



Learn how to play mahjong

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The library is hosting weekly American mahjong sessions open to any adult interested in learning the game.

The sessions are on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

From 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. the session is geared toward beginners, and Sue Lehman, who has played mahjong for 11 years, will help to teach them the game.

From 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. the session is geared toward more experienced players.

Lehman encourages all adults to come in and give the game a try.

"I'm encouraging people to play," Lehman said. "Every hand

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Library asst. director publishes **book**

By Quinn Suomala
Staff writer

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Public Library Assistant Director Jason Lefebvre has published his second children's book.

The book, titled *So Much Slime* is a sequel to his first book, *Too Much Glue*, which came out in 2013.

Lefebvre was excited to put out another book with the support of his initial publisher, Flashlight Press.

"The publisher approached me in 2016 or 2017 about a sequel and so we started the draft and slime was still pretty popular and since the first story is about glue and glue is one of the ingredients in slime, it took off from there," Lefebvre said.

Lefebvre is grateful for the support from the library in helping to advertise his book.

"The library, the people I work with, are nice enough to reach out to people [about the book]," Lefebvre said. "I'm really lucky and really thankful."

Lefebvre got inspiration for writing this book



Holyoke Public Library Assistant Director Jason Lefebvre was proud that his second book, *So Much Slime*, is on display at the library as their story walk.

Turley photos by Quinn Suomala

by drawing on experiences around him. He had been a preschool teacher for 13 years, so he pulled ideas from things that had happened with slime and other crafts in his classroom.

"Working with kids when you're trying to write a picture book is kind of like cheating because they have better ideas than you," Lefebvre said.

He encourages other writers to take a similar approach to their own writing if interested in publishing.

"Write what you know is 'hack' and it is what everyone says, but it is true, your own voice is important," Lefebvre said. "Also, don't try to write to get published, write something that you think is good."

He also advises those interested in writing to ensure that they read books or written works in the genre they want to write in.

"Read 10,000 books in the field that you want to do," Lefebvre said.

When preparing to write his own book Lefebvre read many children's books on a daily basis. He was able to learn more about what worked in the genre by reading up on it.

"I started taking notes and writing things down," Lefebvre said.

He was drawn to writing in the genre because of the

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Micgiel discusses new books

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – Author of *Project Eagle: The Top-Secret OSS Operation That Sent Polish Spies Behind Enemy Lines in World War II*, John Micgiel, came to Holyoke Public Library to give a talk on his book.

At this talk Micgiel provided some of the background information on what caused him to write this book, and talked through the history told within the book itself.

Micgiel is a native to Holyoke and he wanted to ensure that the community could learn about this piece of history.

"There are a lot of immigrants in Holyoke, not only from Poland and other parts of Central Europe, but from all over the world and a common thread here of people doing something for the common good," Micgiel said.

The story of Micgiel's book portrays a group of

Polish spies behind German lines in World War II, where they helped to bring information to the Allied troops.

The group went through an intense training regiment where they had weapons training, close combat training, map reading, report writing training and more.

"These operatives learned how to be small James Bonds,

they learned to use cameras, they found a way to walk down the street and use shop windows as mirrors to see if they were being followed," Micgiel said. "All these kinds of bits and pieces that you see in spy movies."

This group of people went through this danger in the

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Author John Micgiel signs copies of his book at his author talk at Holyoke Public Library.

Turley photos by Quinn Suomala

Progress continues on new construction of middle school

HOLYOKE – The City of Holyoke continues to see tremendous progress towards building a new two-story, 107,475-square-foot middle school for 550 students, which is on track for completion next summer and to open for students in fall 2025.

On Thursday, Sept. 13, Mayor Joshua Garcia and Superintendent Anthony Sotolongo with more than 30 members of the Holyoke City Council, School Committee, School Building Committee, and Holyoke Public Schools staff-toured the construction site to see the progress achieved so far for the new middle school building.

"This building is the physical manifestation of what can happen when members of our community work together," said Garcia. "It was great to tour the construction

site yesterday with community leaders and school staff to see the progress firsthand."

The new middle school is an important component of Holyoke's efforts to strengthen learning opportunities and reimagine the middle school experience. The new building will replace the poorly designed, energy-inefficient William R. Peck School.

Recent progress includes: pouring more than 1,300 yards of concrete floor slabs; Completing structural steel framing and decking; Completing installation of underground plumbing and electrical systems; and beginning exterior wall framing and roofing systems in some sections of the new building.

"This building is the physical manifestation of what can happen when members of our community work together."

- Mayor Joshua Garcia

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Invitation to join Holyoke's Community Advisory Committee

HOLYOKE – In partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Holyoke School Committee is developing a plan to transition from state receivership back to local control. The School Committee plans to build on the district's accomplishments and listen to stakeholders about their hopes and expectations for the future of Holyoke's Public Schools and what is important to them as the School System transitions back to local control.

"The Holyoke Public School System is at a critical point in its efforts to realize its vision to become a high-performing school system where students reach their full potential, educators inspire, families are partners, and the community thrives," said Holyoke Mayor and School Committee Chair Joshua A. Garcia.

The School Committee, with support from DESE, is in the process of writing the transition plan and is seeking input to help inform the direction of their work through the creation of an Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee will be led by two co-chairs, ideally one co-chair from the School Committee and another from the community.

The role of the Advisory Committee

is to help shape the process and content of stakeholder engagement and provide input and feedback on elements of the transition plan.

For anyone interested in serving on the committee, here is additional information to know:

Pre-work for and participation in four advisory team meetings (1.5 hours per meeting)

(Early November), in-person — Understand why we are here and who is and isn't in the room, co-develop guiding questions for public meetings and focus groups. Pre-work: Read draft transition plan.

(Early December) — Ask and answer guiding questions for public meetings; review draft of questions for all-stakeholder survey

(Early January) — Review data from public meetings, focus groups, and survey. Determine themes. (Mid- or late-January) — Review final draft of transition plan, determine important next steps Attend one public engagement meeting about the transition plan.

The School Committee is looking for Advisory Committee members with a:

Desire to share not only their points

of view, but common points of view that others like them may share (e.g., parents speaking on behalf of other parents, teachers sharing the perspective of other staff members, etc.)

Belief that students are at the center of everything we do and in the HPS equity commitments that can be found at www.hps.holyoke.ma.us; and passion for education in Holyoke.

Ideal representation, across schools and across grade levels, includes:

Families and Students (10-14 representatives).

Middle and high school students (4)—at least 1 from Dean, 1 from North, 1 from Opportunity Academy, and 1 from a middle school. Parents/Caregivers (6-10) from various schools.

Holyoke Community (10 representatives), Partners (4) — at least 1 from higher education, 1 from a local business, and 2 from non-profit organizations, School Committee members (2), A designee from the City as chosen by Mayor Garcia (1), A City Council representative (1), Additionally interested community members (2).

Holyoke Public Schools Staff (8 representatives), Teachers (6)—1 each at the

high school, middle school, and elementary levels, and 1 each in early childhood, special education, and English language development. FACE team member (1), School leaders (e.g., principals, APs, Deans) (1), there is flexibility to add several other people depending on applicant interest.

When selecting Advisory Committee members, the School Committee will look to build a broad base of representation including diverse viewpoints and experiences, as well as race, gender, length of time in Holyoke, job function, school representation, etc.

If interested in applying please follow steps below;

Step 1: By Oct. 3, please submit your interest by filling out the form at www.holyoke.org/signmeup. Note: All applications should include a paragraph that answers the questions: Why do you want to serve on the Advisory Committee for Transition to Local Control? What skills or experiences would allow you to be a valuable contributor to the Team?

Step 2: The applicants will be presented to the School Board at their Oct. 15 meeting. The School Committee will select the applicants to serve on the Advisory Team membership.

City to host comprehensive plan listening sessions

HOLYOKE – The City of Holyoke is charting a path for the next chapter in its history.

For the first time since 1999, Holyoke is updating its Comprehensive Plan, a Commonwealth-mandated document under that requires Massachusetts cities and towns to maintain a plan for their long-term physical development. Through comprehensive plans, cities and towns envision aspirational futures for themselves and identify implementation pathways for achieving those aspirations. These plans span all aspects of physical development, from the types of housing available in the community, to how people get around, to the community's resilience to climate change, and more.

Holyoke is committed to shaping the new comprehensive plan through engagement with residents. This fall, the City will

host a series of community listening sessions. Free food featuring local restaurants and free youth activities will be provided. These sessions will be bilingual. Live Spanish interpretation will be available, and materials will be displayed in Spanish and English. Participants will receive free gift cards for the Holyoke Farmers' Market. City officials hope Holyokers will share their aspirations and priorities for the future of the community at any or all of the community listening sessions:

Community Listening Session #1
Wednesday, Sept. 25 Open house 5-6 p.m.
presentation and discussion 6-7 p.m.
Holyoke High School - North Campus,
500 Beech St.

Community Listening Session #2
Saturday, Oct. 26, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

(drop-in format)
Heritage State Park, 221 Appleton St.

Community Listening Session #3
Thursday, Nov. 21, 5-7 p.m.
Location TBA

Holyoke's Office of Planning and Economic Development is leading the comprehensive plan update in collaboration with the Holyoke Planning Board. To support them, a team of consultant urban planners has been retained, led by Cambridge-based Agency Landscape + Planning with support from Northampton-based Cambridge Econometrics, Boston-based Nitsch engineering, and Queens-based Hive Public Space. Several of the consulting planners are native Spanish speakers and several live in the Pioneer Valley. The City aims to complete the project in Summer 2025.

CYO Basketball league starting

HOLYOKE – The Our Lady of Guadalupe CYO Basketball Program, Holyoke, will be holding registration on Saturday, Sept. 28 and Oct. 5 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Our Lady of Guadalupe gymnasium, 340 Chestnut St. for K-2, kindergarten - 2nd grade (coed), 3&4th, 5&6th and 7&8th grade boys and girls teams. The price is \$75 for the first child; \$50 for the second child; \$135 per family. For more information, call Owen Donohue at 413-275-6075 or email helloh@aol.com.



