

the HOLYOKE Sun

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Youth coach killed in shooting

By Kristin Rivers
krivers@turley.com

H O L Y O K E / CHICOPEE - Ricky Arroyo, a coach for the Chicopee Galaxy Youth Athletic Association, has been identified as the victim shot and killed in a shooting near the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Holyoke on Oct. 11.

According to the Hampden County District Attorney's Office, the Holyoke Police Department responded to the scene on Nick Cosmos Way at approximately 1 p.m. "for a report of a man down."

"Responding officers determined that the incident involved a shooting. The victim was transported to a local hospital, where he later died. The victim has been identified as Ricky Arroyo, 35, of Chicopee," it reads.

During the response, Holyoke Police officers located an adult male suspect and took him into custody.

"The defendant, Craig Jones, 37, of South Hadley, was arraigned Tuesday, Oct. 13 in Holyoke District Court on the following charges: murder, carrying a firearm without a license, carrying a loaded firearm without a license, and discharge of a firearm within 500 feet of a building. His next date in court is scheduled for Nov. 13. Jones is presumed innocent of all allegations until proven guilty," it reads. "This remains an ongoing investigation being conducted by the Hampden District Attorney's Office State Police Detective Unit, in conjunction with the Holyoke Police Department. Hampden District Attorney Gulluni expresses his sympathies to the victim's family."

Jones has pleaded not guilty and is currently being held without bail, with his next court appearance scheduled for Friday, Nov. 13.

The Boys & Girls Club of Greater Holyoke said that none of its members, participants, staff, coaches or officials were injured in the shooting, sharing this statement with local media on Tuesday.

"The safety and well-being of the community is our top priority," said Mayor John P. DeStefano. "We will continue to work closely with the police and the community to ensure the safety of all residents."

See SHOOTING, page 6



E.N. White teacher Lisette Martinez realized a dream of becoming a published author recently.

Local teacher releases first children's book

H O L Y O K E - For Lisette Martinez, becoming a published children's author has been her dream since childhood.

Over the summer, Martinez released her first children's book, "The Extraordinary Adventures of Emma and the Dragon." Her love of reading and writing began at a young age and was encouraged by family

members, many of whom worked in education.

"When I was growing up, every room in my house had books," said Ms. Martinez. "I have a deep love for books, and I always wanted my name on one."

Inspired by her daughter and her love for playing and building, the story follows Emma, a young girl and a dragon as they go

on an adventure to solve a kingdom's problem. All Emma wants to do is help her community, but many people tell her she is too small to make a difference. Even so, Emma continues forward with confidence and determination.

"She was playing with building blocks one day, and

See BOOK, page 10

Wyckoff set to close down

Country Club will become single-family residential community

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

H O L Y O K E - On Tuesday, Wyckoff Country Club owner Cesar Ruiz announced the longtime course would be closing its doors for business and the property would be transitioned from a 110-acre golf course to an upscale residential community.

According to Ruiz, there is no zone change needed or required, and helps address a housing shortage in the area.

A press release from Wyckoff says golfing will end on Nov. 1, the last day of the season.

Ruiz said the announcement comes after a thorough strategic planning exercise to determine the highest and best use for the property, which he originally purchased to be a component in the development of a new Volleyball Hall of Fame and sports complex.

"We have the opportunity to build a singular residential community at the base of the Holyoke Range, in the foothills of the Berkshires, while providing much needed housing," Ruiz said. "This spectacular location for single-family homes is among

the best in all of Western Massachusetts with its access to Interstate Route 91 and the Massachusetts Turnpike. This site also takes advantage of access to the Connecticut River, the Holyoke Reservoir system and hiking, biking and passive recreation."

He believes the new residential community will become a destination and attract residents seeking to move into a new home.

"This will truly be a spectacular residential community that will appeal to those in Holyoke looking to transition to a new home, those in the region looking for a unique residential space and may also appeal to those outside of the area wanting to purchase a home near the many natural resources and the lifestyle available in Western Massachusetts," Ruiz said.

According to the UMass Amherst Donahue Institute, their 2025 study on the state of housing need indicates that Hampden County has a shortage of 12,991 homes. In the four-county region in total, some 23,420 homes are needed to meet current demand, according to the study. This fall a statewide referendum is on the ballot that will make housing easier to build and access, as leaders and housing advocates grapple with the cur-

See WYCKOFF, page 6

Council votes to recognize Indigenous People's Day

By Quinn Suomala
Correspondent

H O L Y O K E - The Holyoke City Council debated whether Holyoke should replace Columbus Day with Indigenous People's Day on the city calendar.

The decision to replace it with Indigenous People's Day passed 9-3, with Councilors Linda Vacon, Howard Greaney and Michael Sullivan voting against the decision.

Several Holyoke community members came forward during citizen speak time to speak in favor of this change.

They felt that this change would honor the

indigenous people who suffered under the actions of Christopher Columbus.

"I'd like you to reflect on your own lineage," Jai Rivera said. "How would it feel to have someone who murdered your people alongside the remembrance of your people?"

Additionally, several community members acknowledged that this holiday was initially created to honor Italian-Americans in the 1700s as a way to combat discrimination.

However, they stated that while Italian-Americans faced much discrimination at the time, that has changed and there are many other Italian-American figures who are

"The people that voted us in are telling us that they want this change."

- Juan Anderson-Burgos

honored today.

"I think it does nothing to take away from the enormous contributions Italian-Americans have had in this country," Linda Pratt said.

Moreover, many community members were Puerto Rican or had Puerto Rican heritage. They stated that Columbus brought a lot of harm to the indigenous people of Puerto Rico and to celebrate him in Holyoke was to disrespect those Holyoke citizens.

Several city councilors agreed with these community members. They felt this alteration would help to acknowledge the harm that Christopher Columbus wrought on indigenous people.

"Columbus was a lost sailor that came on a land where 40 to 90 million people were already living," Councilor Richard Purcell said. "He didn't discover anything. That started the genocide of 40 to 90 million

people[...it also started the slavery movement."

Other councilors felt that this was beyond the city council's purview to alter.

"We took an oath as city councilors to uphold the constitution and laws of our country and of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts," Sullivan said. "It's not up to us to change the laws."

