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Miracle League Playground for All is now open

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The Miracle League Playground for All had its grand opening ceremony on Oct. 9.

At the event there was ice cream, rock painting, beverages for children, a fire truck and, of course, the playground itself for all to enjoy.

After eight years of work, all involved in the project were delighted to finally see the playground full of happy children all playing together.

“It’s crazy right now,” Chair of the CPA Committee of Holyoke Meagan Magrath-Smith said.

“But really it’s been like this every day since the fence came down. The neighborhood has just been coming out to enjoy the playground.”

The Miracle League of Western MA has been working toward opening this playground since 2015. They raised \$100,000 on their own to help with funding, with the help of Holyoke Rotary Club and even People’s Bank.

They received further support from the CPA, who helped them to cover the remaining costs.

“What was interesting about the Miracle League playground was that it was a slam-dunk of a CPA project,” Magrath-Smith said. “We really like it when someone comes in with a little skin in the game... and in this case the Miracle



Members of the Holyoke Rotary Club, the Miracle League, and Mayor Joshua Garcia proudly cut the ribbon to open the playground once and for all.
Turley photos by Quinn Suomala



The Miracle League Playground for All had its grand opening ceremony on Monday, Oct. 9.

League had already done a lot of work with the Rotary and they had done many fundraisers throughout the years.”

This playground was designed specifically so that it could be a welcoming space for children of all abilities. The Miracle League worked with a design team called Site Specifics who specializes in creating accessible parks to ensure that this playground would truly be accessible to everyone.

The playground will open up an area for everyone in the community to have a space to play.

“Our dream is to see all of the children play together and our dream is a reality today,” Special Events Chairperson for the Miracle League of Western MA Kerry Parsons said.

Parsons was so proud to finally have this playground open after eight years of hard work.

“It’s been a dream of ours—the Miracle League of Western MA—for eight years now,” Parsons said. “And the dream is becoming a reality today.”

The playground is already a hit in the community. People have been looking forward to seeing it open for months now, since the construction began, so when the fence around it finally came down on Thursday, Oct. 5, the community was beyond excited.

“We’re so happy to see everybody enjoying the play-

See PLAYGROUND, page 6

Garcia promises action in response to shooting that took infant’s life

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – On Wednesday, Oct. 4 at 12:38 p.m., a stray gunshot pierced a passing PVRTA bus and struck an eight-month pregnant 29-year-old woman.

The woman is in the hospital in critical condition and the baby was lost.

Mayor Joshua Garcia spent the evening after the shooting in the hospital with the woman’s boyfriend, trying to offer what comfort he could.

“I spent yesterday evening at Baystate Medical Center keeping watch with the woman’s boyfriend,” Garcia said. “I couldn’t think of anything else to do except be there in care, to try to convey the love and support of a city stunned by the unspeakable.”

In the wake of this tragic

event, Garcia and Police Chief David Pratt have sworn to work together and with the city council to enact a plan to improve public safety.

“We’re really here to emphasize that we are developing a plan with all our partners and to assure the citizens of Holyoke that the change they’re asking for is coming,” Police Chief David Pratt said.

Garcia says this plan is still in the works, though they hope to put it into action soon. The plan may include a foot and bike patrol, city-wide cameras and even a special assignment detailed task force focused on criminal activity.

He also assures that these efforts to improve public safety will not come at the cost of a loss of compassion.

“Make no mistake, we will strengthen our efforts without sacrificing compassion and our

commitment to social justice,” Garcia said. “I expect this plan to work in tandem with our existing efforts.”

Governor Maura Healey and Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll have promised their support for this plan, according to Garcia.

“This morning I did speak to Governor Healey and Lieutenant Governor Driscoll and they have pledged their support to a public safety plan that we here in the city of Holyoke are actively drafting to prevent these acts of violence and even push these acts out of our streets of Holyoke,” he said.

City Council President Todd McGee also promised that the city council will work to ensure that this plan receives the support it needs.

“Once the plan is devel-

See ACTION, page 9

City Council sends CPA ballot question to Finance Committee

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke City Council sent the motion to put the ballot question regarding changing the CPA surcharge on the November 2024 ballot to the finance committee.

The city council had originally voted in November of 2022 to put a question regarding whether the Community Preservation Act surcharge should be reduced from 1.5% to 1% or stay the same on the November 2023 ballot.

This vote was vetoed by the mayor and, when four city councilors tried to challenge that veto, they were turned down by the state superior court.

The judge, Superior Court Justice Jane Mulqueen, denied the suit, stating that the mayor had the right to veto, that the city councilors failed to follow proper procedure for amending the surcharge as required by state law and that there was no harm to the citizens of Holyoke for pushing the vote off for another year.

The city council was to take up another vote to approve the ballot question for the November 2024 ballot at their meeting on Oct. 3. However, Councilor Joseph McGiverin made a motion to first refer it to the finance committee and discuss the matter with the law department.

See BALLOT, page 9

HCC to host annual 'Trunk or Treat' event Oct. 27

HOLYOKE – Visitors to Holyoke Community College on Friday, Oct. 27, can expect to see ghosts, witches, and ghouls, along with an assortment of characters from their favorite children's movies, games, and TV shows as the college celebrates Halloween with its annual Trunk or Treat event.

Dozens of HCC departments, programs, and student clubs, as well as community groups and area businesses decorate vehicles every year for this event.

Trunk or Treat runs from 5 to 7 p.m. in Parking Lot M by the Bartley Center for Athletics and Recreation on the main HCC campus, 303 Homestead Ave.

In the past, trunk sponsors from HCC have included the Education Dept., Student Engagement, Veterinary and Animal Science, Dance Club, ASL Club, Japanese Anime Club, C.A.M.O. Club, Radiologic Technology, El Centro, Student Records, Early Childhood Grants Initiative, Culinary Club, Business Dept., President's Cabinet, Disney Club, Nursing Dept., Student Senate, STEM Club, Latinx Empowerment Association, Psychology Club, Radio Club, Animation Club, and Dungeons & Dragons Club.

From the community: Dean



Last year's Trunk or Treat event was a huge success at HCC.

Submitted photo

Technical High School Hawks, Holyoke Police Dept., Berkshire Hathaway, Valley Opportunity Council, YWCA, Mass. Dept. for Children and Families Holyoke, Positive Regard Network/Center School, NexGen Roofing, Elms College: The Teachers' Lounge, Holyoke Credit Union, Y Kids Learning Center, Girls Inc. of the Valley, and Holyoke

Public Schools-Early Childhood program.

Last year's trunk themes included crayons, rubber ducks, happy clowns, a witch's house, a haunted house, Jurassic Park, The Nightmare Before Christmas, Hungry Hungry Hippos, construction, Hocus Pocus, Paw Patrol, bones, Encanto, Star Wars, spooky fun prom,

M&M's, Frozen, Ratatouille, Disney villains, Muppets, Mary Poppins, Spiderman and other Marvel superheroes, outer space, a pumpkin patch, Alice in Wonderland, the Multiverse, and Ghostbusters.

Prizes are awarded to vehicle sponsors in various categories including Best Executed Theme, Scariest Trunk, Best Costumes, and Most Original.

Each vehicle will be handing out free Halloween treats and also have non-food items for children with dietary restrictions.

Trunk or Treat at HCC started in 2017 as a safe, fun, and early alternative to traditional trick-or-treating on Halloween night. Rather than going door to door seeking Halloween treats, children go "trunk to trunk" to collect their candy, visiting cars decorated with seasonal themes and familiar stories and characters.

The event is free and open to the public and will be held outdoors, rain or shine. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

To sponsor a vehicle, please contact organizers Lindsey Pare at lpare@hcc.edu or Alexis Roach at aroach@hcc.edu. The deadline is Monday, Oct. 23.

Girls Inc. invites all to Doors Open

HOLYOKE – Girls Inc. of the Valley, 480 Hampden St., announces their participation in 3rd annual Doors Open Holyoke on Sunday, Oct. 14 from 9 a.m. to noon.

Doors Open events across the country invite the public to see behind the doors of many places not usually open to the public. Doors Open Holyoke aims to connect residents and visitors to the City's places of historical, cultural, and architectural significance to unite the community and inspire new and broader perspectives. Girls Inc. of the Valley will be hosting an open house with building tours during the City's third annual Doors Open celebration to showcase their newly renovated headquarters. Their

new location allows them to serve a larger community and they are thrilled to share their excitement with the Holyoke community.