Students participate in pre-apprenticeship, vocational school training

HOLYOKE – Students from Holyoke Public School's Dean Technical High School took part in the Massachusetts Pre-Apprenticeship and Vocational School Training Program from Sept. 9 through Sept. 13, gaining valuable hands-on experience in the highway construction industry to help prepare them for careers after graduation.

Over the course of four days, students from Dean's carpentry, electrical, auto collision, and diesel technology programs engaged in trainings in both classroom and shop settings, gaining valuable knowledge

in key areas of the construction trades. They learned critical skills such as concrete mixing and surveying techniques, while also earning CPR certification.

The program culminated in a field trip to the New England Laborers' Training Academy, where students toured the facility and received hands-on instruction in scaffolding construction. Throughout the program, strict standards were upheld, with an emphasis on punctuality and readiness to work, reflecting the expectations of real-world job sites.

The program was supervised by

Carpentry Instructor Scot Goulding who accompanied the students to the New England Laborers' Training Academy. Goulding is past president of North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters Union Local 336 and has a long-standing relationship with the Pre-Apprenticeship Program.

Joel McAuliffe, director of Career and Technical Education at Dean Tech, emphasized the importance of providing diverse opportunities for students. "We're committed to doing whatever we can to give our students more opportunities by exposing

them to as many career pathways as possible. Programs like this don't just equip students with technical skills; they also teach them the discipline and work ethic that employers demand. It's about giving them every chance to succeed."

This partnership between Dean Technical High School and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation allows students to take the first step toward promising career paths while still in high school, creating direct pathways to apprenticeships and long-term employment in the trades.

COLLEGE NOTES

HCC announces summer dean's list

HOLYOKE – Each semester Holyoke Community College recognizes superior scholarship through the Dean's List. A student is placed on the dean's list if their G.P.A. is 3.2 or higher. The students listed below have earned dean's list honors for the Summer 2024 term. The following students are from Holyoke: Chad Andrew Correia, Jalen J. Cortes, Robert Floyd Domina, Lily Margaret Flint, Sylvia Annette Garcia, Sarah Michelle Gray, Brendan Joseph Kavanah, Crystalline Amanda Lopez, Erin Frances O'Donnell, Keri Padua, Charlotte Price, Nilmarie Rivera, Aidan Alejandro Sugrue, Brian Daniel Torres.

Detours planned for Holyoke's Route 141 milling operations

HOLYOKE – Milling operations on Easthampton Road, Route 141 are scheduled to begin on Monday, Sept. 23. Milling is when crews remove a top portion of the pavement to prepare for repaving. As a result of this work, the following detours are planned:

Monday, Sept. 23

Westbound traffic (from Easthampton to Holyoke) will be detoured to Clark Street to East Street and from that point will follow the detour used when Mountain Road is closed during inclement weather.

Eastbound traffic (from Holyoke to Easthampton) will be detoured to

Southampton Road, County Road, Line Road to Park Street where drivers will access the center of Easthampton.

Tuesday, Sept. 24

Westbound traffic (from Easthampton to Holyoke) will be detoured to East Street and from that point will follow the detour used when closing Mountain Road during inclement weather.

Eastbound traffic (from Holyoke to Easthampton) will be detoured to Southampton Road, County Road, Line Road to Park Street where drivers will access the center of Easthampton.

Wednesday, Sept. 25

Westbound traffic (from Easthampton to Holyoke) will be detoured to East Street and follow the detour used for closing Mountain Road during inclement weather.

Eastbound traffic (from Holyoke to Easthampton) - no detour

Thursday, Sept. 26

Westbound traffic (from Easthampton to Holyoke) will be detoured to East Street and follow the detour used for closing Mountain Road during inclement weather.

Eastbound traffic (from Holyoke to Easthampton) - no detour

Local traffic, buses, and delivery services will be allowed through although there may be minor delays.



HCC celebrates expansion of college food pantry

HOLYOKE – The new Holyoke Community College food pantry is more than four times the size of the old one. More than that, it is now just steps away from the HCC Campus Center and cafeteria.

“This new location feels so much more like a hub for our students to receive the support they need,” said Amanda Sbriscia, HCC vice president of Institutional Advancement. “The shelves are well stocked. It’s bright, it’s accessible, and it’s judgment free, which is so important.”

The occasion for her remarks was a Sept. 10 ribbon-cutting celebration marking the relocation and expansion of both the HCC Thrive Center and the food pantry. Prior to the move, the food pantry occupied a small space within the Thrive Center, which was located in a tight, reconfigured classroom on the second floor of the Frost Building.

Now, the Thrive Center and food pantry occupy dedicated, more spacious rooms side by side on the second floor of the Kittredge Center for Business and Workforce Development, which adjoins the Campus Center.

The Thrive Center (formerly called the Thrive Student Resource Center) helps students address nonacademic issues that can interfere with their studies, such as food and housing insecurity, transportation, healthcare, childcare, utilities, and credit. Thrive also manages the food pantry.

“When you think about college and what it takes to be successful, there’s so many things that can prevent you from learning,” said President George Timmons. “So, this is just another opportunity for us to live up to our mission, which is being an institution of academic excellence that helps remove barriers to student success.”

Now, inside the Thrive Center, Ben Ostiguy, Thrive coordinator, and Elizabeth Rivera, Thrive’s bilingual program assistant, each have their own offices where they can meet privately with students. There’s also an additional office for a soon-to-be hired food pantry manager.

Next door, in the food pantry itself, black wire shelving units hold nonperishable food as well as school supplies, baby supplies, and personal care items - all free. There is also a freezer for frozen food items and a refrigeration unit for drinks and perishable items.

“What I always tell folks is that our first impression is our first intervention, so the first impression we make with students is pretty critical,” said Ostiguy. “I think having a fresh space with updated equipment and designs sends the right message to students. It shows that the campus cares, that this is a priority, and that we are prepared to help them in meaningful ways.”

Before the ribbon-cutting, Sbriscia thanked the many donors and partners responsible for making the Thrive Center and food pantry successful, including the United Way of Pioneer Valley, the Holyoke Housing Authority, Rachel’s Table, the Caring Health Center, PeoplesBank, Stop and Shop, Gary Rome Hyundai, Hyundai America, One Holyoke CDC, Enlace de Familias, and Tech Foundry.

“If you could, for a moment, just think about what it feels like to be hungry,” said Sbriscia, who is also executive director of the HCC Foundation, which manages a special fund on behalf of Thrive. “You’re irritable, you’re tired, you’re distracted. No student should have that feeling as they go through their day. This is a space that ensures that they get what they need so they can do what they are here to do, which is to succeed in college and graduate.”

Harper’s Haven Halloween event

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Parks and Recreation Department cordially invites the community to the Fourth annual Harper’s Haven Halloween Event. This event will take place on Friday, Oct. 4, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Community Field (off Cherry Street).

Music, glitter tattoos by Dazzle Day Artists and an arts and crafts table will be available. Enjoy pizza, drinks, cookies and goodie bags while supplies



last. Wear your favorite Halloween costume. Take pictures with Spiderman and Cinderella. Visit with the Holyoke Fire Department.

This event is free of charge, weather permitting. This event is sponsored by the Holyoke Parks and Recreation Department and Harper’s Family.

For more information visit our web site at www.holyoke.org or call the Parks & Recreation Department at (413) 322-5620.

HCC event series celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College is recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month this year with a series of events celebrating Latinx history and culture.

“Latinx Heritage Month” events at HCC begin Wednesday, Sept. 18, at 11 a.m. with a celebration of Puerto Rican history and culture focusing on a style of music known as Reggaetón in the HCC Campus Center.

Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated nationally each year from September 15 through October 15 to recognize the cultural and historical influences of Hispanic Americans. On the HCC campus, starting this year, it is being called Latinx Heritage Month.

HCC is a federally designated Hispanic Serving Institution. About 34 percent of students identify as Hispanic, Latino, or Latinx.

“We use the term Latinx throughout our campus conversations and believe it is a more inclusive term that creates space for a broader group of people from Latin America including Black and indigenous communities and is also gender inclusive,” said Julissa Colón, director of El Centro, a bilingual support program for Latinx students.

Latinx Heritage Month events at HCC:

Sept. 18, 11 a.m.: “Hasta ‘Bajo: Reggaetón, Historia y Cultura

Puertorriqueña,” an interactive workshop exploring Reggaetón music and its history (El Centro, Campus Center 248).

Sept. 18, 5:30 p.m., “Family Story Time: ¡En español!” President George Timmons will read *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* in English, with ASL translation, followed by reading in Spanish. There will be arts and crafts, raffle prizes, giveaways, and a selfie-station, El Centro, Campus Center 248.

Sept. 24, 1:30 p.m., “Froteria.” Enjoy fried treats and play the lottery with members of El Centro and HCC’s ALANA Men in Motion programs. (Kittredge Center 301).

Oct. 2, 11 a.m., Latinx Fiesta, a celebration of Latinx heritage with food, music, and crafts. (Campus Center cafeteria).

Oct. 9, 11 a.m., “The Intersections of Deaf and Cultural Identities: Puerto Rican Experiences,” a panel presentation supporting both Hispanic Heritage Month and Deaf Awareness Month, (Leslie Phillips Theater).

Continuously, throughout the month: “Our Heroes, Our History,” an exhibit highlighting the mural painted last year by artist Betsy Casañas in the Campus Center that features Latinx activists, artists, musicians, and educators, who have made a deep impact on Latinx history and culture. (Outside HCC Library, second floor, Donahue).

Holyoke Medical Center to offer free Health & Wellness Fair at Holyoke YMCA

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Medical Center will be hosting a free Health & Wellness Fair on Tuesday, Sept. 24 from 3 - 6 p.m. at the Holyoke YMCA located at 171 Pine Street. This event is free and open to the public and is sponsored in part by the Holyoke YMCA, Abbott, Dexcom, and Novo Nordisk.

“Holyoke Medical Center is dedicated to improving the health of the community we serve, and supporting people to live a more balanced, healthy life. Guests can learn about household-wide lifestyle changes to help them live better,” says Lisa Wray Schechterle,

Director of Community Benefits at Holyoke Medical Center. “This family-friendly, interactive event will have activities for the whole family.”

