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Controversy still surrounds CPA surcharge

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The city council again sent the motion concerning placing a question about the CPA surcharge on the November 2024 ballot to the finance committee for further discussion.

The council opened discussion on this matter again at their meeting on Oct. 16. During this meeting, Attorney Michael Bissonnette again brought up the issue that the council should vote on whether or not they endorse the CPA surcharge tax reduction.

According to Bissonnette, the law department and an outside legal opinion believe that the council needs to vote to endorse the reduction before they put it on the ballot.

“To affirm an endorsement of the reduction is the first step, to place it on the ballot to ask voters to approve your endorsement and the reduction is the second step,” Bissonnette said. “Both have to be taken to effec-

tuat a ballot question.”

According to the attorney, if the councilors were to follow this recommendation it would turn the process of putting the question about the CPA on the ballot into a two-step process.

The councilors would first have to vote on whether they approve the surcharge and, should they vote in the affirmative, then take a vote to put it on the ballot.

Many of the city councilors disagreed with this opinion.

According to Councilors Kevin Jourdain and Linda Vacon, five years ago the council did not endorse creating the CPA one way or another when they put it on the ballot.

For this new ballot question, the councilors were told they had to go through the same process they did five years ago in order to put the question on the ballot.

Therefore, as they did not endorse creating the CPA in the first place, as to not sway the

See CPA, page 13



City officials recently paid a visit to Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Commissioner Jeffery Riley seeking to end the state receivership of the Holyoke Public Schools.
Turley photo by Quinn Suomala

City approaches education commissioner to end receivership

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – Holyoke school committee members voted to send a petition to end receivership to Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Commissioner Jeffery Riley at their meeting on Sept. 18.

Following, Mayor Joshua Garcia and Holyoke School Committee Members Mildred Lefebvre, Erin Brunelle and John Whelihan held a meeting with Riley on Oct. 6 to discuss the request further.

By sending the petition, Holyoke has begun the review process required by state laws and regulations.

Currently, DESE is going through this process and looking at a variety of data concerning Holyoke.

In the end, based on this data Riley will make the decision to end receivership or not.

The decision to end receivership will be, according to DESE Communications Director Jacqueline Reis, based on whether or not Holyoke has made academic improvement since the beginning of receivership and if

they have the capacity to continue making progress.

According to a recent press release, the hope is that Riley's decision on the matter will be made by Spring of 2024.

Holyoke has been under receivership since 2015 due to chronic underperformance academically.

It is one of only three districts in the state under receivership, the other districts being Lawrence Public Schools and Southbridge Public Schools.

For a district to qualify as

See RECEIVERSHIP, page 13

Filmmaker premieres two movies at Hall of Fame

By Richard Murphy
Correspondent

It was a year ago that Geno McGahee of XPosse Productions premiered his “A Christmas Invitation” at the Basketball Hall of Fame Naismith Memorial Complex in Springfield.

The movie itself had nothing to do with hoops, but no matter, it was a good venue for a cinema debut.

McGahee is back again, and this time he was introducing two movies in one night. As “A Christmas Invitation” was a departure from his usual style of deep horror, so would the double bill go off in different directions.

“A Christmas Invitation” played on a genre of movie typified by the Hallmark Channel, without the unrestrained sentimentality. The movies shown in Springfield on Saturday were of older categories that the impresario had not touched previously.

The first, “Fatal Justice”, is the story of Dennis, played by

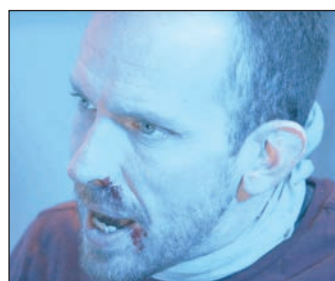
See MOVIES, page 13



Filmmaker Geno McGahee is shown with actor Eric Michaelian.
Turley Photos by Richard Murphy



Chris Spinelli, Brent Northup and Geno McGahee are shown at the double feature premiere.



Is accused killer Dennis (played by Eric Michaelian) guilty or innocent?

ARPA accepting applications

HOLYOKE – The City of Holyoke ARPA Small Business Code Compliance Program is opened and accepting applications. This program offers financial assistance to those businesses in need of code compliance updates to resume or continue operations. Small businesses may apply from Oct. 15 through close of business on Nov. 18. All applications will be reviewed after Nov. 18.