"Girls Inc. of the Valley is thrilled to be a destination for Doors Open Holyoke 2023 as part of Holyoke's Day in the Yoke," said Suzanne Parker, executive director of Girls Inc. of the Valley. "We look forward to welcoming the community into our newly renovated program center and headquarters to offer tours of the updated spaces, as well as the soon-to-be-updated ones."

If interested, or have questions regarding this event please contact Meghan Rothschild at (413) 218-4994 or meghan@chikmedia.us.

Patriotic Events Committee accepting nominations for this year's awards

HOLYOKE – The City of Holyoke's Patriotic Events Committee is searching for nominations for this year's awards which are to be presented at the Veterans Day ceremony, on Nov. 11.

The awards are Public Safety of the Year, Veteran of the Year, Citizen of the Year, and Local Business of the Year. The criteria for these awards are as follows:

For Public Safety of the Year, we are seeking an individual who has shown outstanding performance in the protection of the general public and has exhibited a willingness to exceed expectations.

For Veteran of the Year, we are pur-

suing a veteran who has shown grand support and dedication for others in the community.

For Citizen of the Year, we are searching for an individual who has exhibited inspiration through their leadership, volunteerism, and dear contributions to the advances of the community.

For Local Business of the Year, we are seeking a local business that has shown great patriotism and support for the veteran community.

Nominees must be residents of Holyoke or individuals who have made valuable contributions to the city of Holyoke. Anyone can nominate. The deadline for nominations is Oct. 21.

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Local pantries sponsor food drive started to replenish depleted inventory

HOLYOKE – A one-month food drive will be launched Tuesday, Oct. 10, to replenish depleted inventories at local pantries.

Providence Ministries in South Holyoke will be the main beneficiary of the drive, but other pantries throughout the city will also be aided.

"Holyoke We Can" is an initiative of the City of Holyoke and the Holyoke Emergency Management Community Emergency Response Team.

Collection boxes for non-perishable food items will be distributed throughout the City, including Holyoke public school, the Holyoke Fire Department at 500 High St., non-profit agencies and local businesses including City Sports at 352 High St. and Dino's at 615 Homestead Ave.

The CERT drive will also collect gloves, socks, blankets, and jackets. The drive will conclude Nov. 10.

For more information: Holyoke Emergency Management Department on Facebook or call Emergency Management Director Jeffrey Trask at 413-534-2250.

Carlos Vega Fund announces fall event set for Oct. 21

HOLYOKE – The Carlos Vega Fund for social justice will honor Jon Weissman as the 2023 Social Justice Awardee at its annual fall event on Saturday, Oct. 21, from 2 to 5 p.m. at Fame Lounge/Eatery, 386 Dwight St. The CVFSJ will also announce the recipients of this year’s appreciation grants at the event.

The event will include complimentary tapas, a musical performance by José González and his Banda Criolla, and a short program to honor Weissman and to announce the Appreciation Grant recipients. A cash bar will also be available. The event is free, and the public is

invited. There will be a request for donations of any amount to support the work of the Carlos Vega Fund.

Weissman, a well-known community activist and organizer, has devoted his life to fighting for social justice, from serving as Union President of the National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 46 to working with Jobs With Justice. His current efforts focus on passing a bill in Massachusetts to establish a single payer health care system. Weissman worked closely on many grassroots organizing activities with Carlos Vega.

Vega was an advocate for those experiencing hardship because of poverty,

homelessness, lack of education and job opportunities, as well as unfair treatment based on racism and intolerance. His organizing work on behalf of people in Holyoke spanned over four decades. He died in 2011.

A group of Vega’s close friends and relatives established the Carlos Vega Fund for Social Justice to keep his legacy of compassion and social activism alive. The focus of the CVFSJ is to provide modest grants to grassroots organizations to support small but meaningful social change projects that address poverty, oppression, environmental concerns, race, and the needs of vulnerable communities.

The CVFSJ has awarded grants to 52 organizations in the greater Holyoke area since 2011. The Fund established the Carlos Vega Social Justice Award to honor outstanding activists who demonstrate a deep commitment to improving the lives of people in greater Holyoke. The Fund recently created the Appreciation Grant program to acknowledge good work that community groups are doing and to encourage them to submit grant requests during the regular program cycle.

For more information about the Fund or to donate online, visit carlosvegafund.org.

Gateway City Arts Spooky happenings

HOLYOKE – Gateway City Arts is featuring a scary lineup of spooky happenings in October, starting with an Underworld Halloween Dance Party and a Costume Bash on Friday the 13th, and concluding with the Mary (Scary) Jane Jones Full Moon “Freakend” concerts Friday, Oct. 27, and Saturday, Oct. 28.

The Underworld Halloween Dance Party begins at 8 p.m. in the Divine Theater, and features DJs The Burner Brothers and Three Kings. Supporting lineup includes Redshift, The Break Doctor, and Propag8.

There will be a costume contest, giveaways, and vendors including event sponsor Canna Provisions.

Tickets are \$10 and are available at gatewaycityarts.com. Doors open at 6 p.m. The event is sponsored by Canna Provisions.

Friday the 13th Costume Bash kicks off at 7 p.m. in the Race Street Music Hall and features Collisions, Creepin’ Cadavers, Matthew Spence and the Churchkey Choir, and Cora Monroe.

The evening’s featured act, Collisions, brings a new and creative perspective to music. Their music skillfully combines elements from the past and the present to produce a futuristic-sounding twist on the classic pop-rock group.

Tickets are \$15 in advance at gatewaycityarts.com, and \$20 at the door. Doors open at 6 p.m. Those who wear costumes will be entered in a drawing to win band merchandise.

A Full Moon “Freakend” with The Mary Jane Jones happens Oct. 27 and 28 in the Divine Theater for two nights of music and dancing to the band’s funk/rock/soul and hip hop sounds.

Friday night’s music and mayhem kicks off with the bone-shakin’ blues of The Cannibal Ramblers. Hosts, The Mary Jane Jones, dubbing themselves the Mary (Scary) Jane Jones for this pre-Halloween show, appear with bandmate Beau Sasser on the organ and guitarist Josh Hirst.

The Oct. 27 and 28 concerts will be the last headlining shows of 2023 for The Mary Jane Jones as they ready new originals and place the finishing touches on their long-awaited album set for release in spring of 2024.

Tickets for the Full Moon “Freakend” are \$20 in advance for either show, or \$35 for both shows, and are available at gatewaycityarts.com. Tickets are \$25 at the door.

The Bistro will be open and serving food and drink from 5 to 9 p.m. on all show nights.

OneHolyoke to provide trees

HOLYOKE – OneHolyoke CDC will host an event for the Holyoke community on Saturday, Oct. 14 in partnership with the Greening the Gateway Cities Program to provide free trees for Holyoke residents. The event will be held from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at 2 Middle Street, Holyoke, the site of OneHolyoke CDC’s eco-friendly “Tiny Home.”

Holyoke residents who own or rent a home, business, or other organization located in the Flats, Downtown or Churchill neighborhoods of Holyoke are encouraged to attend the event and sign up for free trees to be planted on their property by Greening the Gateway Cities, a program that has brought new trees to urban areas across Massachusetts.

The tree planting is the result of a grant from the Healey-Driscoll Administration to OneHolyoke CDC—part of an overall \$1.3 million state investment to support tree plantings in Gateway Cities across Massachusetts. Tree planting helps decrease energy use, clean the air, reduce flooding, and improve the overall quality of life in Gateway Cities. OneHolyoke will be responsible for sharing information about the program via door-to-door

canvassing, educational events focused on the GGCP, as well as assisting with Spanish translation for outreach materials.

In the grant announcement, State Representative Patricia Duffy said, “OneHolyoke CDC has once again tapped into its neighborhood’s fundamental needs by investing in trees. Trees add to our densely populated cities’ quality of life with shade, cooling, and beauty. I am so grateful for this work in my city.”

Those who are unable to make Saturday’s event and would like free trees planted on their property can visit maurban canopy.org to determine eligibility (navigate to the ‘Am I in the Zone’ tab and enter your Holyoke address), or call (617) 626-1473.

OneHolyoke CDC is the only certified Community Development Corporation based in the City of Holyoke. Founded in 1971, OneHolyoke CDC has created over 160 new homes in the Flats, Churchill and South Holyoke neighborhoods, rehabilitated hundreds of apartments and provided thousands of home improvement grants to homeowners through the Neighborhood Improvement Program.