The Greater Holyoke YMCA will demonstrate how to incorporate exercise into a daily routine. Guests can learn about Holyoke Medical Center specialties available.

The Health & Wellness Fair will also offer free blood pressure screenings, free bilingual recipe books, healthy cooking demonstrations, raffles, and more. Children’s activities, including a bounce house, will also be available.

Free computer literacy training offered

HOLYOKE – In partnership with the nonprofit CanCode Communities, Holyoke Community College is offering a free six-week beginner computer training course starting Sept. 30.

The real-time, instructor-led online classes will run Mondays and Wednesdays Sept. 30 to Nov. 6, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Laptops and WiFi hotspots for internet access will be provided for students who need them.

The program is aimed at helping

individuals build essential computer skills for both personal and professional development. Participants will explore the Microsoft Office program, learn how to create resumes, manage calendars, and send email, and be introduced to the world of artificial intelligence.

Funding for the program comes from the Western Mass Alliance for Digital Equity. To sign up for classes, please send an email to admissions@can-code.org or call 518-238-6808 (ext. 702).

HHS class of ‘69 to host reunion

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke High School Class of 1969 will be holding its 55th reunion on Saturday, Oct. 5, at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 250 Westfield Road.

The reunion party will begin at 5:30 p.m. with cocktails and hors d’oeuvres, followed by dinner at 7 p.m. Dinner, raffle, and cash bar, along with entertainment by Moose and the

Hightops, will be provided. Tickets are \$45. The Reunion Committee has worked to locate as many classmates as possible.

To be sure everyone is invited or have questions, please contact Janice Shewchuk (413-530-9524), Marc Joyce (413-575-0597), or HOLYOKEHIGHCLASSOF1969@gmail.com.

Annual Communion Breakfast Sept. 29

HOLYOKE – Saint Jerome Parish is hosting its annual Communion Breakfast on Sunday, Sept. 29 at 9 a.m. at the Pope John Paul II Social Center on the Mater Dolorosa Campus. The guest speaker is Sr. Joan Magnani, Ministry Coordinator at Jericho, The Bureau for Exceptional Children and Adults. Tickets are \$20 per person and may be purchased at all weekend Masses at St. Jerome’s from Sept. 7 through Sept. 15 or by contacting the Parish Office at 413-532-6381.

Join in for a day of singing in harmony at UCC Church

HOLYOKE – Discovery of Harmony, Incorporated, which is an international organization of female a cappella singers specializing in barber-shop style harmony, will be hosting a Discover Harmony Day, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Oct. 5, at the UCC Church, 300 Appleton St. We are excited to introduce the Holyoke area to Harmony, Inc. and a cappella singing in the barber-shop style.

A youth a cappella workshop for 14-20 year-olds and an adult a cappella workshop for 21 year-olds and above

will be offered for all genders. Each ensemble of sopranos and altos will learn two songs in four-part harmony. Pre-registration for these free workshops is required and available at www.area2harmony.org. A free public concert by the Silk’n Sounds Chorus, Area 2 quartets, and the workshop ensembles will culminate the day of learning, starting at 3 p.m., also at the UCC Church. Everyone is welcome and no registration is required to enjoy the concert. For more information please email director@area2harmony.org.

About Harmony, Incorporated: Harmony, Inc. is an international, non-profit organization whose mission is empowering all women through singing, education, and friendship. Since its founding in Providence, RI in 1959, the organization has expanded from its Eastern roots to include chapters throughout the United States and Canada, from California to Newfoundland, and from Manitoba to Florida. For more information, visit www.HarmonyInc.org (<http://www.HarmonyInc.org>).

Guest Column



Widow's benefits vs. benefits from my ex-spouse

Dear Rusty

In November I will be 60 and eligible for widow's benefits. My late husband's Social Security was approximately \$2,300 when he passed around 7 years ago.

FYI, my ex-husband is still working and will probably receive the highest SS when he retires in about five years, we were married for more than 10 years. Either of these is more than my own Social Security will be, so how does this work? Will this turn into my Social Security? Can I start on one and switch to the other later?

Signed Wondering Widow

Dear Wondering Widow

Provided you have not remarried before age 60, you have a choice which benefit to receive – either your deceased husband's benefit as his surviving spouse or your ex-spouse benefit from your ex-husband while he is still living. Taking your survivor benefit from your deceased husband will likely be best because it is based on 100% of his SS amount when he died, whereas your ex-spouse benefit from your living ex-husband is based on 50% of his Full Retirement Age entitlement. To get an ex-spouse benefit from your ex-husband, which you can't get until you are 62, your own SS retirement benefit would need to be less than 50% of your ex's FRA entitlement.

As you know, you will be eligible for survivor widow's benefits from your deceased husband when you are 60, but be aware that by taking your survivor benefit at 60, it will be reduced for early claiming. Rather than 100% of your husband's SS benefit, at age 60 you will get about 71.5%. Your surviving spouse benefit

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Election letters to the editor welcome

The Holyoke Sun welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Holyoke Sun, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to thesun@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Friday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

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

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



Guest Column



By Ellenor Downer



Common nighthawk

A Brimfield resident emailed that on Wednesday, Aug. 28, "I sat outside in front of the house and saw 35 common nighthawks, a group of 5, 7, 22 and a straggler. The group of 22 flew around overhead for 2-3 minutes, fluttery flight, erratic, back and forth, round and round." He said he has sat out three other nights and not seen a single nighthawk.

The common nighthawk is 10 inches long and is often seen flying at dusk or dawn and sometimes during the day. They have long, thin pointed wings with a conspicuous white bar near the tips of their wings.

Their flight tends to be high over 40 feet with slow, deliberate wingbeats. The male has a white band near the tip of his tail, which the female lacks. They have mottled feathers with white under their chin. Nighthawks scoop up flying insects when in flight. Sometimes they are seen feeding near city lights, which attract insects.

The common nighthawk gives a nasal "peerm" call. The lesser nighthawk is similar to the common, but flies much lower, 10 to 20 feet and has thin, rounded wings with the wing bar nearer the tip than its cousin.

The female common nighthawk lays two olive brown eggs with dark marks in a nest on gravelly soil, fields or gravel rooftops. They inhabit forests, plains and urban areas. Lesser nighthawks prefer rivers, lakes and desert scrub.

Warren bird sightings

In Warren there are still great egrets at the pond on New Reed Street and a juvenile osprey was seen Friday, Aug. 30 at the pond on South Street. It was perched in a tree eating a fish.

Cooper's hawk

My daughter had what most likely was a Cooper's hawk in her yard in late August. She heard a knocking on her basement slider. When she looked over her deck, the hawk was on the ground by the slider. She went downstairs to check on him and he flew up to her deck and then went into a tree before flying off.

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A blueberry question



by Roberta McQuaid

"My name is Ed and I have a question that I hope you can answer: I have a small part of my back yard where three tomato plants used to grow. This year I bought a blueberry plant which I never have grown before. I planted it in May of this year and as of mid August I still have not had any blueberries yet. The plant actually looks the same as it did in May. I water the plant every day and just wondering why nothing has grown yet. I actually am considering just letting the blueberry plant stay as is through the winter and maybe by early 2025 there might be some blueberries. Any comment is much appreciated. Thanks!"

Thank you for your question, Ed. I am thinking that your blueberry plant might need a bit more time adjusting to its sur-

roundings, and maybe a correction on soil pH.

Read on to learn about that.

Blueberries, more than tomatoes, are picky about pH. They are ericaceous, or "acid-loving," just like rhododendrons and azaleas. In this part of the country our soil tends to be acidic, but blueberries like an even lower pH than most soils have, to the tune of 4.8.

To find out the pH of your soil, have it tested by the University of Massachusetts Cooperative Extension service. If you specify at testing time that you wish to grow blueberries, they will give you advice on how to amend the soil for that crop.

Some amendments used to lower pH include sulfur, peat moss and leaf humus among others.

I would also recommend that you apply mulch around the blueberry bush to a depth of four inches. As you know, mulch will conserve soil moisture as well as continue to add organic matter and nutrients to the soil as it breaks down.

For blueberries the best choice is well rotted sawdust. Grass clippings and straw are also suitable but need to be replaced more quickly than sawdust.

See GARDEN, page 5

HOLYOKE the Sun TEAM



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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 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.

Guest Column

BACKYARD, from page 4

Loon chick rescue

On Aug. 22, Loon Preservation Committee received a call from Pawtuckaway Lake. Lake residents had found a loon chick that had beached itself on an island with no parents in sight. The chick had fishing line tangled around its neck, head and bill.

"As they called, the residents were in the process of untangling the chick and they asked us for guidance regarding what to do next. We were thankful that they had noticed and were helping the loon, and were also thankful that they had called us. Sometimes when

loons are tangled in fishing line, there are additional injuries from hooks or tackle that are not immediately obvious when looking at the bird externally and we wanted to make sure that was not the case with this loon."

"LPC's Pemigewasset Region Biologist, Jayden Mowery, was able to meet with the rescuers and collect the chick from them. He then brought it to VCA Capital Area Veterinary Emergency and Specialty (CAVES), where he met up with Maria Colby and CAVES veterinary staff to x-ray the loon. We were glad to have taken this extra step to ensure the chick was okay, because the x-ray revealed something

that was not easily visible during the external exam: the chick had a fishing hook embedded in the flesh of its mouth, under its tongue."

An x-ray of the chick's head and neck revealed a large fishing hook embedded in the tissue of its mouth, underneath its tongue. It was removed and the chick was returned to the lake where it joined its parents.

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



Cooper's hawk

SECURITY, from page 4

reaches maximum at your Full Retirement Age of 67 and will grow to that point, but will be reduced if taken prior to that.

Also, if you are working, Social Security's "earnings test" will apply until you reach your full retirement age, so your plans for working may influence your decision on when to claim your widow's benefit. If you exceed the earnings limit (\$22,320 for 2024; it changes annually), Social Security will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit.

They "take away" by withholding future benefits until the penalty is satisfied, which means you would go some number of months without benefits. And, if you substantially exceed the earnings limit you may even be temporarily ineligible for any SS benefits until you earn less or reach your FRA - the earnings test goes away at your FRA.