These councilors also believed that the city council had other things it should focus on rather than altering this holiday.

"What we should be focusing on is not on a holiday but on affordable housing, safe streets and neigh-

See COUNCIL, page 6

More than 100 golfers play in memorial tournament

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer

S O U T H H A D L E Y - The sixth annual Michael Ahearn Memorial Golf Tournament was held at the Ledges Golf Club.

This year's tournament featured 28 four-person teams and was the first year being played at Ledges Golf Club. The tournament was named after Michael Ahearn, a former president of the St. Patrick's Committee of Holyoke.

Ahearn ran the tournament for many years until his passing about seven years ago. The golf tournament is one of many community events the committee hosts throughout the year to benefit

the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Holyoke.

The tournament used to be held at the Northampton Country Club and was known as the Scottish Open. The committee also hosts a road race, JFK Dinner and Battle of the Bars.

2027 will mark the 74th year of the St. Patrick's Day Parade. There is an average of 15,000 marchers per year.

M a r c Rogers of the St. Patrick's Committee of



Holyoke said the parade started back in 1952.



Above, golfers made their way to the course at Ledges Golf Club in South Hadley. Left, Marc Rogers of the St. Patrick's Committee of Holyoke welcomed all the golfers who participated in the sixth annual Michael Ahearn Memorial Golf Tournament.

The committee has around 120 active members who help with event planning and parade coordinating.

The golf tournament had

a good turnout with a sold-out year. The golfers were playing not only for bragging rights but also for pro shop credit at Ledges Golf Club.

Each team played 18 holes of golf and hoped to be as under par as possible.

See GOLFERS, page 2

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HCC receives \$1.25 million grant to expand childcare

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College has been awarded a federal grant worth nearly \$1.25 million to expand services at its on-campus, Itsy Bitsy Child Watch program while also providing subsidies for student parents who might require additional off-campus childcare.

The four-year Child Care Access Means Parents in School grant totaling \$1,247,520 comes from the U.S Department of Education, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

HCC will receive \$311,880 per year for fiscal years 2027-2030. Out of that, \$225,000 will be allocated to student parents through a new student childcare subsidy program. Grant funds will also be used to hire a part-time staff person to manage the subsidy program.

Itsy Bitsy Child Watch is available as a drop-in center for student parents while they are on the main HCC campus. The addition of the subsidy program will



Submitted photo
HCC student Marisol Puac Hernandez, far right, of Springfield, drops off her six-month-old son Christopher at the Itsy Bitsy Child Watch Center, where they are greeted by child watch staffers Emily Webber, left, and Lindsay Hernandez.

create additional on-campus childcare seats by freeing up more “as-needed” capacity at the Itsy Bitsy Child Watch center for students who need short-term care to attend classes, meet with professors, advisors, tutors or other similar academic activities. The subsidies will

help address what is sometimes a long waitlist for Itsy Bitsy Child Watch services. “Since it opened, Itsy Bitsy Child Watch has provided free, intermittent care for more than 225 HCC families,” said Itsy Bitsy Child Watch Director Emily Webber. “Now we

will have the ability to connect students with community-based childcare that can support longer care needs. Itsy Bitsy is perfect for many parents who need childcare on campus while they are in class, but others need off-campus childcare for longer days, additional

days per week, or at a location that is more convenient for their individual needs.”

Itsy Bitsy Child Watch opened as a pilot program in fall 2022 and moved to a larger space in 2025. A \$245,000 grant awarded earlier this year from the Irene E. and George A. Davis Foundation allowed the child watch center to add staff and additional hours, including hours in the evening for students taking night classes.

According to the Department of Education, HCC was one of only three Massachusetts colleges or universities to receive this funding and one of only 40 nationwide out of 300 campuses that applied. The other Massachusetts schools to receive grants were Quinsigamond and Mount Wachusett community colleges.

“This will allow Itsy Bitsy to meet the needs of more students,” said Webber. “We’re thrilled to offer this opportunity to parents and see the impact it will have.”

Museum presenting ‘Sensory Sundays’

HOLYOKE – The Children’s Museum of Holyoke is excited to bring back a specially designed program for families with children affected with sensory challenges (official diagnosis not required).

The Sensory Sunday program is held the first Sunday of each month during special off hours from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. For sensory-sensitive visitors, enjoy a dimmer, quieter museum open to exploring with your child. There are also handouts with tips on how you can best cater to your child’s unique ways of learning and living.

It is our hope that this program allows families who may typically avoid crowded or stimulating environments to come and join in on the fun. For more information, call the museum at (413) 536-7048.

City launches mini-grant program

HOLYOKE – The City of Holyoke is pleased to announce the launch of the MVP 2.0 Open Space Activation Mini-Grant Program, a new funding opportunity made possible through the City’s Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) 2.0 grant award.

The mini-grant program invites community-based nonprofit organizations and their fiscal sponsors to apply for funding to design and implement creative, community-centered projects that increase meaningful and sustainable use of open spaces in Holyoke’s Environmental Justice neighborhoods.

Open space activation projects may include, but are not limited to, com-

munity programming and events, physical improvements, cultural installations, community engagement initiatives, and other activities that bring residents together and breathe new life into underutilized open spaces.

This funding opportunity is being made available as the result of Holyoke’s Municipal Vulnerability 2.0 (MVP 2.0) planning process, funded by the MA Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. A total of \$40,000 is available through this program, which will be distributed through an indeterminate number of awards of up to \$9,999 each. Awards are one-time grants for projects to be implemented between Dec. 1, 2026 and June 30, 2027.

Through this program, the City is seeking partners with demonstrated experience actively collaborating with Environmental Justice communities in Holyoke and a commitment to creating welcoming, accessible, and sustainable opportunities for community members to connect with and enjoy local open spaces.

Completed applications must be submitted by: Friday, Oct. 9 at 5 p.m. Application materials, eligibility requirements, funding guidelines, and submission instructions are available in the MVP2 Open Space Activation Application & Funding Guidelines document at: <https://www.holyoke.org/mvp-2-0-open-space-activation-mini-grant-program/>.