HCC fall session II classes start Oct. 30

HOLYOKE – Prospective students have one more chance to sign up for classes at Holyoke Community College for the fall 2023 semester.

Fall session III classes begin Monday, Oct. 30, and run for seven weeks. All fall semester classes conclude by Dec. 21.

Students who enroll for HCC’s flexible fall start dates have the opportunity to take a variety of courses both on campus and online in anthropology, biology, business administration, communication, culinary arts, economics, English, English as a Second Language, geography, human services, Latinx Studies, law, management, marketing, math, nutrition, music, psychology, sociology, Spanish, and veter-

inary and animal science. To see a full list of courses and sections, please visit hcc.edu/flex-fa23

Registration for Winter session classes and Spring 2024 classes opens Monday, Oct. 30. Winter session classes start Dec. 29 and run for two weeks. The Spring 2024 semester begins Jan. 16.

The HCC Admissions and Advising offices are located on the first floor of the HCC Campus Center and are open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m., 4:30 p.m. on Fridays.

For more information, please contact HCC Admissions at 413-552-2321 or admissions@hcc.edu or visit online at hcc.edu.

Halloween Festival on Oct. 13

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Parks and Recreation Department cordially invites the Holyoke community to the “Third Annual Harper’s Haven Friday the 13th Halloween Festival.” This event will take place on Friday, Oct. 13, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Community Field (off Cherry Street).

There will be music provided by DJ Brian Nicks. Enjoy TJ’s popcorn, cookies and balloons. Kids can visit

with Toy Story characters Woody and Buzz Lightyear. Guests can 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 and Recreation Department at (413) 322-5620.

UCCH October lists news, events

HOLYOKE – The October calendar page is filling up at the United Congregational Church of Holyoke with several opportunities for the church and community to come together.

First, UCCH will be hosting a Community Meal on Friday, Oct. 13 at 5 p.m. The menu will feature breakfast for dinner including pancakes, sausage, French toast and egg frittata, followed by a family movie at 6 p.m.. This event is held on the second Friday evening of each month. It is free of charge, and all are welcome to attend.

UCCH will be participating in Doors Open Holyoke the following day. On Oct. 14 from 9 a.m. to noon, visitors can stop by 300 Appleton St. and get a guided tour of the building, including the historic Skinner Chapel.

UCCH’s annual Roast Pork Dinner will be held on Saturday, Oct. 21 with

doors opening at 5:30 p.m. and dinner being served at 6 p.m. Dinner will feature roast pork, mashed potatoes, butternut squash, homemade applesauce, rolls and butter, homemade apple crisp, coffee and tea. Tickets are \$14 per person and can be purchased in advance by calling the church office at 413-532-1483. Dinners will also be available for takeout but must be purchased in advance. Proceeds will go to the Fellowship’s Scholarship Program.

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

Food and clothing drive drop off location

HOLYOKE – The Hibernians of Hampden/Hampshire Counties and The Polish National Credit Union together are once again sponsoring a food drive and clothing drive to benefit Providence Ministries. The drive will begin in September and will continue until Dec. 1.

Jennie Adamczyk, executive director of Providence Ministries has a mantra “If we don’t who will?” Kate’s Kitchen serves one hot meal a day, 365 days a year and often feeds up to 240 people on a given day. The mission of Providence Ministries “Nourishing hope, and rebuilding lives through our life changing programs.”

Drop-off location for the food and clothing drive: Polish National Credit Union Insurance Services, 270 Westfield Road.

Please consider donating non-perishable items like: Ramen Noodles, Canned Goods, Pasta, Cereal, Dried Beans, Dried Fruit, Soup, Spam, Brownies, and Cookie Mixes, Desserts, Stuffing, Instant Potatoes, Peanut Butter, etc.

Please consider donating gently used items: Sleeping bags, towels, blankets, children’s clothes, Men and Women’s Clothes, shoes, comforters, sheets, curtains, pots, and pans, small household items etc..

Make a donation and be entered to win a raffle basket and/or \$100.00.

Please help those who are experiencing food insecurity and assist Providence Ministries as they continue to transform lives. Stop in the Polish National Credit Union in Holyoke and make a donation today to Providence Ministries.

Guest Column



How do disability programs affect Social Security's budget?

Dear Rusty

I read with interest an analysis of the history, reasons, and financial costs of the Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability Insurance programs. My question is, specifically, what portion of the Social Security budget goes toward SSI and SSDI vs. for regular SS retirement income for those who paid into the fund during their working lives? How are the costs of SSI and SSDI covered by the federal government? When did these two sections of the budget enter the law and what was the impetus behind them?

Signed: An Inquiring Mind

Dear Inquiring Mind

No part of Social Security's "budget" is used to pay Supplemental Security Income. SSI is a means-tested general assistance program for disadvantaged children and needy disabled adults and aged seniors who have very little income and very few assets. Federal SSI benefits are paid from the government's General Treasury, not from Social Security Trust Funds.

SSI is jointly administered by the person's state of residence and the Social Security Administration, and the state usually provides additional benefits to supplement the financial assistance provided by the federal government under the SSI program. The Social Security Administration only administers the SSI program, it does not fund it.

By contrast, Social Security Disability Insurance benefits are for employed Americans, who become disabled and unable to work full time. SSDI benefits are meant to provide limited income replacement for the disabled worker and those benefits are paid from a separate Social Security Disability Insurance Trust Fund.

The DI fund receives a portion (0.9%) of the FICA SS payroll taxes every American worker pays on their earnings and is used to pay disability benefits to eligible American workers, who are unable to perform "substantial gainful activity" for a year or more. The eligibility criteria to collect SSDI are very strict, but those approved receive their benefits from this separate DI trust fund, not from Social Security's Old Age and Survivors Trust Fund.

Payroll taxes collected for disability purposes are deposited in the DI Trust Fund as interest-bearing government bonds, and those DI assets are redeemed as needed to pay SSDI benefits. FYI, SSDI (disability) benefits stop when the person reaches full retirement age, at which point the beneficiary is automatically switched to regular SS retirement and after which their benefits are paid from the regular Old Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund.

"Regular" Social Security retirement benefits, spousal benefits, dependent benefits and survivor benefits are paid from Social Security's OASI Trust Fund, which receives most 5.3% of the 6.2% FICA Social Security tax withheld from the paychecks of American workers. As of the end of 2022, the OASI Trust Fund held about \$2.7 trillion in interest bearing government bonds.

Neither SSI or SSDI affect this "regular" OASI Trust Fund - only true SS retirement benefits and benefits for dependents of the retiree are paid from the OASI Trust Fund. As an aside, Social Security reform is needed to prevent the OASI Trust Fund from being fully depleted in 2033.

To answer your last questions, the Social Security Disability Insurance Trust Fund was established in 1956, after which SSDI benefit

See SECURITY, page 5



Guest Column



By Ellenor Downer

On Friday, Oct. 6 Massachusetts Audubon Society reported a sighting of a LeConte's sparrow in Longmeadow.

The LeConte's sparrow is about five inches long and has a dark crown with a white central stripe. It also has reddish-brown streaks on a gray nape. The upper breast and flanks are buff colored.

It has a orang to buff orange face surrounding a gray ear patch. Other distinct features are a flat head and a short tail with fine streaking on the upper breast of juveniles.

This sparrow feeds on the ground and eats grass and weed seeds as well as insects. The female lays three to five light gray eggs with darker marks in a cup like nest of grasses placed on or just about the ground. They breed in Canada and winter in the Florida Gulf states.

To avoid danger, it often runs through



LeConte's sparrow

grasses rather than flying over the grass. It may sing during the day and night. LeConte's sparrows inhabit marshes, wet meadows and weedy fields. Their song is a high-pitched buzz with accents at start and end like "tika-zzzzzz-tzt."

Other sightings

Other sightings for Oct. 6 reported to Massachusetts Audubon Society included a Townsend's warbler at Plum Island, a prothonotary warbler in Winchester and several reports of clay-colored sparrows.

Loon Preservation Committee
Loon Preservation Committee staff and

See BACKYARD, page 5

Planning ahead for raised beds!



My friend Jacquie is very proud of the tomato plants she grows each year. She squeezes them into the little garden adjacent to the front door of her condo, and has even grown some in hanging containers. I received this question from her via text a few weeks back, and by the sound of it she wants to expand her gardening endeavors:

"For those of us that like to plan ahead, what are the pros and cons of raised bed gardens, and if you decide to go that route, what is the process?"