If you claim your surviving spouse benefits from your deceased husband first, and your ex-husband later dies, you do have the option to switch to the higher

survivor benefit from your ex-husband. In effect, if both husbands are deceased, you have a choice which benefit to take and, obviously, you'd chose the higher of the two.

None of this, however, happens automatically. To claim your surviving spouse benefit you will need to contact Social Security directly at 1-800-772-1213 or call your local SS office to make an appointment to apply for widow's benefits.

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.

GARDEN, from page 4

A word of caution: make sure the sawdust is well rotted or it could potentially burn tender stems as well as rob nitrogen from the plant it is intending to help.

Blueberries can self-pollinate, but for the best berry production plant at least two different blueberry varieties within 10 feet of one another. If, for example, the variety you have ripens mid season, purchase another mid season bush, so that the flowers will be blooming and therefore pollinated at the same time.

You will be delighted with larger fruit and more of it!

There would be some crossover with early and later varieties, but with only two plants I'd err on the side of caution and just purchase another of the same season whatever that is. If you don't know, don't worry about it, just plant another bush regardless.

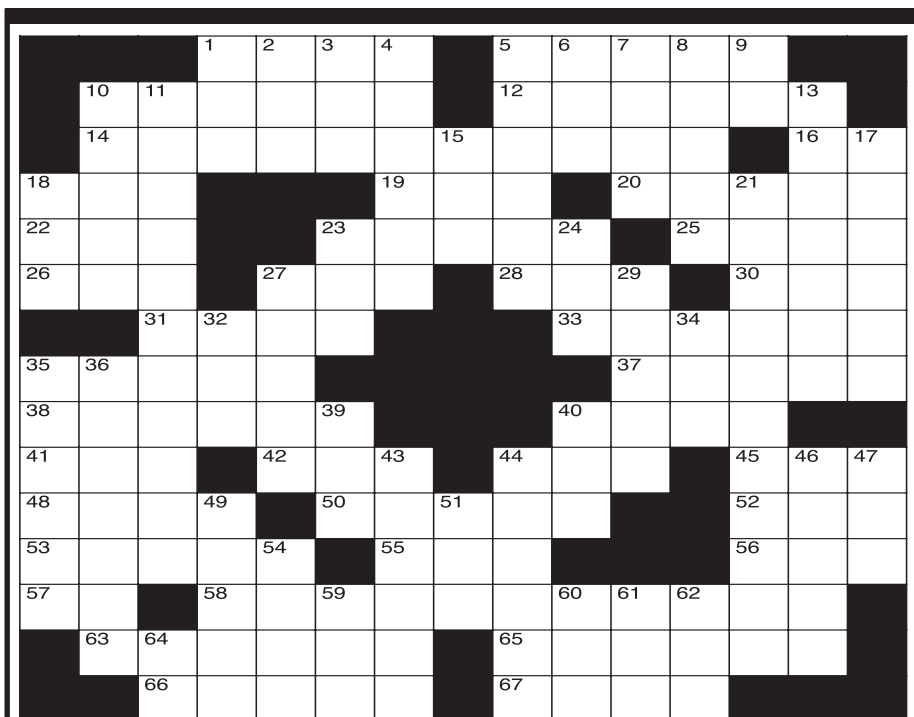
The last thing I'd like to mention is that it usually takes two-three years for blueberries to produce fruit even

if all of their needs are being met. It has to do with the maturity of the branches and whether they are productive.

The most productive branches tend to be around three years old. I'm not sure how old your plant was upon installation, but maybe it just needs a little more time.

Well, we covered a lot of material here, but I can sense how badly you'd like to see your bushes bare fruit. By making a few minor changes and providing the one plant you have with a friend you will hopefully see berries in a couple of years at the most. Thanks for the question, Ed!

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.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Wrest
- 5. Russian river
- 10. Grupo Montparnasse founder
- 12. One who quits prematurely
- 14. Related to the nature of being
- 16. Early multimedia
- 18. Indigenous Tibetan religion
- 19. Tease
- 20. J.M. __, Irish dramatist
- 22. Pounds per square inch
- 23. Surrendered
- 25. Notable Dallas Cowboy Leon
- 26. Dash
- 27. Man who behaves dishonorably
- 28. British Air Aces
- 30. Data executive

- 31. Spiritual leader
- 33. Flower cluster
- 35. Of the cheek
- 37. Tears down
- 38. Uncoordinated
- 40. Touches lightly
- 41. Soak
- 42. Founder of Babism
- 44. Not good
- 45. Inches per minute (abbr.)
- 48. Type of casino game
- 50. Skills assessments for adults
- 52. Check
- 53. Gives a job
- 55. Fifth note of a major scale
- 56. Small, faint constellation
- 57. Thou
- 58. Reduce
- 63. Another recording
- 65. Removes for good
- 66. Jill and Catherine

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Greenwich Time
- 2. Metropolis
- 3. Complete
- 4. Scheduled
- 5. One who obeys
- 6. Resinlike substance secreted by certain lac insects
- 7. Days (Spanish)
- 8. Unsaturated hydrocarbon radical
- 9. Region of the U.S. (abbr.)
- 10. Tributary of the Alabama River
- 11. One who eliminates
- 13. Ballroom music
- 15. Officer in the Book of Mormon
- 17. Denies
- 18. Barrels per day (abbr.)
- 21. Make vital
- 23. Former NFLer Newton
- 24. Kashmiri tribe
- 27. Indigenous S. American person
- 29. Capacitance unit
- 32. MLB great Scherzer
- 34. Taxi
- 35. Boggy
- 36. Artist's workroom
- 39. Feline
- 40. Prosecutors
- 43. Freshwater perches
- 44. Young ladies
- 46. Whittles
- 47. Licensed for Wall Street
- 49. Type of gene
- 51. Express displeasure
- 54. Fly high
- 59. Norwegian krone
- 60. Investment account
- 61. Chinese surname
- 62. Language
- 64. By the way (abbr.)

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 9

Send Us Your Community Dazzler Events

Turley Publications will print your holiday calendar events **FREE OF CHARGE** in our **Dazzler Supplement** which will be published **November 13, 2024**.
 Total circulation of **85,000** which reaches over **200,000** readers in the Pioneer Valley.
Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

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Location _____

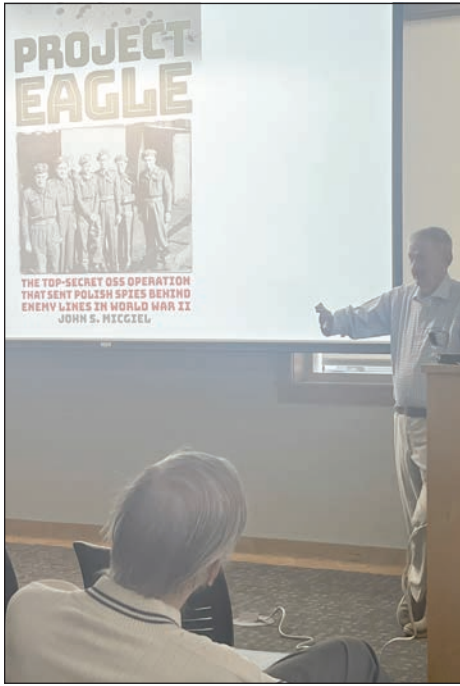
Description _____

Cost _____

Contact name & phone number for more information _____

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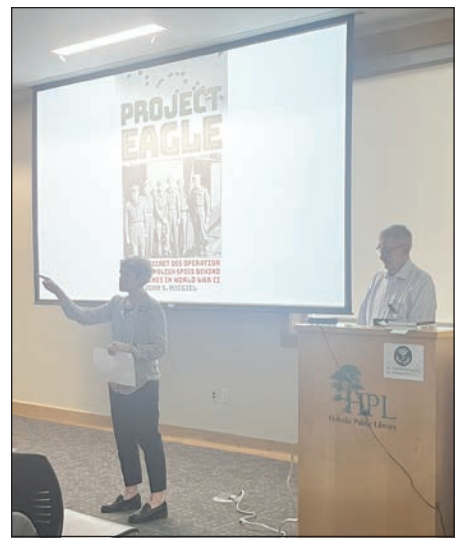
In The News



Author John Micgiel opened his talk by explaining what got him into writing his book.



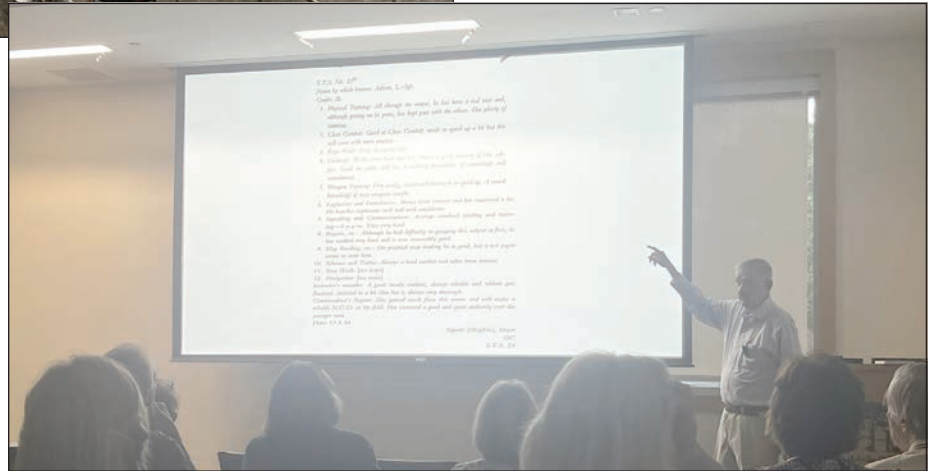
Community members gathered at the library for Author John Micgiel's talk.



Special Collections Librarian Eileen Crosby welcomed everyone to Author John Micgiel's talk.



People mingled and chatted before the beginning of Author John Micgiel's author talk.



Author John Micgiel explained the training regimen of the group of Polish spies that made up Project Eagle. *Turley photos by Quinn Suomala*

MICGIEL, from page 1

hopes of bringing an end to the war, even as their own nation was occupied by the Axis powers.