Library hosting Hispanic Genealogy

HOLYOKE – On Saturday, Oct. 17 at 1 p.m., Holyoke Public Library will present Exploring Hispanic Genealogy & Indigenous and African Caribbean Roots introduces participants to the rich, complex history of Caribbean and Latin American ancestry. Led by local genealogist Irisneri Alicea Flores, this program

explores how Indigenous Taíno, African, and Spanish histories intersect and are reflected in genealogical records and family histories.

Attendees will learn how to begin tracing their roots using historical documents, oral histories, and DNA, while gaining a deeper understanding of unique

Hispanic naming traditions, colonial record systems, and the challenges of uncovering Indigenous and African ancestry. The presentation also highlights how cultural identity has been shaped across generations and offers practical resources and tools for conducting genealogical research.

This program is ideal for anyone interested in family history, cultural heritage, or discovering their ancestral connections within the Caribbean and broader Hispanic world.

Sponsored by the Holyoke History Room. Free and open to the Public.

Made possible by a Holyoke Local Cultural Council grant, with funding from the MassCultural Council, a state agency.



Sensory-Friendly Trick-or-Treat available this Halloween season

HOLYOKE – Wistariahurst Museum is delighted to bring back our spooky and spectacular Sensory-Friendly Trick or Treat event into our halls for the Halloween season. Our bewitching trick or treat event will let you and your little goblins enjoy an adventure in our haunted halls designed for families with sensory sensitivities. Monsters of all ages can collect spook-tacular items through gentle exploration throughout the museum and choose from prizes ranging from candy to fidget toys. Guests are welcome and encouraged to wear their fun, festive costumes throughout their journey through the museum.

When signing up for the event on Eventbrite, please reserve one time slot per family. A staff member will reach out to registered guests

with questions about accessibility needs before the event to ensure that every ghost and ghouel feels comfortable and welcome during their time. Families are welcome to explore the museum and gardens at this event as well. Wistariahurst will also have yard games that the whole family can enjoy.

Families can sign up for ten-minute time slots between 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 25 and will be limited to two families per time slot. This trick-or-treat exploration event will continue until 3 p.m. to allow children to explore at their own pace and enjoy a stress-free experience. Stay as long as you want, time slots are only meant to ensure a calm and seamless check-in process. Sign up for a time slot today, our Boo Crew can’t wait to meet you.

Doors Open Holyoke event offers fun-filled adventure

HOLYOKE – On Saturday, Oct. 17, Doors Open Holyoke will welcome local residents and visitors alike to a day filled with history, fun and exploration.

Now in its 6th year, Doors Open Holyoke gives the local community, history buffs and curiosity seekers a unique, behind-the-scenes perspective of the first planned industrial city in the United States. Modeled on similar events that started taking place in France in

the early 1980’s as a way to inspire more interest in places of historical, cultural, and architectural significance, the upstart Holyoke initiative has been growing steadily every season.

Enjoy a special day where all activities are free and open to everyone. Locations include tours of Holyoke City Hall’s Ballroom, Victory Theatre, an Open House at Holyoke Fire Department (High St location), Wistariahurst Museum, the Children’s

Museum, Merry-Go-Round and the Volleyball Hall of Fame. Though scheduled activities take place between 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM, specific operating hours differ across participating sites. Please visit Explore Holyoke for complete information. Doors Open is free to attend and is an all-ages function.

“For residents as well as visitors, Doors Open is an opportunity to discover Holyoke’s hidden gems,” Mayor Joshua A. Garcia

said, “and learn about our history, and connect with the institutions and places that shaped our city.”

Doors Open Holyoke is brought to you by the Office of Planning and Economic Development (OPED), the Tourism Advisory Committee and funded by the MA Gaming Community Mitigation Grant.

Please contact Development Specialist Heather Kies at kiesh@holyoke.org to learn more.

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Friday Oct. 16 Lower Valley Guys	Saturday Oct. 17 The Healy's	Sunday Oct. 18 Jimmy McArdle & Jerry Murphy 2-5pm
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Saturday Night
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7 Days A Week

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\$1 per ticket - unlimited tickets
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Groups from 1-6 people
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When to wash and when not to wash

This is one of my more funnier titles, isn't it? It occurred to me that not everyone knows which fruits or vegetables should be washed prior to storage.

Just yesterday I was pondering this topic myself, wondering if my fresh picked apples should be washed before I stored them away in the fridge.

Read on to learn the answer to that question as well as the same for other crops. While we're at it I will provide additional tips to help achieve lengthy storage.

Apples should not be washed prior to storage. There is a protective waxy covering over the fruit that helps to increase its shelf life.

Experiments prove that washing it off caused the apples to spoil much more quickly. Placing unwashed apples in a plastic bag that is either left open or has perforations in it then putting the bag in the crisper drawer of the refrigerator will give them the best chance at longevity. This method provides both air flow and humidity.

Want to store carrots or beets? Use the same method.

You will have to cut back the greens first, however. If you leave them on they will pull moisture from the roots rendering them limp. Cut back to a half inch or so.

If your carrots or beets are super muddy it's best to let them air dry briefly to get



ripen, causing onions to sprout prematurely. Ethylene will also encourage potatoes to sprout.

Use onion bulbs that have two centers first; they won't store well. Garlic stems should be cut back to a couple of inches before storing for the winter in a cool and dry location in mesh bags or on slatted trays etc.

Softneck types of garlic have pliable foliage that lends itself well to braiding. In any case, allowing for good air circulation will ensure a long storage life.

Keep your garlic fists intact; once broken apart, individual cloves do not keep as long.

Gently wash winter squash in a 10% bleach solution prior to storing at temperatures between 50 and 60 degrees; in this case it will help prevent rot.

The flavor of many of our favorite squashes only improves with age. The same advice for washing prevails for pumpkins and gourds.

As the harvest season continues, may these tips help to ensure that you get the longest possible storage life. A much deserved reward after all of your hard work!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 34 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.



Does a Veteran who uses VA Healthcare need Medicare at age 65?

Dear Rusty:
I'm not yet old enough, but must I enroll in Medicare at age 65?