The City of Holyoke has allocated \$800,000.00 in American Rescue Plan Act funds to support small businesses with code compliance improvements. This Program is a subset of the Small Business Grant Program which has already provided nearly \$800,000.00 to assist Holyoke small businesses in their recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

This round of funding is provided to assist businesses with specific code compliance

See ARPA, page 8

White Hut restaurant opens new location in city

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The White Hut has a new location in Holyoke, bringing their well-known and loved friendly roadside service to the city.

They are excited to be a part of the city, according to Director of Hospitality for the Bean Restaurant Company Nathan Yee.

When searching for a location to expand to, they were excited to see the building at 852 Hampden St, Holyoke open up.

“When the building came up for sale, it seemed like a dream come true,” Yee said. “The square footage was right and there were a great number of cars driving by here every day...it’s pretty accessible for a lot of people, especially going to 9, they can stop to grab lunch or a breakfast sandwich.”

Not only was the building itself perfect for the White Hut’s needs, but they also looked forward to integrating themselves into the Holyoke community.

They wanted to provide Holyoke with a quick and easy place to stop in and grab some food that was delicious and also inexpensive.

“White Hut fits the community very well,” Yee said. “When you look around the area you notice that there’s not a lot of places here where you can go quickly and grab a burger. We also like to think it’s rather inexpensive, it’s not going to kill your wallet if you stop in for a quick lunch or breakfast sandwich.”

The community certainly seems to agree with Yee’s assessment. On the day of their grand opening, the restaurant sold out of burgers due to the sheer amount of support they received from the community.

“The community has received us very well,” Yee said. “Our first day we sold out of burgers, which, for us, was crazy. It’s been a good journey thus far.”

Since then, according to Yee, they have had a consistent stream of customers and are even beginning to get acquainted with some familiar faces.

“You see a lot of familiar faces,” Yee



Members of the Holyoke White Hut Team Keianah Calderon, Anthony Hough, Nathan Yee and Jay Ladfond are ready to welcome and serve customers at the restaurant.
Turley photos by Quinn Suomala



The White Hut is now open from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

said. “And I think when you start seeing those repeat guests over and over, you’ve got to be doing something right, at least in their eyes. It’s been busy, we’re off to a very good start.”

They hope to continue integrating themselves into the community and ensuring that they are seen as a warm and welcoming place for people to stop in and enjoy a bite to eat.

The goal for this new location is for it to have the same feel as the first White Hut location in West Springfield.

White Hut has been a brand since 1933 and they do not want to lose the nostalgia that many people associate with the restaurant, even as they move from location to location.

“I think with this brand in particular, we wanted both location brands to be identical,” Yee said. “We wanted to make sure that you got the same feel and experience that you got in West Springfield here in Holyoke...we get a lot of people who come here and say ‘I used to come with my dad’ or ‘I used to come with my grandma’. Those memories that are cemented in people’s minds help us to stand out.”

One part that plays a large role in keeping the nostalgic feel is the consistency in their menu. Whether you are in West Springfield or Holyoke, the menu items will remain the same.

White Hut is known for their fried onions, burgers and hot dogs and they want to ensure people can always find that consistent, fresh food no matter which location they go to.

“It’s one burger, one hot dog, one customer at a time and it’s making sure that you’re always providing consistent, quality service,” Yee said. “The burgers are always fresh, never frozen, we’re holding that line of providing really fresh products that you have confidence in.”

This consistent, quality service is open for all in Holyoke to enjoy.

The restaurant is open from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. The employees are excited to welcome all who walk through the doors.

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HCC vice president selected for national leadership program

HOLYOKE – Amanda Sbriscia, vice president of Institutional Advancement at Holyoke Community College, has been selected for a fellowship for aspiring college presidents by the AGB Institute for Leadership and Governance in Higher Education.

Now entering its fifth year, 27 college administrators from institutions around the country began their fellowships with an in-person symposium in Washington, D.C., in September. To date, 18 past participants have become presidents or chancellors of higher education institutions, and many other participants have successfully progressed on the pathway to the presidency with commendations and new positions.

“Those who are preparing to serve

in leadership roles are faced with unprecedented challenges on a global scale,” said Nancy Zimpher, co-founder and director of the AGB Institute. “Our aim has always been to ensure these up-and-coming leaders are ready to immediately step into their roles and guide their universities with confidence.”

The program consists of two symposia, four online workshops, attendance at the AGB National Conference on Trusteeship, and a shadowing experience with a sitting president. The institute features more than 30 higher education expert presenters including current and former



Amanda Sbriscia

presidents, trustees, search consultants and other sector professionals.