"It became public knowledge that FDR, and Churchill and Stalin, had... signed a deal that 48% of the Polish State was now the Soviet Union," Micgiel said. "It took the air of these men...because they thought that they were all allies and they were fighting for the Poland they knew."

Even with this struggle, the 32 men pushed through and dedicated themselves to continuing this mission.

"They could have easily said thanks, but no thanks, this isn't for me," Micgiel said.

Micgiel was inspired by this story of dedication by these men, and he delighted to have come across their tale in his own research.

He happened to run across documents in the state department records that hinted at this secret mission.

"It was serendipity," Micgiel said.

As he then moved from place to place he kept the information in his files and, eventually, decided to look into it further.

"I returned to the story of what turned out to be Project Eagle and I had no idea, at all, what I was getting into," Micgiel said.

When he looked back into this information, he went to the records on the OSS and found out that they were in a library in Maryland.

So, he went to the archives and had to find what he wanted within the over nine million documents in the OSS archives.

In the end, between when he first found the note that led him to Project Eagle and the research he did after, it took him four decades to find all of the information and put this book together.

He is beyond proud of this book and he is publishing a second book on the topic.

"It has information from families of people who participated in the missions that were flown into Nazi Germany at the end of the second world war," Micgiel said.

Micgiel's book can be purchased on Amazon and at local bookstores and a copy of it can be checked out at Holyoke Public Library.

To keep updated on events happening at Holyoke Public Library, go to their website at <http://holyokelibrary.org>.

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Tough second half hurts Holyoke in Week 1

HOLYOKE – Last Thursday night, Holyoke High School football fell to Pittsfield 36-12.

The Knights trailed by just a touchdown heading into the second half, but were shut out on offense in the final two frames.

Holyoke got touchdowns from Jayderson Lugo. Devin Velez went 15-for-28 for 113 yards passing. He was hurt by three interceptions, though.

The Knights were scheduled to host Agawam on Thursday, Sept. 19 and travel to Taconic next on Saturday, Sept. 28 at 1 p.m.



Isasias Roman navigates through the middle.

Quarterback Devin Velez attempts a pass.

Lyshad Wilson carries the ball for Holyoke.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Avantaey Rivera attempts a carry for the Knights.



Christian Guzik starts a run up the field. *Turley photos by David Henry*

Kennedy goal helps Holyoke get draw

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke High School boys soccer team picked up a 1-1 tie against Monson last Friday afternoon. Ryan Kennedy scored the lone goal for Holyoke in the first half. He took a pass from Don Ampofo and was able to notch the first half goal. Landon Koziara had three saves. The Knights are 0-3-1.



Xevier Davila sends a pass up the field.



Ryan Kennedy works away from a defender.



Nayan Tabin flies for a header.

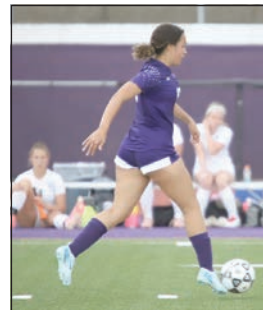
Knights out to 3-1 start

HOLYOKE – After falling in its season opener, Holyoke girls soccer has gotten its offense going and is now 3-1 following 7-1 wins over Mahar and St. Mary's.

The Knights also defeated Ware 5-1 last Monday. With the wins, the Knights are next scheduled to host Eastern Mass. school Deham on Saturday morning at 11 a.m.



Selina Alicea settles the ball off her chest.



Jia-Li Rodriguez chases down the loose ball.



Jayvah Stuckey punts the ball away.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Leilany Figueroa uses her body to block the ball.



Kennedy Allen tries to clear the ball away.

Westfield State University Owls win first football game

WESTFIELD – Westfield State senior QB Gabe Fernandez (Holyoke, Mass.) tossed a 22-yard touchdown pass to senior WR Conor Schlittler (Walpole, Mass.) to lift the Owls to a 24-17 win over Bridgewater State in the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference opener for both schools.

Westfield improves to 1-1 overall and 1-0 in the MASCAC, while Bridgewater Starts 0-2 and 0-1 in the MASCAC.

Westfield trailed 17-10 at the half, then got a series of clutch plays.

A muffed punt return by the Bears set the Owls 1st and 10 at the Bridgewater 40, and four plays later Westfield's Jacob Swinehart (Holyoke, Mass.) darted 24 yards down the right sideline on a pitchout play to cut the lead to 17-16 after the Owls could not convert the extra point.

The Bears offense stalled late. Another muff on the ensuing kick return buried the Bears' drive start inside their

own 10 yard line on the next series. A series later Zach Allen (Chelmsford, Mass.) intercepted a deep sideline pass by Bridgewater QB SP Pragano (Northford, Conn./Lyman Hall) to stall that series, and then the Owls marched 58 yards in 6 plays to set up Schlittler's TD. Fernandez found running back Curtis Dion (Seymour, Conn.) in the flat for the two point conversion with 6:53 left in the game.

Westfield's defense held the Bears to -5 yards and a punt on the next series. The Owls worked almost four minutes off the clock before turning the ball over on downs, with 2:19 left in the game, and while the Bears drove to the Westfield 24, on fourth down the Owls flushed Pragano out of the pocket and Owls DT Dylan Zuerblis (Wethersfield, Conn.) knocked Pragano out of bounds for a sack to give the ball back to the Owls.

Sean Willis (Schenectady, NY/Mohonasen) hammered the ball seven yards on first down, and battled for a first

down a few plays later and Westfield was able to run out the clock for Westfield's first win over the Bears since 2011.

Westfield was led by an efficient 6-10 passing performance for Fernandez for 96 yards and a pair of touchdowns, as he tossed a 7-yard TD to Jordan Lanoue (Belchertown, Mass.) in the first half. Willis finished with 67 yards on 18 carries.

Blake Simpson (Bellingham, Mass.) and Cade Nelson (Shrewsbury, Mass.) each made seven tackles to lead the Owls.

The win gave Westfield State head coach Lou Conte, Jr. his first win as an Owl, after taking over the reins of the Owls' program this summer.

Pragano finished 11-26 passing for 122 yards. Trevor Nunes (E. Falmouth, Mass./Falmouth) carried 13 times for 42 yards and a TD. Jack McCarthy (Braintree, Mass./Archbishop Williams) was the Bears leading receiver with two catches for 47 yards.

Bridgewater's defense was led by

Mark DeGirolamo (Mansfield, Mass.) with 13 stips and Nicolas Canales (Lake Ronkonkoma, NY/Sachem) made 12 tackles. Jorge Aquino (Bergenfield, NJ) finished with eight tackles and 1.5 sacks.

The Bears got out to leads of 7-0 and 14-3, sandwiching a 1 yard run from Nunes on the first drive, and a 14-yard Dallas Murphy keeper TD out of a wildcat set early in the third quarter around a 25-yard field goal from Westfield's Andrew Currier (Attleboro, Mass.).

Westfield ran more offensive plays than their opponent for the second straight week, getting 69 snaps to the bears 55. Westfield held the ball for 40 of the 60 minutes in the game.

Westfield will be back in action at home with a 2 p.m. kickoff against Western Connecticut State University on Saturday, Sept. 21, while the Bears will stay on the road with a matchup at Plymouth State that same day at noon. Both games are MASCAC Conference tilts.

HoopHall announces presenters

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame has announced the list of Hall of Famers who will present the Class of 2024 at the Enshrinement Ceremony on Sunday, October 13, at Symphony Hall in Springfield, Massachusetts, the "Birthplace of Basketball." Over 50 Hall of Famers, including all presenters, are expected to be in attendance for the ceremony.

Members of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame Class of 2024 were asked to select previous inductees to accompany and present them during the ceremony. The choice is solely up to the incoming Hall of Famers or, in the case of posthumous recognition, their family members.

The 2024 Hall of Fame Inductees and Presenters:

Seimone Augustus - Lindsay Whalen (Class of 2022)

Dick Barnett - Bill Bradley ('83), Earl Monroe ('90)

Chauncey Billups - Larry Brown ('02), Tina Thompson ('18), Ben Wallace ('21)

Vince Carter - Julius Erving ('93), Tracy McGrady ('17)

Doug Collins - Billy Cunningham ('86), Jerry Reinsdorf ('16), Grant Hill ('18)

Michael Cooper - Kareem Abdul-Jabbar ('95), Magic Johnson ('02), James Worthy ('03), Pat Riley ('08), Lisa Leslie ('15)

Walter Davis - David Thompson ('96), Bob McAdoo ('00), Jerry Colangelo ('04),

Roy Williams ('07), Charlie Scott ('18), Bobby Jones ('19)

Harley Redin - Alice "Cookie" Barron ('19), Cherri Rapp ('19)

Bo Ryan - Roy Williams ('07), Gene Keady ('23)

Herb Simon - Larry Bird ('98), Reggie Miller ('12), Tamika Catchings ('20)

Charles Smith - Joe Dumars ('06)

Michele Timms - Teresa Edwards ('11), Katie Smith ('18)

Jerry West - Kareem Abdul-Jabbar ('95), Bob McAdoo ('00), Magic Johnson ('02), James Worthy ('03), Pat Riley ('08), Jamaal Wilkes ('12), Shaquille O'Neal ('16), Vlade Divac ('19), Del Harris ('22), Pau Gasol ('23), Michael Cooper ('24)

Springfield Thunderbirds pick up Meireles on AHL contract

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds announced today that they have signed forward Greg Meireles to a one-year AHL contract.

Meireles, 25, skated in 47 games last season with the Iowa Wild, tallying four goals and ten assists for 14 points to go along with 12 penalty minutes.

In 161 career AHL games with Syracuse, Manitoba, and Iowa, the

Ottawa, Ont. native has accumulated 60 points (18g, 42a) and 55 penalty minutes.

The 5-foot-11, 195-pound forward was originally a sixth-round selection of the Florida Panthers (168th overall) in the 2019 NHL Draft. Before turning pro,

Meireles spent parts of five seasons in the Ontario Hockey League with the Kitchener Rangers, where he put up 239 points (99g, 140a) in 244 games.