I am a disabled military veteran with VA benefits, so must I still take Medicare when I turn 65?
Signed: Disabled Veteran

Dear Disabled Veteran:

First, please accept my gratitude for your military service to our country. And please also know that if you now rely 100% on the VA for all your healthcare needs and you expect that to continue for the rest of your life, then you have the option to decline enrolling in Medicare Part B when you turn 65. However, if you believe that using healthcare providers from outside the VA may someday be in your future, you should enroll in Medicare when you are first eligible.

Although you are required to enroll in Medicare Part A (coverage for inpatient hospitalization services) if you collect Social Security after age 65, enrolling in Medicare Part B (coverage for outpatient medical services) is always optional because there is a monthly premium for Part B (\$202.90 for 2026 - changes yearly).

So, as a military veteran using VA healthcare, you have a choice to either enroll in Medicare Part B at age 65, or not if you get all your healthcare services from the Veterans Administration.

Just be aware that VA healthcare is not considered "creditable" for Medicare purposes, so if you do not enroll in Medicare Part B during your Medicare Initial Enrollment Period and later choose to enroll in Medicare Part B, there will be a permanent Late Enrollment Penalty for enrolling in Medicare Part B outside your initial enrollment period (your Medicare IEP is three

months on either side of the month you turn 65).

So, the decision you will need to make as you approach 65 years of age is this: will all of your healthcare needs always be provided through the VA? Or do you want the convenience (and flexibility) to know you can use any healthcare provider anywhere the U.S. or its territories, whenever and wherever you wish.

If the latter is true, then you should likely enroll in Medicare Part B when you turn 65. You can still use the VA for some services if you are enrolled in both, but there is no coordination of benefits (e.g., the VA will not make copayments if you use Medicare services, and vice versa).

Which means that you may also wish to also consider a Medicare Advantage plan or a Medicare Supplement plan to go with Medicare Part B if/when you enroll.

I hope this answers your question, but please don't hesitate to contact us again if needed. And, importantly, thank you for your service to our country.

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.

the HOLYOKE Sun

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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.

Parent intervention for campaign 2026 TV ads...



By Ellenor Downer

Dark-eyed junco



Every fall I look for the return of the dark-eyed juncos, also known as "snow birds" in the middle latitudes.

Over most of the eastern United States, they appear as winter sets in and then retreat northward each spring to breed. Other juncos are year-round residents, retreating into woodlands during the breeding season or, like those of the Appalachian Mountains, moving to higher elevations during the warmer months.

I have not seen any yet, but I keep an eye out for them. Often my first sighting of the year is along the side of the road when I spot their white tail feathers as they fly.

Dark-eyed juncos are little sparrows with gray

plumage and white outer tail feathers and white underneath. Females and juveniles are slightly browner and duller.

They breed in forests including coniferous and deciduous types and can be found at elevations from sea level to over 11,000 feet. Typically, the female lays between three to six eggs per clutch. She usually lays one egg per day until the clutch is complete

Their diet primarily consists of seeds and insects, adapting to available food sources throughout the year.

Juncos are social birds, often seen in flocks during winter and they exhibit a distinctive hopping behavior on the ground. They flit about forest floors of the west-

ern mountains and Canada, then flood the rest of North America for winter.

They are among the most abundant forest birds of North America. They come to feeders and like many sparrows feed on the ground to glean seeds dropped there by other birds.

They prefer open, partially wooded areas with understory for cover. They also have a twittering call or trilling song. If flushed from the ground, they appear gray or dark brown overall with visible white outer tail feathers.

The dark-eyed Junco is one of the most common birds in North America and can be found across the

See BIRDS, page 5

The Holyoke Sun welcomes election letters to the editor

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

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

For more information, call 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspa-

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

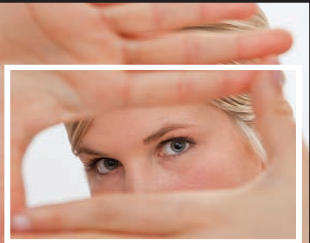
Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in The Holyoke Sun.

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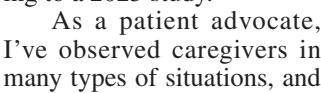
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And it can be an open-ended responsibility, especially when caring for an elder or a spouse with physical or cognitive decline. Some people even make room in their homes for a family member, or move across the country to be nearer, which can cause family turmoil and financial stress.

Then there may come a time that you feel your par-

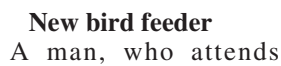


hard for us to acknowledge our limitations because, after all, we're caring for a parent.

I read in a recent article how a woman caring for her husband made a list of

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, a Monson resident, is a registered nurse and board-certified patient advocate. She is the author of several books on advocacy and founder of Nurse Advocate Entrepreneur, which equips medical professionals with the knowledge and skills to start their own advocacy businesses. Contact her at Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com.

Large flock of sparrows
Recently, while driving to the bus stop to pick up my grandson, I flushed a



People may report a bird sighting by emailing edowner@turley.com or calling or texting 774-262-5882.



A wide-angle photograph of a golf course green and fairway, surrounded by trees with autumn foliage. The green is in the foreground, and the fairway leads towards a sand trap and more trees in the background.

rent shortage.

Ruiz said the golf season ending on November 1 this fall will represent the conclusion of Wyckoff as a golf course. "While I am sad to see this transition, and we made a concerted effort to the golf course and the Wyckoff community and

Ruiz said the oversaturation of golf in the region and the emergence of virtual golfing alternatives also were taken into account in strategic planning. "We certainly made large investments of capital and time to the golf course and related, but after our thorough analysis we came to the conclusion that the best use of the property is clearly to add to a very thin housing stock. There still are plenty of golf opportunities

Ruiz also revealed that he had a major health scare over the summer and his time in recovery allowed him to analyze all of the options for Wyckoff. "Experiencing a major health challenge, which I am happy to say I am recovering from, allowed me the time and space to determine what was the best and highest use for the property in a community that I am heavily invested in. In my heart, I know this is the right thing to do for the community."

ing of the young people, families and dedicated staff we serve are always our highest priority, and we take any incident that could impact their sense of safety very seriously. The Boys & Girls Club of Greater Holyoke is deeply saddened by the loss of life following an altercation between adults that occurred outside of our facility after a basketball event held in our gymnasium last weekend. Our thoughts are with the family and loved ones of the individual who lost their life, as well as all those affected by this heartbreaking incident," they said. "While the individuals involved were not associated with the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Holyoke, Club staff were present to monitor the event and immediately activated

“It is with a heavy heart that we make this post, but Chicopee Galaxy lost a

The Holyoke Sun and the *Chicopee Register* will continue to follow this story as it develops.