There are several advantages to gardening in raised beds. If the ground you would normally garden in is too sandy or too clayey, you can stop dealing with those troubles when you switch to raised beds!

You can carefully choose the soil that you fill the beds with. I personally love the Coast of Maine brand Raised Bed Mix, but I am sure there are resources online for mix-

ing your own blends.

You can also plant more intensively, meaning fewer weeds! Concentrate fertilizers, lime and compost right where you need them, saving money along the way.

You can start working the ground earlier in the spring because it warms up quicker in raised beds. You don't have to worry about soil compaction as much either, because rarely, if ever, will you have to step into the beds.

You no longer have to weed the rows like you would in a normal garden, or will you have to worry about mulch or other materials to cover the rows with.

One drawback might be the cost to get started. Between the edging materials and the mix, you end up filling the bed with, it could get darn expensive.

First, you have to decide on what type of material you'll use to edge the beds with. There are pros and cons there too, but more on that in a bit.

A minimum depth of one foot is needed for most crops barring corn; that crop would need a deeper bed. On the flip side, if the ground beneath the raised beds is usable (i.e., not contaminated or pavement etc.) then you could potentially make the beds not as quite as deep, figuring plant roots will penetrate out from the walls.

Seegarden, page 5

the Sun TEAM

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A Quote

OF NOTE

"Life starts all over when it gets crisp in the fall."

F. Scott Fitzgerald

Letters to the Editor Policy

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

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

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

Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

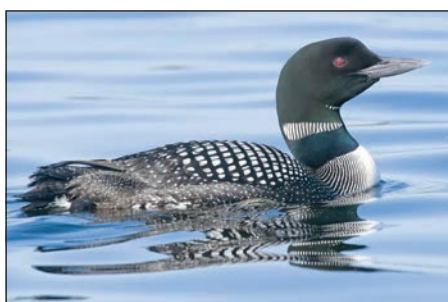
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SECURITY, from page 4

payments to eligible disabled American workers began. Federal "Supplemental Security Income" assistance was codified into law in 1974. And, as you likely know, Social Security retirement, spousal and dependent benefits were enacted in the 1930s, before the first monthly Social Security check was mailed in January 1940. The impetus behind these programs? Avoiding poverty for the neediest among us. Without these programs, at least 22 million more Americans would be living below the poverty line.

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 ssadvisior@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

BACKYARD, from page 4



Loon

volunteers in the month of September focused on a number of important post-season tasks including storing nest rafts on shore for the winter (over 140 rafts statewide), pulling and storing the signs that were used to protect vulnerable loon families, rescuing loons in distress and beginning the process of quality checking the data collected during the summer months.

LPC staff rescued five loons in distress throughout the state during the month of September. Rescuing a loon is just the first step in getting it the help that it needs. They thank the veterinarians and rehabilitators who worked with us to evaluate and treat ailing loons: the wonderful veterinarians and staff at VCA Capital Area Veterinary Emergency and Specialty, Hopkinton Animal Hospital, and Meadow Pond Animal Hospital, who helped with x-rays, blood work and assessment of

rescued loons; Dr. Mark Pokras, who consulted on all cases and provided valuable insight and suggestions for care; and Maria Colby of Wings of the Dawn Wildlife Rehabilitation, who housed, fed and provided daily care and treatment to all five loons rescued in September.

Sadly, LPC also continued to collect and necropsy dead loons throughout the state, nine total in September. While it is always sad to lose a loon, being able to determine the cause of death for individual loons allows LPC to collect valuable data on the challenges that the loon population is facing.

Feeders

I put out my suet feeder during the day and take it in before dusk so the bears don't take the suet and feeder. I have lost quite a few feeder that way. I have downy, hairy and red-bellied woodpeckers coming to the suet as well as white-breasted nuthatches and black-capped chickadees.

I also have a small tray feeder for meal worms and bird seed. I put a small amount of the meal worms and seed each day. The birds empty the feeder so the bears only find an empty tray.

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.

GARDEN, from page 4

Wood, stone, brick, pavers and cinder blocks are all possible edge materials. Simple raised beds can even be made within hay bales!

Beds made from pine slabs may only last a few seasons; rock type edging will last indefinitely.

One drawback to beds made out of hardscape materials might be the fact that they dry out more readily. Although that would not have been an issue this year, it could be down the road.

I had a number of raised beds that I made in an old tennis court on my property. They were edged in field stone because I had an endless supply on my property.

Free, yes! Beautiful, yes! But practical, not so much.

On a hot summer day, I was sometimes out there watering two or more times!

The new galvanized metal raised beds seem to be rising in popularity. I know very little about them or how readily they dry out in between waterings.

As far as bed width goes, usually

no more than four feet wide is recommended. That way you can reach inside comfortably.

I have been very successful growing peppers, zucchini and onions in my raised beds. Flowers and herbs also seem to do very well.

Tomatoes perform okay, but for me, green beans seem to be unhappy. There isn't enough room for winter squash, and I've never attempted corn.

Refresh your soil each year with the addition of compost and fertilizer. Because the bed is like a big container, the soil can get exhausted after a season of use.

I would say gardening in raised beds is worth the investment. Start out small and expand if you feel you enjoy having more to take care of.

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

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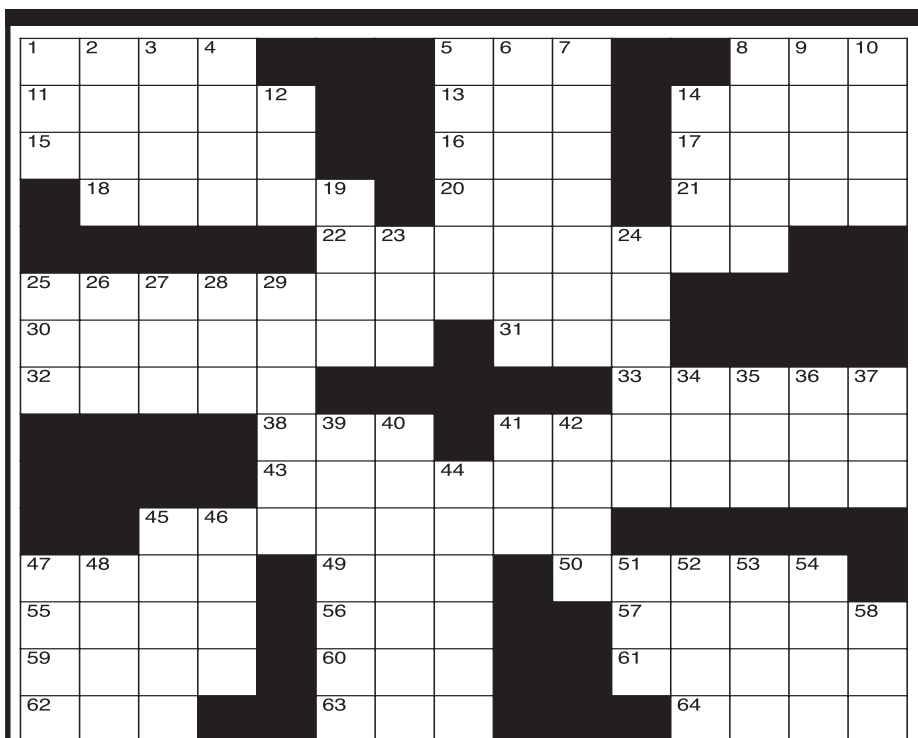
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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Information
- 5. Seaport (abbr.)
- 8. Agricultural disease (abbr.)
- 11. Riding horses
- 13. Boxing's GOAT
- 14. Hurt or discomfort
- 15. A small sharp knife to trim vegetables
- 16. A beaver builds one
- 17. Horizontal passage into a mine
- 18. Self-immolation by fire rituals
- 20. Chain bar with lots of games (abbr.)
- 21. Goo Goo Dolls' hit
- 22. Agreeable
- 25. In an early way
- 30. In a way, struck
- 31. It's there in the morning
- 32. County in the S. Pacific
- 33. Central Florida city
- 38. Numbers cruncher
- 41. Mexican beers
- 43. Lawyers say you can indict one
- 45. Capital of South Australia
- 47. Wings
- 49. Drug used to treat HIV/AIDS
- 50. Fencing sword
- 55. Capital of Qatar
- 56. Portable bed
- 57. Afflicted
- 59. Lying down
- 60. Midway between northeast and east
- 61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- 62. Inflamed
- 63. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 64. Impudence
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. A way to fish
- 2. Greek mythological figure
- 3. Scarlett's home
- 4. Assist
- 5. More doleful
- 6. Premeditated
- 7. Dish featuring minced food
- 8. San Diego ballplayer
- 9. Eight
- 10. Unwelcome picnic guests
- 12. Human gene
- 14. Bucket
- 19. Make full
- 23. Dirt
- 24. Person cited as ideal example
- 25. A part of (abbr.)
- 26. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
- 27. Very long period of time
- 28. Gas usage measurement
- 29. North American native people
- 34. It says "moo"
- 35. Folk singer Di Franco
- 36. Resinlike substance of certain insects
- 37. Residue
- 39. Grand homes
- 40. Popinjays
- 41. Man who behaves dishonorably
- 42. Figures
- 44. One who watches over children
- 45. Expressed pleasure
- 46. No longer living
- 47. Hebrew calendar month
- 48. Part of the ear
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Prejudice
- 53. Italian Island
- 54. Resist authority (slang)
- 58. Criticize