MIAA looks to honor officials

The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association is looking to collectively recognize the efforts of our Game Officials. The fall National Officials Appreciation Week will be held Oct. 6 to 12.

Once again, MIAA staff members will travel around the state to person-

ally thank officials and support their efforts on the local level. We hope that you will consider recognizing them in some manner.

The Winter Officials Appreciation Week will be Jan. 13-18, 2025 and the Spring Officials Appreciation Week will be April 6-12, 2025.

► From The Front

PROGRESS, from page 1

"Our community's investment in our youth is inspiring," said Soto. "The tour inside the building helped us visualize the learning environment our students will soon experience. I cannot wait to see our students learning together in our new school next year."

The \$85.5-million project was officially approved in June 2023 by the City of Holyoke and the Massachusetts School Building Authority. Of the total \$85.5 mil-

lion costs for demolition and construction, the City of Holyoke is responsible for paying approximately \$27.1 million (32% of the total project cost) and the MSBA will reimburse approximately \$58.4 million. Currently, the estimated project costs are under-budget.

Fontaine Bros. is the general contractor for the new school building. Fontaine Bros. was the lowest qualified bidder. Mount Vernon Group Architects is the design firm for the project. Anser Advisory is serving as the Owner's Project Manager.

The project timeline includes the following key steps:

October 2024: New water service installed

November 2024: Building enclosed; interior finishing work begins

October-November 2024: Gather community input on the name, color, and mascot for the new school building

January 2025: Select a name for new school building

Spring 2025: Identify staff to be assigned to the new school; plan for suc-

cessful opening of the new building

Spring 2025: Communicate with students and their families who will attend the new school

March 2025: Permanent power connected

Early June 2025: Building systems (e.g. mechanical, electrical, plumbing) completed

Late June 2025: Interior finishes completed

July 2025: Site work completed

Fall 2025: New school opens

MAHJONG, from page 1

is a new hand, every time you get the tiles it's a new challenge."

She has found the game to be challenging, fun, a good puzzle and a great opportunity to meet new people.

"You make connections, you make friends, you make long lasting friendships from it," Lehman said.

The rules for American mahjong are established nationwide, so people can play anywhere.

"I can play it anywhere in the country," Lehman said. "I can go to a city or town where I don't know anybody, go on social media and find a game. I go to Florida, I've gone to different communities

and I'll just ask where there is a game."

The game itself can be challenging to learn, and it changes each year, according to Lehman.

"You really have to work at it to really catch on and I encourage people to read about it or go online and do the lessons online," Lehman said.

Lehman recommended the book *A Beginner's Guide to American Mah Jongg* by Elaine Sandbery for those interested in reading up on the game.

To play the game, you need the tile set and the card that depicts the league rules.

There is a new card with league rules each year, so the game is always shifting to keep it interesting for players.

The library provides the equipment needed for beginners to play.

So far there have been several community members interested in learning the game.

"It was a big hit, a lot more people wanted to sign up and talked about it," Reference Librarian Abbey Buedinger said. "They were really liking it."

One such person is Donna Putnam, who started playing when Lehman began the club in July.

Putnam has truly enjoyed the process of learning and improving at the game.

"It was a challenge, it keeps my brain active and moving and it helped me to get out of the house and meet new people," Putnam said.

Lehman has enjoyed seeing Putnam and others learn to play and develop their skills in the game.

"There is a satisfaction of teaching new people and watching them have the 'aha' moments where they realize, 'oh I should've done it this way,' and start really getting it and improving at the game," Lehman said.

Lehman would also like to emphasize that you do not need to come just during the weekly mahjong sessions to play.

The library owns a mahjong set and cards, so anyone interested in playing can come by anytime with their friends and play a round.

If interested in playing mahjong, either go to the library website to register or give the library a call at 413-420-8101

To keep updated on the different events at the library, go to their website at <https://www.holyokelibrary.org/>.

MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in that certain Mortgage, Assignment of Leases and Rents, Fixture Filing, and Security Agreement given by 156 High Holyoke MA, LLC (the "Mortgagor") to Aloha Capital, LLC, dated April 14, 2023 and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds (the "Registry") at 24973, Page 440, as assigned to Reigo Securitization Sponsor 2021-1, LLC, dated September 9, 2024 and recorded in Book 25566, Page 146, of which Mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction at 11:00 AM on the 15th day of October, 2024** at 156-162 High Street, Holyoke, Massachusetts, being more particularly in said mortgage, to wit:

The land in Holyoke, Hampden County, Massachusetts, being known and being more particularly bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a point at the intersection of the easterly line of High Street with the Southerly line of Hampden Street; THENCE running Southwesterly by the Easterly line of High Street forty-nine (49) feet; THENCE Southeasterly and at right angles to said High Street eighty (80) feet to an alley or common passageway; THENCE Northeasterly by said passageway forty-nine (49) feet to said Hampden Street; THENCE Northwesterly by said Hampden Street eight (8) feet to the point of the beginning.

Containing 3,920 square feet of land more or less.

For mortgagor's title see deed recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 24014, Page 102.

Said premises shall also be sold subject to and/or with the benefit of any and all other restrictions, easements, improvements, covenants, outstanding tax titles, municipal or other public taxes, assessments, liens or claims in the nature of liens, attachments and existing encumbrances of record created prior to the Mortgage, if any there be, insofar as in force and applicable.

Said premises will also be sold subject to all leases and tenancies having priority over said Mortgage, to tenancies or rights of parties in possession now or at the time of said auction which are subject to said Mortgage, to rights or claims in personal property installed by tenants or former tenants

now located on the premises, and to laws and ordinances including, but not limited to, all building and zoning laws and ordinances.

Terms of sale:

The highest bidder in the sale shall deposit a bank treasurer's check, or certified check in the amount of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) at the time and place of the sale as a non-refundable earnest money deposit towards the purchase price to be held at the option of the Mortgagee as liquidated damages for any default by the successful bidder. The highest bidder shall then be required to remit by federal wire transfer an additional non-refundable deposit to bring in an amount sufficient to make the total deposit equal to ten percent (10%) of the purchase price within five (5) business days of the date of the public auction.

The balance of the purchase price shall be paid upon delivery of the deed within thirty (30) days of the date of the public auction. Each successful bidder shall be required to sign a Memorandum of Sale at the public auction containing the terms herein and any additional terms set forth in the Memorandum of Sale or announced at the public auction.

In the event that any successful bidder at the public auction fails to perform in the time specified to purchase the applicable premises, the Mortgagee reserves the right, at its sole election, to sell such premises by foreclosure deed to the other qualified bidders, in descending order beginning with the next highest bidder, provided that in each case the next highest bidder delivers to Mortgagee the amount of the required deposit within three (3) business days after written notice of the default of the previous highest bidder and promptly executes a Memorandum of Sale providing for performance within thirty (30) days of execution. Mortgagee also reserves the right, at its sole election, to assume the bid of any defaulting or declining bidder. The Mortgagee reserves the right to postpone this sale to a later date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the sale and to further postpone any adjourned sale date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the adjourned sale date.

Other terms to be announced at sale.

For inquiries concerning the auction, please contact Samantha Saperstein at ssaperstein@pesco.com.

Reigo Securitization Sponsor 2021-1, LLC, present holder of the Mortgage,

By its attorney, Lauren A. Solar, Esq. Hackett Feinberg P.C. 155 Federal Street, 9th Floor Boston, MA 02110 09/20, 09/27, 10/04/2024

MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in that certain Mortgage, Assignment of Leases and Rents, Fixture Filing, and Security Agreement given by 445 High Holyoke MA, LLC (the "Mortgagor") to Aloha Capital, LLC, dated April 11, 2023 and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds (the "Registry") at 24973, Page 410, as assigned to Reigo Securitization Sponsor 2021-1, LLC dated September 9, 2024 and recorded in Book 25566, Page 154, of which Mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction at 12:00 PM on the 15th day of October, 2024** at 445-447 High Street, Holyoke, Massachusetts, being more particularly in said mortgage, to wit:

Parcel 1
Certain parcel of land with the buildings thereon, situated in said Holyoke, bounded and described as follows, viz

BEGINNING at a point of intersection of the westerly side of High Street with the northerly side of Essex Street and thence running

NORTHEASTERLY on said High Street Twenty-Eight (28) feet and one (1) inch; thence

NORTHWESTERLY at a right angle to said High Street ninety-seven (97) feet to the center line of an alley or common passageway (which passageway is four-teen wide); thence

SOUTHWESTERLY on said center line of said alley and parallel with said High Street Twenty-Eight (28) feet and one (1) inch to said Essex Street; thence

SOUTHEASTERLY on said Essex Street ninety-seven (97) feet to the place of BEGINNING.

Containing 2,724 1/12 square feet more or less.

PARCEL 2:
The land in Holyoke, Hampden County, Massachusetts, with the buildings thereon, bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at the point of intersection of the westerly side of High Street with the southerly side of Essex Street and thence running

SOUTHWESTERLY on said High Street twenty-nine (29) feet and eight (8) inches; thence

NORTHWESTERLY at right angles with said High Street ninety-seven (97) feet to, the center line of an alley or common passageway (which passageway is four-teen (14) feet wide); thence

NORTHEASTERLY on said center line of said alley and parallel with said High Street twenty-nine feet and eight (8) inches to said Essex Street thence

SOUTHEASTERLY on said Essex Street ninety-seven (97) feet to the place of beginning.

Parcel ID: 0011-8-000001
For mortgagor's title see deed recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 24895, Page 181.

Said premises shall also be sold subject to and/or with the benefit of any and all other restrictions, easements, improvements, covenants, outstanding tax titles, municipal or other public taxes, assessments, liens or claims in the nature of liens, attachments and existing encumbrances of record created prior to the Mortgage, if any there be, insofar as in force and applicable.

Said premises will also be sold subject to all leases and tenancies having priority over said Mortgage, to tenancies or rights of parties in possession now or at the time of said auction which are subject to said Mortgage, to rights or claims in personal property installed by tenants or former tenants now located on the premises, and to laws and ordinances including, but not limited to, all building and zoning laws and ordinances.