"It's a holiday that recognizes the exploration that led to the fact that we are all here today," Vacon said.

“How in the world

With that in mind, the council voted 9-3 to pass this ordinance.

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Docket No.
HD25P0431EA
Estate of:
William T Farrell
Date of Death: 01/23/2025
CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
ORDER OF COMPLETE
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A Petition for **Order of
Complete Settlement** has been
filed by **John J Ferriter** of**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to

**COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS
Trial Court of Massachusetts
Juvenile Court Department
Worcester County**

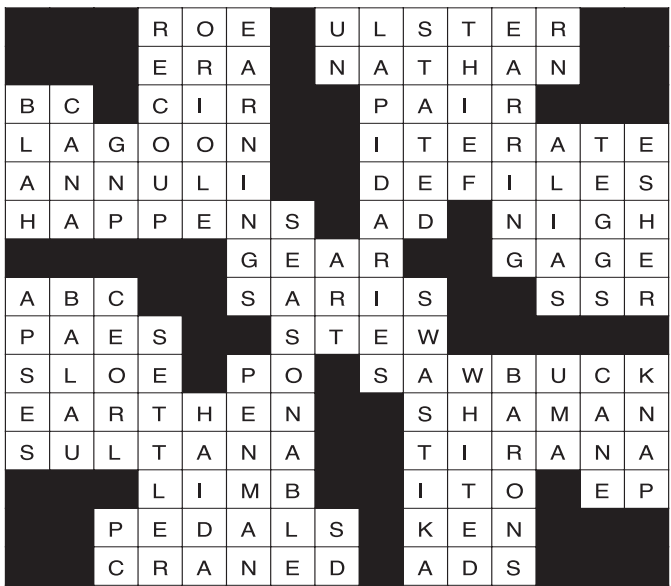
A petition has been presented to this court by Department of Children and Families, seeking, as to the following child, **Jahmyra Poteat**, that said child be found in need of care and protection and committed to the De-

You are hereby ORDERED to appear in this court, at the court address set forth above, on the following date and time: **11/18/2026 at 08:30 AM Status Hearing**

You may bring an attorney

WITNESS: **Hon. Mary Beth Keating**, FIRST JUSTICE,
DATE ISSUED: 08/20/2026,
Brendan J. Moran,
Clerk-Magistrate
10/02, 10/09, 10/16/2026

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Knights take victory over Pathfinder boys

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

PALMER – For the second straight season, the Holyoke boys’ varsity soccer team came away victorious in its second regular-season showdown with Bi-County East rival Pathfinder Tech.

The Purple Knights struck twice in the first 10 minutes and then withstood a challenge from the Pioneers to earn a 3-2 victory on Oct. 5 at historic Legion Field in Palmer.

“We played two competitive games against Pathfinder last year. Our first meeting of this season ended in a tie,” said Holyoke head coach Cam Rivest. “We were able to take an early lead in tonight’s game, and we didn’t let it slip away like we’ve done a few times this season.”

Holyoke didn’t have very much trouble posting

a 5-0 home shutout over Pathfinder Tech in their second meeting of last season.

Back in the middle of September, the two squads battled to a 1-1 draw.

Following their second meeting of this season, the Purple Knights had a 3-5-2 overall record, while the Pioneers saw their overall record drop to 7-3-1.

“This is a difficult loss for us,” said Pathfinder Tech head coach Dave Wilson. “We were just flat tonight. This was a game that we should’ve won. Give them all the credit.”

Pathfinder was ranked 22nd in the MIAA Division 5 state power rankings that were released on October 9.

Holyoke, who graduated seven players from last year’s squad, defeated Mohawk Trail Regional, 5-2, on the road and posted a 4-2

See KNIGHTS, page 8



Nayan Tabin dribbles under pressure.



Isiah Frazer heads off the ball.



Issanellys Rivera makes a pass back.



Kayleigh Coutinho looks to clear the ball.

Chicopee takes down rival Holyoke

HOLYOKE – Last Friday afternoon, Cassidy Pytel and Ella Gendreau both had hat tricks as Chicopee High School girls soccer rolled to a 10-2 win over Holyoke at Holyoke High School. The Knights fell to just 4-7 on the year while Chicopee rose above .500 for the season. Chicopee is now 6-5-1.



Sujelyz Peralta tries to send the ball out of the defensive end after a corner kick.

Lady Cougars on a roll

Seventh straight win for HCC’s soccer team

HOLYOKE – Women’s soccer was on the road Saturday, earning their seventh consecutive win with a 4-0 shutout over Bunker Hill CC. It was the Lady Cougars’ third straight shutout and their seventh of the season.

Emma Allyn (Holyoke, MA / Hampshire Regional HS) led the charge for Holyoke, scoring a first-half hat trick before adding an assist in the second half. Saturday’s hat trick was Allyn’s fourth of the season as the center midfielder continues to rack up goals and points at a torrid pace. She now has 18 goals and nine assists for 45 points on the year. Samatha Lowe (Ware, MA / Pathfinder Regional HS) potted the Cougars’ second-half goal to go along with a first-half assist. Abigail Rockwal (West Springfield, MA / West Springfield HS), who is regularly a defender, took care of the goalkeeping duties, making one save on her way to her first career shutout.

Women’s soccer has a perfect 6-0-0 regional record and an 8-2-0 overall record. Five of their six regional wins have been shutouts.



Issabella Byers takes over possession.



Kyleigh Luther punts the ball away.