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 11

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Simply log on to our web site, choose the paper you want the announcement to appear in, then use our SUBMISSION link to email your information.



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In The News



The Miracle League of Western MA officially opened its accessible playground on Oct. 9 after eight years of work put into the project.

Turley photos by Quinn Suomala



Above, many of those involved in helping to open the Miracle League Playground for All gathered for a photo to celebrate the playground they worked so hard for finally being open. Left, Boomer from the Thunderbirds was at the grand opening to congratulate the Miracle League. Below, League Playground for all was filled with children and their families playing on it in celebration of its grand opening on Oct. 9.



Parks and Recreation Director Tom Reynolds gave a speech congratulating everyone involved in the playground project for finally being able to achieve their dream of opening this park. Special Events Chairperson for the Miracle League of Western Mass. Kerry Parsons was proud to see all of the work she and others had done finally come to fruition.



Mayor Joshua Garcia embraces Special Events Chairperson for the Miracle League of Western Mass. Kerry Parsons in congratulations after the ribbon was cut to open the playground.



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<p>SLICED IN OUR DELI SWISS CHEESE \$4.44 lb</p>	<p>USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN BATTERED & BREADED SHRIMP \$3.99 lb</p>	<p>USDA INSP. STORE MADE BONELESS KOREAN BBQ MARINATED PORK BUTT STRIPS \$3.35 lb</p>
<p>USDA INSP. STORE MADE BONELESS ITALIAN MARINATED CHICKEN BREAST \$2.99 lb</p>	<p>USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY 80% LEAN GROUND BEEF \$3.79 7 LB BAG</p>	<p>90 Meat Outlet 90 Avocado St. Springfield 413-737-1288 www.90meat.com</p>
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PLAYGROUND, from page 1

ground,” Parsons said.

Mayor Joshua Garcia was also present at the grand opening and he was glad to see Holyoke taking such an important step toward accessibility.

“Playgrounds bring improved quality of life for everybody but you think about whether or not they’re accessible for all kids of all abilities,” Garcia said. “So the community, like it always does, came together to try and figure out how to close that need. Now, here we have this playground.”

This playground really did bring the community together. With many organizations and community members helping the Miracle League to raise funding and plan out the process, this project shows how dedicated they all were to creating this space for all.

Now, thanks to them, children with disabilities no longer have to travel outside of Holyoke in order to play on a playground.

“We’re standing right now in a playground that is conclusive with the community coming together and doing what we can to meet the needs of all in our community, including those children with disabilities,” Garcia said.

The playground will follow city park hours for its opening and closing times. The community looks forward to enjoying it for many more years to come.

SPORTS

Knights make tournament

HOLYOKE – For the first time, Holyoke girls soccer will qualify for the state tournament following wins over Easthampton and Ware. The 7-2-2 Knights will finish at .500 or better for the first time in many years.

In Holyoke's 5-0 win over Ware, Kyra Lippman had two goals and three assists to lead the team.



Kyra Lippman clears the ball.



Kayshaly Garcia gets balanced.



Jayleen Moquin gets ahead of the Ware defense.



Kya Donnelly separates from her opponent.



Tryana Ayala goes around a Ware defender.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Alvin Silva dekes his opponent.



Christan Guzik looks to shoot.



Arthur Mazzu goes for a header.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Xavier Matos heads through the middle of the field.



Adrian Centeno-Feliciano heads for the Monson goal.

Knights fall to Mustangs

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke High School boys soccer team was defeated by Monson last Friday afternoon 4-1. The Knights are now 0-9-1.

Holyoke defeats Comp for first win

HOLYOKE – Last Friday night, after heavy struggles in their first four games this season, Holyoke football picked up its first win with an 18-13 win over Chicopee Comprehensive last Friday night.

Chicopee Comp's struggles continued as they dropped to 0-5 for the season. The Colts were coming off their toughest matchup of the season as they fell to Central 56-0 the previous week. Both teams are now in their AA Conference action for the remainder of the regular season with tough matchups to come against teams like Minnechaug and Longmeadow.

Corey Bubar steals show in Granite Series win

LEE, N.H. – Corey Bubar was probably not the favorite to win Sunday evening’s Bosowski Properties 150. But in the season finale for the Granite State Pro Stock Series, Bubar stole the show.

The Windham, Maine, racer held off Jimmy Renfrew, Jr. to claim the \$8,500 victory at Lee USA Speedway, closing out Lee USA Speedway’s year-ending Russ Conway’s Oktoberfest spectacular.

And well back in Bubar’s mirror, fellow Pine Tree State native Travis Benjamin drove a patient race to earn the GSPSS championship.

Sunday’s season finale earned intrigue before the drop of the green, with a \$2,000 bonus offered to any top-five starter who would forfeit their position on the grid if they could come back to win. Derek Griffith, the 2015 GSPSS champion, answered the call, lining up

shotgun on the 28-car field to chase the bounty.

Bubar, starting outside of Ryan Green, jumped into the lead early, building an advantage over Green in the opening stint as Griffith picked his way through traffic. When a yellow flag flew on lap 35, Griffith had already clawed his way to 12th with plenty of laps left.

On the restart, Renfrew surged to second, pursuing Bubar until a wreck in the back of the field brought out another caution on lap 47. Reigning champion Joey Doiron pitted from fifth, while Griffith cycled through to eighth for the restart. Benjamin, well ahead of challenger Brandon Barker in the title race, was tenth.

Bubar held off Renfrew’s advances on the restart, but the Candia, N.H., youngster prevailed, making his way

to the front and leading at halfway. A long green-flag run allowed Renfrew to stretch the gap between himself and Bubar, but Bubar reeled Renfrew in as they diced through lapped traffic. A slow car ahead of Renfrew at just the right time gave Bubar an opening, and Bubar charged back through to take the lead.

Griffith’s bid for the bounty went up in smoke with 31 laps to go, as he shredded a right-front tire running fourth. Griffith rejoined the field after a tow, but his shot at the win was all but over and he would rebound to finish eighth.

Bubar brought the field to green, and while Renfrew hassled him for a couple laps, he was able to pull away down the stretch. In his first series start of the season, Bubar raced to his second GSPSS win and his first since winning at his home track, Beech Ridge Motor

Speedway, in 2021.

Renfrew followed Bubar home in second, with Green, Dave Farrington and Angelo Belsito rounding out the top five.

And with an eleventh-place finish, Travis Benjamin completed his championship season, becoming the tenth different driver to fly the GSPSS champion’s banner. The Belfast, Maine, veteran, a former NASCAR racer and multi-time regional champion, won the first two outings of the season and committed to a full-time schedule that saw him finish out of the top-five only once all year.

The Granite State Pro Stock Series and president Mike Parks extend their gratitude to the tracks, teams and sponsors that made this 2023 season possible, and hope to release details on next year’s schedule soon.

Thunderbirds fall in preseason tune-up

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – The Springfield Thunderbirds erased a 2-0 second intermission deficit before the Providence Bruins squeaked out a 3-2 overtime win in the final preseason matchup at Amica Mutual Pavilion.

Colten Ellis and Brandon Bussi kept the opposition off the board through 20 minutes before the Bruins connected for two quick goals in the second from Marc McLaughlin and Reilly Walsh respectively. Providence held the 2-0 edge into the final period of regulation.