Terms of sale: The highest bidder in the sale shall deposit a bank treasurer's check, or certified check in the amount of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) at the time and place of the sale as a non-refundable earnest money deposit towards the purchase price to be held at the option of the Mortgagee as liquidated damages for any default by the successful bidder. The highest bidder shall then be required to remit by federal wire transfer an additional non-refundable deposit to bring in an amount sufficient to make the total deposit equal to ten percent (10%) of the purchase price within five (5) business days of the date of the public auction.

The balance of the purchase price shall be paid upon delivery of the deed within thirty (30) days of the date of the public auction. Each successful bidder shall be required to sign a Memorandum of Sale at the public auction containing the terms herein and any additional terms set forth in the Memorandum of Sale or

announced at the public auction.

In the event that any successful bidder at the public auction fails to perform in the time specified to purchase the applicable premises, the Mortgagee reserves the right, at its sole election, to sell such premises by foreclosure deed to the other qualified bidders, in descending order beginning with the next highest bidder, provided that in each case the next highest bidder delivers to Mortgagee the amount of the required deposit within three (3) business days after written notice of the default of the previous highest bidder and promptly executes a Memorandum of Sale providing for performance within thirty (30) days of execution. Mortgagee also reserves the right, at its sole election, to assume the bid of any defaulting or declining bidder. The Mortgagee reserves the right to postpone this sale to a later date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the sale and to further postpone any adjourned sale date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the adjourned sale date.

Other terms to be announced at sale.

For inquiries concerning the auction, please contact Samantha Saperstein at ssaperstein@pesco.com.

Reigo Securitization Sponsor 2021-1, LLC, present holder of the Mortgage,

By its attorney, Lauren A. Solar, Esq. Hackett Feinberg P.C. 155 Federal Street, 9th Floor Boston, MA 02110

09/20, 09/27, 10/04/2024

CITY OF HOLYOKE PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Holyoke Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, October 8, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.com**; ID: 83639398493; CALL IN 1 646 558 8656 to hear, pursuant to the Holyoke Zoning Ordinance, a Special Permit for a Parking Reduction (Sec 6.1.7), submitted by Chris and Cristie Elliott, C Elliott Developers, for 174-180 Lyman Street, (012-04-001).

For a complete copy of the application and site plan, contact the Planning Department at (413) 322-5575.

APPLICANT:
Chris & Cristie Elliott
PLANNING BOARD:
Mimi Panitch
09/20, 09/27/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court

50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD24P1938EA
Estate of:
James Michael Albert
Also known as:
James Albert,
James M. Albert
Date of Death: 07/31/2024
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

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

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/09/2024. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

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: September 11, 2024
Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate
09/20/2024

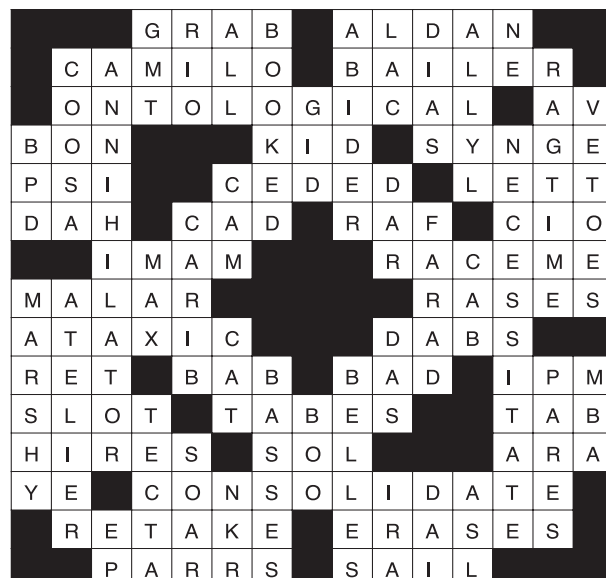
The Holyoke Sun
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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



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.

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CLASSIFIED DEADLINES
MONDAY AT NOON

FOR SALE

TAG SALE

FRI., 9/20 & SAT., 9/21 from 7am-2pm. **115 Wedgwood Drive, Ludlow.** Some furniture, women's clothes, household items. Rain/shine.

MULTI-FAMILY TAG SALE. 9/28 and 9/29. 101 and 102 Jim Ash Rd., Palmer. 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. FIRM.

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Buy, Sell & Trade Video Games

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Indian Orchard, MA

OLD CARPENTER TOOLS wanted. Planes, chisels, axes, etc. Vintage hunting, camping, cast iron cookware, advertising, motorcycles, clothing. Call Ken **(413)433-2195.**

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ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.

BUYING Bottles, Crocks, Jugs, Pottery, Costume Jewelry, Toys, Games, coins, sterling, Glassware, Silver-plated items, watches, Musical instruments, typewriters, sewing machines, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, lamps, kitchenware, cookware, knives, military, automotive, fire department, masonic, license plates, beer cans, barware, books, oil cans, advertising tins, hunting, fishing, signs, and more Donald Roy **(860) 874-8396**

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FIELDSTONE WALLS WANTED to buy. Looking to purchase large quantities of old stone walls. Please call R.E. Barnes Fieldstone **(978)807-0746**

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JUNK REMOVAL

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Call **Pete 413-433-0356.**

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HAVE BRIDGEPORT will work. Small one-man shop looking for work. Make new, remake old, repair parts. Call **1-413-207-1709.**

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Small Demolition/ Junk Removal
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Josh Rozell 413-636-5957

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ABC MASONRY & BASEMENT WATERPROOFING

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CALL OR TEXT **413-219-6839**

HELP WANTED

77-YEAR-OLD WITH 2 piles of aged oak, Cub Cadet splitter, in need of laborer to split. Call Skip, **413-320-7623., South Hadley.**

HELP WANTED: PART-TIME PODIATRY OFFICE, Portuguese speaking helpful. Ludlow, Mass. email resume to **podbill@aol.com.**

Ludlow Public School District **CUSTODIAL SUBSTITUTES,** on-call Monday thru Friday, 3pm-7pm. Submit resume and letter of intent to **www.schoolspring.com.**

OAKHAM'S HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT is hiring part-time seasonal plow drivers. Class B CDL preferred. \$21/hr, over time after 8 hrs in a day. Contact Highway Superintendent, Harold Black at **508-882-5556.**

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

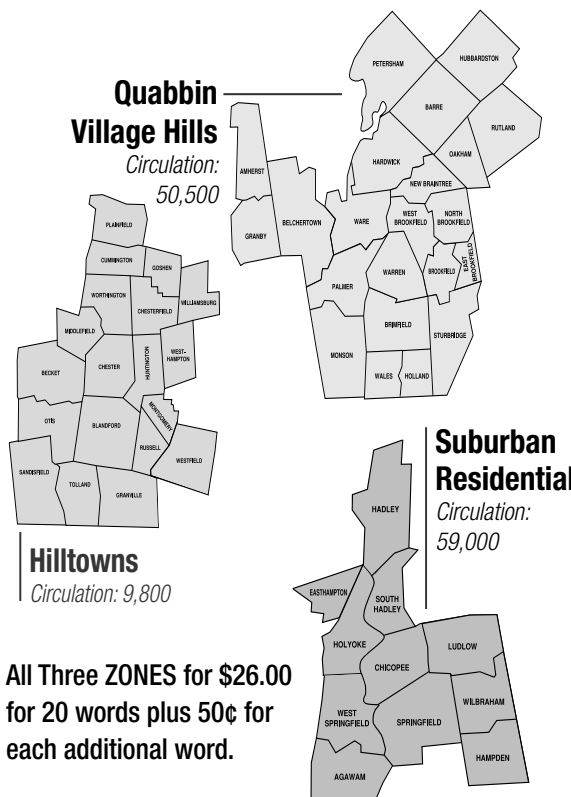
MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
or call: 413-283-8393

DEADLINES: MONDAY AT NOON

CATEGORY:

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

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield MA, 01103
Docket No. HD22P0991PM
In the matter of:
Thomas J Aubuchon of Holyoke, MA
Protected Person/Disabled Person/Respondent
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF CONSERVATOR'S ACCOUNT

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the Temporary conservator First and Final account(s) of Ernest F Aubochon of Lunenburg, MA as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance.

You have the right to object to the account(s). If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 10/02/2024. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection is based and a copy shall be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court.

You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the Petition and account(s) at no cost to you.

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 28, 2024
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
09/20/2024

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
HAMPDEN, ss. SUPERIOR COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
CIVIL ACTION NO.: 2479CV00307
FOUR HARPS, LLC
Plaintiff

v.
The heirs or legal representatives of EDGAR A. CAPEN and persons claiming under EDGAR A. CAPEN who may claim an interest in certain land in Holyoke, Hampden County, Massachusetts by purchase, descent or otherwise
Defendants

ORDER OF NOTICE

TO: the Defendants, the heirs or legal representatives of Edgar A. Capen and persons claiming under Edgar A. Capen, who may claim an interest in the real property at 49 Linden Street, Holyoke, Hampden County, Massachusetts (hereinafter the "Real Property") by purchase, descent or otherwise Four Harps, LLC claiming to have an interest in the Real Property by virtue of that certain deed with warranty covenants from Sophia H. Chioles and Christopher D. Chioles dated December 15, 2017 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 21995, page 290 has filed with this Court a Complaint to quiet and establish title to said Real Property by a judgment "in rem against the land, and a judgment establishing or declaring the validity, nature and extent of the Plaintiff's title" pursuant to M.G.L. c. 240, §§ 6 to 10.

If you object to the Plaintiff's Complaint, then

you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer or other responsive pleading with the Hampden County Superior Court, 50 State Street, Springfield, MA 01103 on or before September 30, 2024 (the "Return Date"), or you may be forever barred from objecting to the Plaintiff's claims.

Witness: McDonough, J.
Attest: William T. Walsh, Assistant Clerk, Hampden County Superior Court
09/06, 09/13, 09/20/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD24P1945EA

Estate of:
Robert K Goss
Date of Death: 03/05/2024
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by David Hart of Holyoke, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/10/2024. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of

objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

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: September 12, 2024
Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate
09/20/2024

LEGAL NOTICE
CITY OF HOLYOKE
GAS & ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT
HIGH ACCURACY WATTHOUR METERS ANNUAL CONTRACT

Sealed bids for the above will be received by Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept. until 2:30 p.m., October 3, 2024, at the Office of the Manager, 99 Suffolk St., Holyoke, MA 01040, at which time the bids will be publicly opened and read.