Mika Lourde Moise tries to move the ball away from Holyoke goal.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Stafford Speedway hosts final 2026 season Friday night race

STAFFORD SPRINGS, CT – Stafford Speedway hosted its final Friday night race program of the 2026 season with NAPA Auto Parts Championship Night on Oct 2. Feature wins were notched by Anthony Flannery for the second consecutive race in the SK Modified® feature, Josh Wood in the Late Model feature, Nick Anglace in the SK Light feature, Jason Lafayette in the Limited Late Model feature, and Brandon Warren in the Street Stock feature. Track champions for the 2026 season are Keith Rocco in the SK Modified® division, Adam Gray in the Late Model division,

Tyler Barry in the SK Light division, Jeremy Lavoie in the Limited Late Model division, and Ryan Waterman in the Street Stock division. In the 40-lap SK Modified® feature event, Dylan Izzo took the lead at the start with Marcello Rufrano taking second. Ethan Durocher was third behind the two leaders with Jon Puleo fourth and Mikey Flynn fifth. Keith Rocco spun in turn 2 to bring the caution flag out with 2 laps complete. Rufrano took the lead on the restart with Izzo falling back to second. Durocher was still third wit Puleo fourth and

Troy Talman was now fifth. Anthony Flannery was sixth followed by Alexander Pearl, Todd Owen, Flynn, and David Arute. As Rufrano was starting to stretch out his lead, Durocher made a move to the outside of Izzo for second and they ran side by side for several laps but Izzo was able to fend off Durocher’s challenge. Flannery moved up to third with Todd Owen taking fourth as Durocher slid from third back to fifth on lap-16. Flannery took second from Izzo on lap-19 and that move opened the door for Owen to take third from Izzo one lap

later. Flynn spun in turn 2 to bring the caution flag out with 23 laps complete. Durocher got turned into the backstretch wall on the restart and that collected several cars including Puleo, Art Caruso, Matt Vassar, Josh Morrison, Chris Buffone, Wade Gagner, Bryan Narducci, and Cory DiMatteo to bring the caution flag back out before a lap could be completed. Under the caution the car of Josh Morrison ended up spun backwards against the frontstretch wall. Rufrano took the lead on the next restart with Flannery in second. Owen took third

with Izzo fourth and Pearl fifth. Just behind Pearl and Izzo was Rocco, who was recovered from his earlier spin. Pearl took fourth from Izzo on lap-26 just before the caution came out one lap later for Talman and Curt Brainard, who both went around in turn 4. Rufrano and Flannery went wheel to wheel for the lead back under green with Owen third, Pearl fourth, and Rocco fifth. Rufrano cleared into the lead on lap-30 with Owen and Flannery now side by side behind him as well as Rocco and Pearl. Owen took third on lap-31 while Flannery took the lead from Rufrano

on lap-32. Rocco moved into fourth on lap-32 and he took third from Owen on lap-36. Flannery led the field to the checkered flag to pick up his second consecutive victory after claiming his first career Stafford SK Modified® victory back on Sept. 25. Rufrano finished second with Rocco, Owen, and Pearl rounding out the top-5. Rocco clinched his fifth SK Modified® track title one week ago on Sept. 25, which ties him with Bob Potter for the second most SK Modified® championships with 5 each, trailing only Ted Christopher who won 9 SK championships.

T-Birds earn point against Charlotte

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (2-1-0-1) received another terrific netminding performance, but it proved not to be enough in a 2-1 shootout loss at the hands of the Charlotte Checkers (2-2-0-0) on Sunday afternoon inside the MassMutual Center. Springfield starting goalie Will Cranley was the far busier netminder in the opening 20 minutes, as the Checkers outshot the T-Birds by a 13-3 margin through the first period, while Kirill Gerasimyk had little action in the Charlotte goaltender’s crease. For a second straight night, the T-Birds’ short-handed unit chipped in on offense, as Alek Kaskimaki and Otto Stenberg worked a beautiful give-and-go, with Kaskimaki cashing in from the left-wing side at 10:46, giving Springfield the 1-0 advantage. Kaskimaki has now registered points in each of the

season’s first four games. Cranley’s excellence continued, as he and the Springfield penalty-kill-ing unit went a perfect 3-for-3 on the day, improving to 18-for-19 on the season. After going the first 103 minutes of his season without allowing a goal, Cranley finally succumbed to a strike from Cole Schwindt at 3:44 of the final period, which brought Charlotte back even, 1-1. The goaltenders’ duel carried through the end of regulation, and in the 3-on-3 overtime, Gerasimyk received some luck from the iron as Kaskimaki hit the post on a breakaway back-hander that would have sealed the game for Springfield. The shootout followed, and Angus Crookshank opened the festivities with a fore-hander past Cranley’s



glove, which proved to be all Gerasimyk would need, as Justin Carboneau, Kaskimaki, and Nikita Susuev all failed to get one behind the Checker backstop. Despite the loss, Springfield has earned five points over its first four games of the season, allowing just eight goals to their opposition in regulation time. The T-Birds continue the homestand next Friday and Saturday with back-to-back meetings with the Lehigh Valley Phantoms, with puck drops set for 7:05 p.m. on Oct. 16 and 6:05 p.m. on Saturday.

Railers fall in final preseason game

WORCESTER – The Worcester Railers HC (0-2-0-0, Opts) fell to the Maine Mariners (2-0-0-0, 4pts), on Saturday night by the final score of 4-1 in front of a crowd of 602 at the Fidelity Bank Worcester Ice Center to end the preseason for the Railers at 0-2. The Railers are at the DCU Center for the season opener against the Maine Mariners on October 17th with puck drop being at 6:05 pm. Lincoln Hatten (1-0-1) opened scoring in the first with a tip. The Mariners came back with a strong effort from Jack Works (1-0-1) to keep the game level going into the second period. 3:55 into the second period, Kalle Vaisanen tucked in the go-ahead goal. Late into the third Dylan MacKinnon (1-0-1) snuck one past the Railers to extend the lead to 2. Wyllum Deveaux (1-1-2) took advantage of the empty net and the final score ended up a 4-1 advantage for the Mariners. Lincoln Hatten (1st) had a beautiful tip in goal off of Adam Samuelson’s shot from the blueline to give the

