

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