However, the T-Birds showed some comeback magic as Drew Callin

and Hugh McGing each tallied goals of their own just 27 seconds apart, and just 4:06 into the third, the game was deadlocked, 2-2. Ellis even helped his own cause, picking up the secondary assist on Callin’s marker.

Despite being outshot 35-21 in regulation, Springfield got the game to overtime thanks to 33 Ellis stops, but Providence got the last laugh as John Farinacci beat Ellis at 1:35 of OT to secure the Bruins win.

The T-Birds open their regular season slate next Saturday, Oct. 14 against Hartford, with puck drop set for 7:05 p.m. at the MassMutual Center.

Cambridge half-marathon registration open

CAMBRIDGE – Registration is open for the Cambridge Half Marathon and 5K at CambridgeSide. The races are scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 5 (race begins 7 a.m. EST) on a gorgeous new course with views of the Charles River along Memorial Drive.

The Cambridge Half Marathon is a 13.1 mile fast and flat course featuring views of the MIT, John W. Weeks Footbridge, Harvard University Stadium, Charles River and more. The new 5K race also offers scenic views alongside the Charles River. Both courses are USATF certified and start and finish at CambridgeSide.

Race registration includes quarter zip pull over (half marathon participants) or long sleeve shirt (5K participants), five complimentary CambridgeSide parking passes, training plan, race bib with timing chip, and finishing medal. Register for both races at CambridgeSide.com.

Cambridge Half Marathon and 5K at CambridgeSide race proceeds benefit Cambridge Camping (CambridgeCamping.org), City of Cambridge Scholarship Fund (Cambridgema.gov/Services/CityScholarship) as well as other local charities. Cambridge Half Marathon and 5K is sponsored by Canam Group Inc. and training sponsor MYSTRYDE.

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Kidney Associates at HMC scheduled to open Nov. 1

HOLYOKE – Kidney Associates at Holyoke Medical Center is scheduled to open on Nov. 1, with two locations, one at the hospital campus at 10 Hospital Drive, Suite 301, Holyoke, and a second location at 2150 Main St. Both offices are currently scheduling appointments and accepting all patients.

Led by nephrologists Balaji Padmanaban Athreya, MD, FASN, and Shaji Daniel, MD, FACP, FASN, this new service will provide care for patients with chronic kidney disease, dialysis treatments, and transplant care. Common conditions that may warrant a referral to our nephrology team include chronic kidney disease, protein in urine, blood in urine, hypertension, low sodium and/or potassium levels, urinary tract infections, and kidney stones, dialysis and transplantation needs.

“We are excited to bring this new

and important service to Holyoke Medical Center. Dr. Athreya’s and Dr. Daniel’s knowledge, expertise and compassionate care will be an asset to the community and will have a positive influence on the health and well being of our patients,” said Spiros Hatiras, president and CEO of Holyoke Medical Center.

Dr. Balaji Padmanaban Athreya completed a Bachelor of Medicine and a Bachelor of Surgery degree at Thanjavur Medical College in India before completing senior house officer roles in general surgery, and accident and emergency medicine in London, United Kingdom. He completed a residency in internal medicine and a fellowship in Nephrology and Hypertension at Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center in New York. Athreya has been an active member of the medical staff at Holyoke

Medical Center since 2000.

“In this busy world, patients feel that they don’t get enough time and they’re being rushed. I like to take the time to listen to my patients, caring for them and their needs,” said Athreya. “We educate patients about chronic disease. We want to slow the progression of kidney disease and provide comprehensive care, including screening and disease management. In the event a patient needs to go on dialysis, we provide full service dialysis and transplantation.”

Dr. Shaji Daniel completed his Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery degree at the University School of Medicine, Kerala, India. He then completed a residency at the University School of Medicine Calicut, India. Following these, Daniel underwent an Internal Medicine Residency in Ireland and was awarded the presti-

gious Membership of the Royal College of Physicians in Dublin, Ireland. Daniel then completed a fellowship in nephrology at the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland and underwent further training at the University School of Medicine in London, Ontario, Canada. After relocating to Western Massachusetts, he trained at Baystate Medical Center before he began practicing Nephrology and Transplantation medicine in Western Massachusetts for the past 15 years. Daniel has been an active member of the medical staff at Holyoke Medical Center since 2008.

“During my training, I was deeply touched by the complexity of problems kidney patients go through every day. I want to care for them, help them, and be part of their journey,” says Daniel.

To learn more or make an appointment, please call 413.534.2787.

ACTION, from page 1

oped, the funding that is needed, whatever that number is, if a special meeting is necessary, we’ll call that special meeting and have that meeting right away to address it,” he said.

While Holyoke has limited resources, Garcia and Pratt promised they will use the resources they do have to take steps to ensure improved public safety.

“We can only do what we’re afforded the resources to do and reassure the public that after something like this, that we’re not going to sit idly by and move onto the next tragedy, we’re going to make the changes necessary to make our streets safer,” Pratt said. “That’s what we do, that’s what we’re going to do, and with the city council and the mayor’s help, we’re going to make that happen.”

Both Garcia and Pratt also emphasized how important it is that Holyoke community members contact the police department if they see or hear something wrong.

According to Garcia, there have been 117 shot spotter activations in the

past six months, but only 14 calls to the police themselves.

“Chief Pratt emphasized the need for citizens to take the initiative and call the police when they hear gun fire and yesterday that happened, but it doesn’t happen enough,” Garcia said. “The Chief said he understands the reluctance some might have or the assumption that someone else might just make the call but I need the public to know and understand that they need to please don’t assume anything and just do.”

Garcia urged the community to stay strong in this time of need.

There is an emergency relief fund in place at the Holyoke Chamber of Commerce for the family affected by the tragedy. Garcia urges those who can help to lend a hand.

Most importantly, Garcia asks that the Holyoke community not lose faith, and that they band together to keep improving Holyoke as a city.

“Please don’t lose faith and keep the city in which that beautiful, lost baby, would have grown strong to love and be proud of,” Garcia said.

once the question reaches the ballot, they could ensure it was able to be implemented.

“We should refer it to the committee so that we make sure that when we put it on the ballot it is actually done right so then others cannot sue us for doing something that is not done correctly,” Maldonado Velez said. “I still stand that I will vote for this being a ballot question in 2024, but the reality is the response we’ve gotten from the judge is that the ballot question itself is not even done properly, so why are we rushing?”

Councilors Kevin Jourdain and Linda Vacon were initially hesitant to send the motion to committee, as they wanted to ensure that this question would eventually reach constituents.

“I think we had the consensus that... everybody wanted to put it on next year’s ballot, so now we’re here to put it on next year’s ballot but now it appears the goal post moved yet again,” Jourdain said. “Now it’s we don’t want to do it, we’re going to have the next council do it. So now we’re going to have it in January, maybe not go on next year’s ballot.”

The councilors agreed that this is an important question that they do want the citizens of Holyoke to have a say on, but they want to ensure that it is done right so that they do not face issues further down the line.

With more than a year until the November 2024 election, they believe it is better to take the time now to ensure everything goes as it should.

Therefore, the motion was sent to the finance committee, where they will go over the question with the law department.

Benefit concert for Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Oct. 15

AGAGWAM – The public is invited to attend a benefit concert sponsored by The Friends of the Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Agawam on Sunday, Oct. 15, from noon to 4 p.m., at the Sons of Erin, 22 William St., in Westfield. Admittance is available for a \$15 donation.

The concert will feature Billy Eagen and The Rising. Eagen has been playing for over 20 years, from Boston to New York. He was the founding member of the Rising Band. He will be playing everyone’s Irish Pub favorites, keeping the Irish culture alive and well. This family-friendly event will be a fun time for all.

Come and be part of what will be a moving tribute to veterans as well as a high-energy performance.. Sit in the pavilion of bring a lawn chair and sit in the open air.

Food trucks from North Elm Butcher Block and The Saucy Mama, as well as Patty Cakes will satisfy

all pallets. In addition to a cash bar, craft beer from Loophole and Easy Company breweries will be available. Ice cream will be served by the “Ice Cream Emergency” from their mobile Ice Cream Parlor.

The grand prizes will include two tickets to the Patriots-Jets game on Jan. 7, 2024, a Smith & Wesson 9 mm Shield EZ, a four-pack of tickets for the Thunderbirds, handmade cornhole boards and a pair of Adirondack chairs. There will be a raffle table with over 50 awesome prizes, most valued at over \$100, and a 50/50 raffle.