Additional information may be obtained from:
Chi Wong
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept.
99 Suffolk St.
Holyoke, MA 01040
(413) 536-9308
cwong@hged.com

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

Please mark sealed envelopes "Bid for High Accuracy Watthour Meters Annual Contract" and address them to:
James M. Lavelle, Manager
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept.
99 Suffolk St.
Holyoke, MA 01040
09/20/2024

LEGAL NOTICE
CITY OF HOLYOKE
GAS & ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT
INSULATION, ASBESTOS & LEAD ABATEMENT ANNUAL CONTRACT

Sealed bids for the above contract will be received by Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept. until 2:00 p.m., October 17, 2024, at the Office of the Manager, 99 Suffolk St., Holyoke, MA 01040, at which time bids will be publicly opened and read.

Bid Deposit:
A Bid Deposit of \$12,500 must accompany all bids and may be in the form of a certified, treasurer's, or cashier's check payable to HG&E from a responsible bank or trust company; cash; or a bid bond from a licensed surety payable to HG&E.

Prevailing Wage Rates:
Rates, which apply to the work, are set by the Mass. Dept. of Labor & Industries.

DCAMM:
A Certificate of Eligibility in the Asbestos Removal category from the Mass. Division of Capital Asset Management & Maintenance, as well as an Update Statement is required.
The right is hereby

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

Additional information may be obtained from:
Chi Wong
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept.
99 Suffolk St.
Holyoke, MA 01040
cwong@hged.com
(413) 536-9308

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

Please mark sealed envelopes "Bid for Insulation, Asbestos & Lead Abatement Annual Contract" and address them to:

James M. Lavelle, Manager
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept.
99 Suffolk St.
Holyoke, MA 01040
09/20/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD24P1931GD

In the matter of:
Nancy T Nathan
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 Mission Care at Holyoke of Holyoke, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Nancy T Nathan is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Sara Spooner of Auburn, 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 10/10/2024. 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: September 11, 2024
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
09/20/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD21P1544EA
Estate of:

Philip Henry Ryan
Also known as:
Philip H Ryan
Date of Death: 03/31/2021
CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT

A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by Steven J Schwartz of Springfield, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/18/2024.

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

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M. Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 13, 2024
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
09/20/2024

LEGAL NOTICE
CITY OF HOLYOKE
GAS & ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT
LNG VAPORIZATION SYSTEM CONTROL VALVES

Sealed bids for the above contract will be received by Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept. until 2:00p.m., October 3, 2024, at the Office of the Manager, 99 Suffolk Street, Holyoke, MA 01040, at which time bids will be publicly opened and read.

Additional information may be obtained from:
Chi Wong
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept.
99 Suffolk St.
Holyoke, MA 01040
(413) 536-9308
cwong@hged.com

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

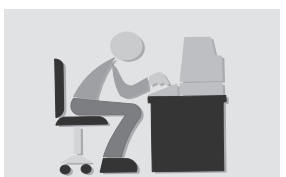
Please mark sealed envelopes "Bid for LNG Vaporization System Control Valves" and address them to:
James M. Lavelle, Manager
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept.
99 Suffolk St.
Holyoke, MA 01040
09/20/2024

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

PART-TIME SNOW PLOW DRIVERS NEEDED for the Town of New Braintree for the 2024-2025 season. Positions available for both CDL and non-CDL license. If you are interested, please contact Highway Superintendent Richard Ayer at (508) 867-2451 or email hwsecretary@newbraintree.org.

The Town of Oakham is seeking a qualified, experienced candidate to fill the **part-time position of TOWN CLERK**. The Town Clerk is the chief election officer for the town and the clerk of Town Meetings. For a full job description visit www.oakham-ma.gov/clerks-office. Salary negotiable based on experience.



Post your job openings in our classifieds.

We get results!
Call 413-283-8393

HELP WANTED

TOWN OF WORTHINGTON HIGHWAY POSITION OPENING

The Town of Worthington is soliciting letters of interest from qualified candidates to fill two full-time **Equipment Operator/General Laborer** positions in the Town Highway Department. Valid MA CDL operator, Hydraulic Hoister's licenses and OSHA-10 certification is preferred.

Further information can be found on the Town's website: www.worthington-ma.us
Questions will be answered by the Highway Superintendent at 64 Huntington Road, Monday - Friday, 7 AM to 3 PM; the telephone number is 413-238-5830.

Send letter of interest, resume and three (3) references with relevant contact information to: worthingtonhighway@gmail.com or to Worthington Highway Department, P. O. Box 643, Worthington, MA. This posting will remain pertinent until the position is filled.

The Town of Worthington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Find archives of this local newspaper at www.newspapers.turley.com

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ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

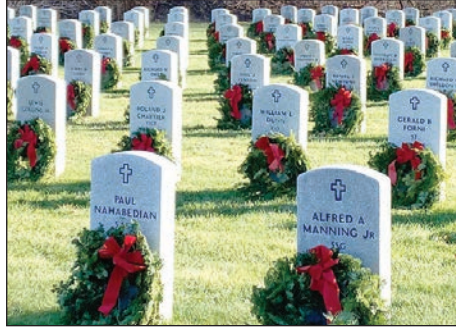
QUIET 1 BEDROOM IN LUDLOW, first floor, efficiency kitchen. \$925. Near Mass Pike. Parking, on-site laundry, no smoking, no pets. **413-543-3062.**

Wreaths Across America at The Big E

AGAWAM – The Friends of the Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Agawam is proud to announce a local stop for the WAA Mobile Education Exhibit national tour. The MEE started its tour at the WAA Headquarters in Maine and will be at The Big E for a scheduled event that is both free and open to the public. The event will take place within the Chevy display at The Big E located at 1305 Memorial Ave., from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. daily starting on opening day, Friday, Sept. 13 through Thursday Sept. 25.

“The goal of the Wreaths Across America Mobile Education Exhibit is to bring the community together and teach patriotism while remembering the service and sacrifice of our nation’s heroes,” said Karen Worcester, executive director of Wreaths Across America.

Wreaths Across America is the non-profit organization best known for placing wreaths on veteran’s headstones at Arlington National Cemetery. However, in 2023, the organization placed 3 million sponsored veterans’ wreaths at 4,224 participating locations nationwide. Throughout the calendar year, individuals



can tune in to Wreaths Across America Radio, 24/7, to learn more about the mission and those who support it across the country, as well as the hundreds of local charitable efforts nationwide funded through wreath sponsorships.

To sponsor a veteran’s wreath for the MA Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Agawam anytime for \$17, please visit <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/159760/Overview>.

Each sponsorship goes toward a live balsam wreath that will be placed on the headstone of an American hero as we endeavor to honor all veterans laid to rest at noon on Saturday, Dec. 14, as part of National Wreaths Across America Day.

Run Stanley 5k run/walk set for Oct. 6

AGAWAM – Stanley Park will be hosting the 12th 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 in for this all-inclusive event on Sunday, Oct. 6, 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 walk through Stanley Park’s accessible pathways.

There is also the Stanley Cup School Spirit trophy for the school with the most

participation in Run Stanley. Form a team and get friends and family involved. When registering, be sure to enter the school name. Run Stanley 2024 continues the fundraising efforts to benefit the care of the Frank Stanley Beveridge Wildlife Sanctuary. Please join the community of runners, walkers, hikers, dog owners, and nature lovers of all ages who care about Stanley Park for a fun event that will help to improve the safety and accessibility of its wildlife trails. Registration is now open. Participants can register by going to <https://runsignup.com/Race/MA/Westfield/RunStanley>.



The Holyoke Public Library has put up Assistant Director Jason Lefebvre’s book *So Much Slime* as their story walk. *Turley photos by Quinn Suomala*

BOOK, from page 1

amount of time he spent around picture books. When he graduated college he worked at a summer camp and a daycare, and then he was a preschool teacher.

With all of these experiences, he was reading a lot of picture books and fell in love with the genre.

“When you experience reading a really good story to a room full of kids it makes you fall in love with picture books all over again,” Lefebvre said. “They’re great no matter what age you are.”

Lefebvre enjoyed the writing and learning process, but his favorite part of publishing his book was editing it.

“Once it is partially baked and then you edit it to get it as fully baked as you

can, that part I like, because you are just then adding all the bells and whistles,” Lefebvre said.

One of the challenging parts Lefebvre found while writing was ensuring that each part of the book was equally as interesting.

“A lot of times, I might have what I think is a really good beginning and I might not have an end,” Lefebvre said. “And, especially for picture books, they should be like these perfectly packed lunches with a really good start, a really good dessert, you need it all.”

The book was published this September and is available where books are sold. This includes Amazon and the local Odyssey bookshop. Additionally, people are welcome to come check out a copy at the library or read the book using the library’s story walk.

Bright Nights announces upcoming 5K Road Race sold out, wait list available

SPRINGFIELD – The 2024 Bright Nights 5K Road Race is sold out. Registrations started quickly when it opened on Sept. 9, at midnight. There were with more than 40 registrations within the first minute. An hour later,

the number of registered runners reached almost 250, half of the field of runners.

The wait list is now accepting registrations. Those interested in a chance to run can register on the wait list at brightnights.org. Should spots become avail-

able, the Spirit of Springfield will reach out to the first people who registered.

The Bright Nights 5k Road Race is sponsored by Covestro, Siemens, Health New England, Freedom Credit Union, and M&T Bank.

For more information about the Bright Night 5K Road Race, or to register on the wait list, visit brightnights.org, or contact the Spirit of Springfield at 413-733-3800 or staff@spiritofspringfield.org.

OAKDALE DENTAL ASSOCIATES, P.C.

Oakdale Dental Associates, P.C. is happy to announce that **Dr. Manar Al Nuwab** has joined our practice and is accepting new patients.

Please visit our website (OakdaleDental.com) or call 413-536-1782 to book an appointment.

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413-536-1782 • OakdaleDental.com

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