Railers a 1-0 lead. Only 3:35 later the Mariners leveled the score. Jack Works (2nd) got the puck from Ryan McGuire and with a great effort on his knees squeezed it by Will Lavallière’s right pad to level the score 1-1. Later in the 1st, Jack Works got sent to the penalty box for a delay of game which the Mariners killed. The second period started hot with Jack Works getting placed in the box again for roughing after touching goalie Will Lavallière after the whistle was blown. Not long after the Mariners had the go-ahead-goal. Kalle Vaismen (1st) tucked it in with 16:05 remaining in the second. It was a great assist from Wyllum Deveaux off the faceoff win to change the score to 2-1 Mariners. After great pressure and lots of opportunities the Railers had to kill a penalty from Adam Samuelsson’s tripping call. After a shorthanded break-away opportunity for Railer Cole Donhauser, the Railers killed the remainder of the penalty and went into the third

one goal down. The third period started and the Railers looked for a game-changing-goal. Their efforts were slowed as MacAuley Carson was called for hooking 7:45 into the third period. The Mariners had good opportunities on the power play but Chase Clark stood tall in net and the game remained 2-1 in favor of Maine. Railers defenseman Cooper Moore made a great defensive play to stop a breakaway after he broke his stick by doubling back and eliminating the lone Mariner on the rush. Dylan Mackinnon (1st) with 5:15 remaining in the game snuck one into the top right corner after a great pass from Antonio Venuto to make the game 3-1. With the Railers being down by two, Clark was pulled to the bench and the Mariners capitalized on the empty net to end the game 4-1 Mariners. Wyllum Deveaux (2nd) tucked it into the back of the net. The game ended with a 4-1 scoreline. The Mariners will be back in Worcester for the Railers home opener on Oct. 17.



Senley Lovesome Noel fights to keep the ball.



Xavier Davila heads up the field.



Patrick Smith O'Connor sends the goal kick away.



Tason Dennis tries to pop the ball up.

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KNIGHTS, from page 7

home win versus Ware. The Purple Knights scored their first goal against the Pioneers during the third minute of the opening half when senior Nayan Tabin unleashed a shot from about 25 yards out. The ball deflected off the right post before bouncing into the net past sophomore goalie Elijah Hodge (5 saves) for an unassisted goal. Five minutes later, Holyoke junior Isiah Frazer received a pass from senior Xevier Davila before scoring a break away goal by firing a shot into the right corner of the net. After failing to convert on a couple of corner kicks, the Pioneers sliced the deficit in half when senior Cayden Bousquet, who leads the Pioneers with 24 goals this season, dribbled down the left side before delivering a shot into the right corner past junior keeper Rikendy Jean (11 saves). Senior Brody Wetnicka was credited with the assist. In the middle of the first half, Jean made a diving save on a shot attempt taken by sophomore Abees Castillo-

Clotter, which enabled the Purple Knights to keep the one goal lead. Castillo-Clotter is one of three Pathfinder Tech players who attend Palmer High School, joining seniors Owen Pear and Dylan Holbrook. The three players suit up for Pathfinder Tech through a co-op between the two neighboring high schools. Bousquet came close to finding the equalizer on two occasions late in the first half, but Holyoke held on to a slim 2-1 lead at halftime. The trio of Castillo-Clotter, Bousquet, and sophomore Owen Marion had shots on goal during the first five minutes of the second half. Seven minutes after halftime, Holyoke regained a two-goal cushion. Following a throw-in from the left sideline by Tabin, Davila found the back of the net for his first goal of the season. In the middle of the second half, Pathfinder Tech closed the gap again when Bousquet scored a rebound goal. Just like in the first half, the Pioneers were unable to score the tying goal, as the Purple Knights players enjoyed their bus ride home.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Gavin Diaz heads the ball past midfield.

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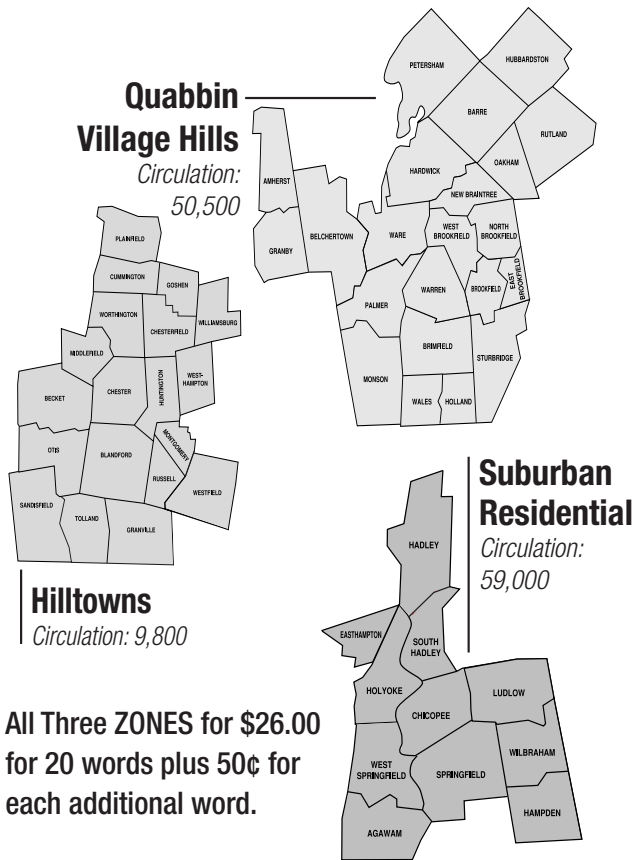
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HCC culinary arts student awarded national civic fellowship

HOLYOKE – A Holyoke Community College culinary arts student has been awarded a national Newman Civic Fellowship for the 2026-2027 academic year.

As one of this year's Newman fellows, Tiff Mackey, a 44-year-old Texas native who now lives in Holyoke, joins a cohort of more than 170 college students from 39 states who have excelled academically while demonstrating a commitment to community service.

"My commitment to civic engagement is rooted in the belief that food is one of the most powerful tools for building connections across differences," Mackey said in her Newman Civic Fellowship statement. "Feeding people affirms dignity, fosters belonging, and offers the comfort of common ground."

Newman Civic Fellowships are awarded annually by Campus Compact, a national coalition of colleges and universities working to advance the public purposes of higher education. The Newman Civic Fellowship is a year-long program that recognizes students who stand out for their leadership potential and commitment to creating positive change in their communities.