Come see the Veteran Dragon Boat, Hampden County Sheriff Department’s Mounted Patrol and Boomer the Springfield Thunderbird’s mascot. Participate in the bean bag toss sponsored by Soapy Moby and more.

The Friends is a nonprofit organization that raises funds to enhance the hallowed grounds at the cemetery and honor to the veterans interred there.

BALLOT, from page 1

McGiverin wanted to ensure that the current city council was allowed to make this vote, as there will be a new city council following the Nov. 7 election.

“This particular motion is for an election that is a year away, at that time we’ll have a different city council that will be sitting in these chambers and I think it should be up to that council, it may even have to be up to that council, to place that question on the ballot,” McGiverin said.

Councilor Israel Rivera agreed with this statement and also believed that taking the time to look this ballot question over would allow for a chance to change the wording.

Rivera believes that to be a truly fair ballot question it should ask if people want to lower or raise the surcharge or keep it the same, not just ask if people want to lower it or not.

By taking the time to discuss the question more, Rivera hopes that this change could be made.

“If you’re going to put it on the ballot for it to only go down then that is biased,” Rivera said. “For it to be flexible for anyone it should be able to go up or down, so since we have the time, since we have the year’s time to do it, it would be good for it to go to the law department.”

Councilors Juan Anderson-Burgos, Kocayne Givner, Jose Maldonado Velez and Tessa Murphy-Romboletti all verbally agreed that sending it to committee would be beneficial.

They want to ensure that this time the ballot question was done well so that,

STCC to host career and college fair

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield Technical Community College will host a fall career and college transfer fair on Thursday, Oct. 19, 10 a.m. to noon to help students and anyone else seeking their next career move or interested in learning more about four-year college transfer options.

STCC will hold a series of workshops and events starting Oct. 10 to help career and college transfer fair attendees prepare. They include workshops for resume building, cover letter writing and social media and networking, among other events.

All events are free for students, alumni and friends of STCC looking for their next career move. The main event, the career and college transfer fair, will be held at STCC in the Scibelli Hall, Building 2, gymnasium.

“We are thrilled to host the career and college transfer fair at STCC along with several workshops to help you prepare for the fair,” said Gladys Franco, vice president of Workforce Development at STCC. “This is a terrific opportunity to network and connect with area businesses. We encourage everyone to bring a polished resume to the event.”

Attendees also will have a chance to meet with representatives from four-

year colleges and universities who can discuss transfer options. Four-year colleges and universities that offer transfer opportunities to STCC students can set up a table for free.

Employers in the region also can contact STCC to participate. STCC offers corporate and nonprofit partnerships, which includes a vendor table. Find out more information, including prices for sponsorships, by visiting stcc.io/careerfair.

“We encourage employers to register as soon as possible, since employer space is limited,” Franco said. “Employers won’t want to miss being part of the Career Fair at STCC. This is an opportunity to potentially find excellent candidates for positions.”

Students may be eligible to get a free suit to make their best impression at the event. Men can visit Suit Up Springfield, a community organization focused on providing the young men of Springfield professional attire. Women can get assistance from Dress for Success, which provides professional attire to secure employment.

Participants can visit stcc.io/careerfair to find more information, including links to register. For questions, please contact Danielle Morales at 413-755-4893 or dmorales0002@stcc.edu.

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All hardwood.

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Furniture, art work, books, games, jewelry, pocketbooks, clothing, kitchen things, fur coats, speakers, etc.

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ARA JUNK FURNITURE REMOVAL

Full house cleanouts, attics, basements, garages, pools, hot tubs, sheds, decks. Same day service. 8am-9pm. Credit cards accepted. Free estimates on phone.
Call Pete 413-433-0356.

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Junk, Appliance, Cleanouts.

We load it & take it.

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CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

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WANTED TO BUY

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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*****A & B HOUSEHOLD REMOVAL SERVICE*****

Cellars, attics, garages cleaned, yard debris. Barns & sheds demolished. Swimming pools removed. Cheaper than dumpster fees and we do all the work. Lowest rates. Fully insured.
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Insured
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All brick, block, stone, concrete. Hatchway doors, basement windows, chimneys rebuilt & repaired, foundations repaired, basement waterproofing systems, sump pumps. BBB+ rating. Free estimates. Lic #14790. Call **(413)569-1611, (413)374-5377**

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Work done at your home.
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SERVICES



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Call for a Free Estimate, Veteran Owned, Fully Insured
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HELP WANTED

The Town of Wilbraham is now hiring for the following vacancies:

- Heavy Equipment Operator 1
- P/T Assistant Adult Services Librarian
- P/T Basketball Scorekeepers
- P/T Basketball Officials
- P/T Gym Supervisor
- Public Works Skilled Worker

For application and more information please visit www.wilbraham-ma.gov. EOE

HELP WANTED

Town of Hampden Cemetery Commission is hiring for part time administrative staff. Position requires advanced computer skills, research ability, clerical skills and reports to the Cemetery Commissioners.

Weekly hours from 12 to 16.

Send resume and letter of interest to Cemetery@HampdenMA.gov

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

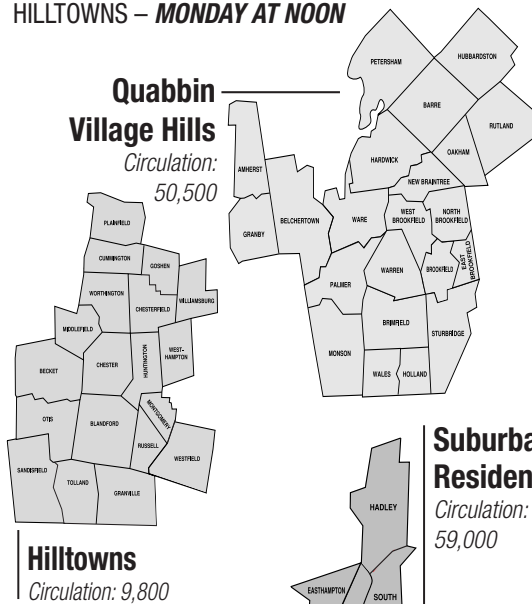
MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
or call: 413-283-8393

DEADLINES:

QUABBIN & SUBURBAN - FRIDAY AT NOON
HILLTOWNS - 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

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____
Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Number of Weeks: _____ X per week rate = \$ _____
Credit Card: MasterCard VISA Discover Cash Check# _____
Card #: _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____
Amount of charge: _____ Date: _____



Buy the Quabbin Village Hills or the Suburban Residential ZONE for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word. Add \$10 for a second Zone or add \$15 to run in ALL THREE ZONES.

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**City of Holyoke
Notice of Public Hearing**

The DGR Committee of the Holyoke City Council will hold a public hearing on **Monday, October 30, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.** to hear a special permit application of Laura Delmolino per 6.1.8.1 for driveway in front yard at 176 Lincoln Street (104-00-061) to widen the existing driveway with a turnaround. Meeting will take place at Holyoke City Hall 536 Dwight St and can be accessed remotely via www.zoom.us Meeting ID 844 4852 3074 Meeting Passcode 759020 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 with same Meeting ID and Passcode. For an electronic copy of this application or to provide comments for the public hearing, please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org or by phone 413-322-5525.

DGR Chair,
Tessa Murphy-Romboletti
10/13, 10/20/2023

**Notice Under
Fictitious Name Law
According to Minnesota
Statutes
Chapter 333**

NOTICE IS HERBY GIVEN that the undersigned desiring to engage in business under the Fictitious Name of RONALD LEONARD CARRIVEAU located at 88 Sycamore Street in the City of Holyoke, Hampden County, Massachusetts 01040 has registered the said name with the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State St Paul MN 55101.