The fellowship provides students with educational programs, workshops, and networking opportunities to



Newman Civic Fellowship awardee Tiff Mackey prepares tomato sauce at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute.

help nurture their development as civic leaders. With the help of a campus mentor, each fellow takes on a community-based project of their design.

"This group of exceptional students from campuses across the country is such a welcomed addition to the Newman Civic Fellowship," said Campus Compact President Bobbie Laur. "Now more than ever, it is an honor to recognize student leaders who are applying themselves as changemakers and creating positive impact in their communities."

Now a second-year student in HCC's culinary arts associate degree program, Mackey has distinguished

herself in the classroom and as a member of the Culinary Arts Club at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute. Among its community activities, the club prepares monthly, full-course family dinners-to-go for people who use the United Way food pantry there. Beyond that, Mackey worked over the summer as a supplementary instructor for the HCC summer youth program and had a volunteer internship with Nuestras Raices, the nonprofit Holyoke farming collaborative.

"I love how that translates into 'our roots,'" said Mackey. "I worked on their farm and with their mobile market and really got a hands-on and first-person

view of what the community needs and what their preferences are."

Mackey was nominated for the fellowship by Chef Tracy Carter, chair of the HCC culinary arts program and adviser to the Culinary Club. Carter will serve as Mackey's fellowship mentor.

"Tiff is always the first person who wants to help others," said Carter. "She is really passionate about public health and food security."

Food, in one form or another, has been at the heart of Mackey's life for a long time. After dropping out of college in her early 20s – she was studying business and computers – she left Texas and "bounced around a bit," working

for organic farms, growing lettuce, raising ducks, and volunteering at food banks. She settled in western Massachusetts about 10 years ago and has worked with CSAs (communities for sustainable agriculture) at farmers markets in Easthampton, South Hadley and Amherst, while immersing herself in the books of food writer Michael Pollan and feeding her interest in food politics and accessibility.

"Going back to school in my 40s," she said, "I'm just getting to a place where I can complete what I couldn't so many years ago. Going to culinary school is something I've wanted to do for a long time."

Mackey now lives on a homestead in Holyoke's Rock Valley neighborhood where she raises chickens and maintains a robust vegetable garden.

"It's too small to call it a farm," she said, "but I am trying to build it up into a sustainable, closed loop system."

For her Newman Fellowship project, Mackey is working on sustainable soup, which would entail turning knife cuts and other extra items from the culinary arts classes into a dehydrated, nutrient dense, bagged soup that could be prepared by simply adding hot water, with the soup bags provided to Holyoke residents who use the food pantry at the culinary arts institute.

"The goal is also to incorporate the sustainable soup project into our nutrition class this semester and even into our food styling and marketing classes next semester," she said.

BOOK, from page 1

her imagination came out."

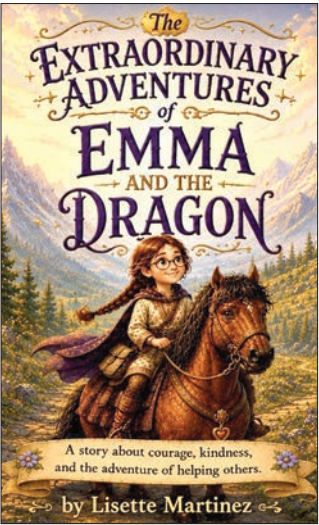
Writing is just one part of Ms. Martinez's connection to young readers. She has spent more than 20 years working in Holyoke Public Schools. She currently works as a reading interventionist at E.N. White Elementary School.

Ms. Martinez said her experiences working with children have reinforced her belief in the power of stories to help young people learn and grow. With "The Extraordinary Adventures of Emma and the Dragon," she hopes to encourage children to embrace their imagination and find joy in creating their own adventures.

"I really wanted to emphasize kindness as an approach to a problem," said Ms. Martinez. "I want people to think anything is possible."

Ms. Martinez hopes to make this a series and continue to write more stories about Emma and her adventures.

"The Extraordinary Adventures of Emma and the Dragon" is available online and at local booksellers including, Flora in Holyoke, and A New Chapter in West Springfield.



Celebrate Women in BUSINESS week

Women-owned businesses are thriving

Women entrepreneurs are not to be underestimated. Data affirms that women-owned businesses are growing and thriving.

According to North One banking, women-owned firms account for more than 12 million businesses in the United States. In addition, the 2024 Wells Fargo Impact of Women-Owned Business Report, in partnership with Ventureer, Core Women and Women Impacting Public Policy, found the number of women-owned business increased at a rate of 4.5 times between 2019 to 2023. Women-owned businesses are driving economic growth, and a deeper look at some of the numbers supports that notion.

- The Women's Business Enterprise Council says there are 12.3 million women-owned businesses in the U.S., which comprises about 40 percent of the total number of businesses.

- Women-owned businesses bring in nearly \$2 trillion every year, says the National Women's Business Council.

- During the pandemic, women-owned businesses added 1.4 million jobs and \$579.6 billion in revenue to the economy, says Wells Fargo.

- World Bank indicates that roughly one-third of principal owners of all businesses are female.

- WBENC advises that 64 percent of new women-owned businesses are started by women of color.

- Women's Business Enterprises Canada says



Women-owned businesses are driving economic growth, and a deeper look at some of the numbers supports that notion.

more than 85 percent of buying decisions are influenced by women. The Canadian Minister of Small Business notes that women business ownership is growing. In 2023, approximately 18.4 percent of all businesses in Canada were majority owned by women, compared to 15.6 percent in 2017.

- According to Forbes, women-led tech companies achieve a 35 percent

higher ROI. A Forbes study with First Round Capital, a venture capital firm, found female-founded businesses in their portfolio outperformed male-founded companies by more than 60 percent.

Women-owned businesses are making a large impact on North America and around the world. Such firms continue to employ millions of people and foster strong economies.



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started love at first sight with a two-fold aim of helping to provide a more sustainable and higher quality option for purchasing clothing, gifts, and home goods and collaborating with people in the community who could use some extra income by consigning quality items they no longer need. Vanessa also provides a space for local artists and craftspeople to sell their goods.



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