Dated the 20th day of September, 2023

Carriveau, Ronald
October 06, 2023
10/06, 10/13, 10/20/2023

**City of Holyoke
Historical Commission
AMENDED
PUBLIC HEARING
LEGAL NOTICE
HOLYOKE HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, under the third Amendment to Chapter 18 of the Revised Code of Ordinances of the City of Holyoke, Massachusetts, under Sec. 18-34 C-c of the Demolition Delay Ordinance, that a PUBLIC HEARING will be held concerning the proposed demolition of 435 Maple Street (Parcel 010-09-002) owned by Diocese of Springfield to be held on:

DATE: **Wednesday,
October 25, 2023**
TIME: **6:00 p.m.**
LOCATION: **Holyoke
Council on Aging & Senior
Center, 291 Pine Street,
Holyoke, MA**

For more information contact: the Office of Planning &

Economic Dept at 413-322-5655 Holyoke

Historical Commission:
Christopher H. Gauthier
10/06, 10/13/2023

**COMMONWEALTH
OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
HAMPDEN, Div.
Probate & Family Court
Dept. HD23E0044PP**

To *Marion Orszulak of Holyoke, in the County of Hampden, and to all other persons interested.*

A petition has been presented to said Court by Jozef Orszulak, of Holyoke, in the County of Hampden, representing that they hold as tenant-in-common in an undivided part or share of land lying in Holyoke, in the County of Hampden, setting forth that they desire that all of said land may be sold at a private sale or public auction for not less than Three Hundred Ninety Thousand (\$390,000.00) Dollars, and praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any part of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided either at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute the net proceeds thereof after full adjudication of the equitable claims contained in said petition and supplemental memorandum filed with the Court.

If you desire to object thereto, you or your attorney, should file a written appearance in said Court at **Springfield** before ten o'clock in the morning on the **twelfth day of November 2023**, the return day of this citation.

Witness, BARBARA M. HYLAND, Esquire, First Justice of said Court, this 13th day of September 2023.

Rosemary A. Saccomani,
Register
10/13/2023

**City of Holyoke, MA
RFP
2024-0050PED(REBID)
CONSULTING SERVICES
TO PROVIDE
A COMPREHENSIVE
PLAN FOR
THE CITY OF HOLYOKE
Sealed Proposals due by
10/31/2023 at 2:00 PM, EST
Email submissions will not
be accepted**

The City of Holyoke is seeking sealed qualifications from qualified firms to provide professional consulting services for the creation of a new updated Comprehensive Plan for the City of Holyoke.

Involvement with any City of Holyoke Procurement shall be in accordance with

M.G.L 30B, c. 149, 30& 39 M. 30, c. 30B & 5, c. 7C & 44-57. It shall be the responsibility of each supplier to assure compliance with any OSHA, EPA, CORI, DEP, and/or FEDERAL, STATE of MASSACHUSETTS rules, and regulations or other requirements, as each may apply.

Sealed qualifications for this project shall be received by the City of Holyoke from qualified bidders submitted on forms furnished by the City and clearly identified on the outside of the bid with the name and address of the bidder, and the name and Bid Number of the project, and submitted to:

City of Holyoke, Purchasing
536 Dwight Street #3
Holyoke, MA 01040

Documents can be requested in person at the Purchasing Office or via email from: morrowj@holyoke.org

This project is funded in whole or in part with Federal Funds. Respondents will be verified for eligibility to receive Federal Funds and must comply with all Federal requirements including Part 200.

The city reserves the right to reject any and all submissions based on the best interest of the city.
10/13/2023

**LEGAL NOTICE
CITY OF HOLYOKE
GAS & ELECTRIC
DEPARTMENT
2024 UTILITY LINE
MATERIAL**

Sealed bids for furnishing the above material will be received by Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept. until **2:00 p.m. October 26, 2023**, at the Office of the Manager, 99 Suffolk St., Holyoke, MA 01040, at which time proposals 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 in the best interest of the City of Holyoke.

Please mark sealed envelopes "**Bid for 2024 Utility Line Material**" and address them to:

James M. Lavelle, Manager
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept.
99 Suffolk St.
Holyoke, MA 01040
10/13/2023

**City of Holyoke
Notice of Public Hearing**

The Ordinance Committee of the Holyoke City Council will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, October 24, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.** to hear a special permit application of Blossom Flower LLC at 1 Cabot St. (048-01-010) for a cannabis third party transporter license. Meeting will take place at Holyoke City Hall 536 Dwight St and can be accessed remotely via www.zoom.us Meeting ID 831 7743 6694 Meeting Passcode 289877 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 with same Meeting ID and Passcode. For an electronic copy of this application or to provide comments for the public hearing, please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org or by phone 413-322-5525.

Ordinance Chair,
Linda Vacon
10/06, 10/13/2023

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

JOB OPENING

STAFF WRITER

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

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

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

Qualifications should include:

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

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

Eileen Kennedy, Executive Editor
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
or email directly to ekennedy@turley.com
Turley Publications, Inc.
www.turley.com

**Community Newspaper
EDITOR WANTED**

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

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

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

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

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

Qualifications should include:

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

Please send resume and writing examples to:

Eileen Kennedy, Executive Editor
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
or email directly to ekennedy@turley.com

**PUBLIC NOTICES
ARE NOW ONLINE**

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

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

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

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.

D	A	T	A		S	P	T		P	V	A					
A	R	A	B	S		A	L	I		P	A	I	N			
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HCC celebrates highlighting Latinx art and culture

HOLYOKE – One mural features a sepia-toned likeness of a bomba dancer and drummer and stands three stories tall over the Holyoke Community College courtyard. Another lines an entire wall on the second floor of the HCC Campus Center, spelling out “E-L C-E-N-T-R-O” in bold, blue letters from floor to ceiling behind silhouettes of icons of Latin American history. A third presents a brightly colored image of a traditional Puerto Rican vejigante mask, welcoming visitors into El Centro, a bilingual student-support program for HCC’s Latinx students.

All three were painted by muralist Betsy Casañas in collaboration with the city of Holyoke and the nonprofit Beyond Walls project. While Casañas completed the murals over the summer, they were officially unveiled Oct. 4, during Hispanic Heritage Month festivities that included a Latinx Fiesta and two ribbon-cutting ceremonies, one outside in the HCC courtyard and one inside by El Centro.

“I want to say that you showing up today matters,” said Julissa Colón, director of El Centro. “It shows the institution and our community that we have a voice and that we are unafraid to use it, and that the work that is being brought to our campus represents us and what we want to say about ourselves.”

Casañas returned to campus to participate in the day’s celebrations and help cut the ribbons. Initially, she said, she did not know much about Holyoke or HCC before she was enlisted to paint the murals and was given complete freedom to create whatever she wanted. After doing some research and talking to Colón and others at HCC, she decided on the themes represented in each mural.



Muralist Betsy Casañas stands with HCC President George Timmons in front of one of her murals featuring a bomba dancer and drummer.



Members of the HCC community celebrated the debut of three new murals on campus with two ribbon-cutting ceremonies on Wed., Oct. 4, during Hispanic Heritage Month. *Submitted Photos*

“I felt that there was such a large Puerto Rican presence in Holyoke, I wanted to bring a little bit of Puerto Rico here,” said Casañas, who is Puerto Rican herself and lives in Philadelphia - “to see that reflection of ourselves on the walls.”

The large outdoor mural of the bomba dancer and drummer, she said, is an actual representation of a classroom at the famous Tata Cepeda school in Puerto Rico.

“They were rehearsing,” said Casañas. “Tata Cepeda comes from seven generations of folkloric musicians, dancers, and drummers.”

Among the 16 figures on the large mural outside El Centro are baseball legend Roberto Clemente (of Puerto

Rico), and Nobel-prize winning author Gabriel Garcia Marquez (Colombia), and many more important people, such as Luisa Moreno, a Guatemalan-born labor activist, Dr. Jose Gregorio Hernandez, a Venezuelan physician later declared a saint, and the Mirabal sisters, who were murdered after demonstrating against the dictator Rafael Trujillo in the Dominican Republic.

“If you don’t know who these guys are, look them up. There’s incredible environmental activists. We have folks from the LGBTQ community. We have musicians that were just revolutionary in their time. We have absolutely incredible folks on this wall,” said Casañas.


The third mural is inside El Centro, on the wall in the reception area that can

be seen through glass windows all the way from the far side of the cafeteria. It’s an image of a vejigante, a traditional Puerto Rican mask often worn during festivals to ward off evil spirits.

“Not only are the murals beautiful,” said Colón, “but they show our students that their history has value, that they come from incredible stories of strength, success, bravery, and joy.”




Holding the scissors for both ribbon-cuttings was new President George Timmons.

“These murals reflect what is possible for our students,” Timmons said. “They showcase where we come from and what we can be. They are inspiring, they are vibrant, and they connect us to one another.”



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Sunday, October 22, 10 a.m.

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