“It is an honor to be part of this fellowship program and to have the opportunity to learn from such an impressive faculty of college and university presidents,” said Sbriscia, who also serves as the executive director of the HCC Foundation. “I hope to come away further inspired to lead in ways that support HCC’s long-term success and that contribute to higher education being a model for positive social change.”

Sbriscia, 39, holds a bachelor’s degree in communication from

Cedar Crest College, a master of science in higher education from Drexel University, and a doctorate in education in educational leadership from Gwynedd Mercy University. A native of Pennsylvania, she now resides in Granby.

Before being hired at HCC as vice president of Institutional Advancement in 2017, Sbriscia served as senior director of Advancement at Bay Path University, following her role there as director of Annual Giving and Alumni Relations. Before Bay Path, Sbriscia worked in fund development for the Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts and as director of Annual Giving for Anna Maria College in Paxton, Mass.

Wealth Transition Collective hosts annual food drive

HOLYOKE – The Wealth Transition Collective, a financial planning firm out of Holyoke, recently announced it will host their 4th annual weeklong food drive, beginning Monday, Nov. 13 through Friday, Nov. 17, to benefit Margaret’s Pantry in Holyoke in honor of National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week.

Since the start of this event, they have collected over 3,000 pounds of food and raised monetary donations of over \$5,000.

Individuals can drop off non-perishable and canned foods during business hours (Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.) at their office at 1632 Northampton St. Weather permitting, there will be a drop-off table outside the front door for easy accessibility.

Some of the most-needed items

at the pantry during this time of year are: stuffing mixes, canned good like gravy, soups, stews, baking mixes, frosting, syrup, salad dressing, condiments, Jell-O, and kid’s snack items.

Margaret’s Pantry, a division of Providence Ministries for the Needy, is a full-service food pantry that has provided food to residents of Greater Holyoke for more than 30 years. Presently, the pantry provides food to more than 180 families each month, and approximately 72,000 meals a year are distributed to the needy in the community.

“We feel very fortunate to be in a position to make a difference in the community by supporting the efforts of organizations like The Providence Ministries for the Needy” said Greg Sheehan, CEO of the Wealth Transition Collective in a press release.

Seeking Board of Appeals volunteers

HOLYOKE – Mayor Joshua A. Garcia is asking interested residents to consider volunteering for the Holyoke Board of Appeals within the city government. This is a wonderful opportunity for residents to serve our community. The Board of Appeals has the following responsibilities:

To hear and decide appeals or petitions for variances with respect to particular land or structures, as set forth in G.L. c. 40A, s. 10. To hear and decide appeals taken by any person aggrieved

by reason of the inability to obtain a permit or enforcement action from any administrative office under the provisions of G.L. c. 40A, ss.7, 8 and 15. To hear and decide comprehensive permits for construction of low- or moderate-income housing by a public agency or limited dividend corporation, as set forth in G.L. c. 40B, ss. 20-23.

If interested in applying for this Board, please submit a letter of interest and a resume to: mayorsoffice@holyoke.org.

NAMI Western Mass held open house

HOLYOKE – On Tuesday, Oct. 17, The National Alliance on Mental Illness of Western Massachusetts held an open house reception to allow the public to see our new office space, located at 1221 Main St., Suite 100. Visitors could talk with the Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers. Guests were encouraged to ask questions, offer suggestions, and take informational hand-outs. Light refreshments were served.

NAMI is the National alliance on Mental Illness, the nation’s largest grassroots mental health organization. NAMI

provides advocacy, education, support, and public awareness so that all individuals and families affected by mental health conditions can build better lives.

NAMI Western Massachusetts is dedicated to building better lives for individuals and families affected by mental health conditions. According to statistics, 1 in 5 Americans will face mental health problems every year. With your help, NAMI-WM can continue to raise awareness and provide essential education, advocacy, and support programs for people in your community.

Walking tour of city’s historic district

HOLYOKE – Two members of the city’s Historic District Commission will lead a walking tour of Holyoke’s Fairfield Avenue Historic District Saturday, Oct. 28. The tour, part of Holyoke’s 150th anniversary celebration, is free and open to the public.

Starting at 10 a.m., Commissioners Stephen Fay and Marco Crescentini will

lead the outing, providing historic and architectural commentary on the houses in the district.

The excursion, which will take about two hours, will begin at the Historic District sign at the corner of Pleasant Street and Fairfield Avenue.

For more information please call Stephen Fay at 413-561-1600.

Residents invited to Trick or Treat

HOLYOKE – Mayor Joshua Garcia and the Holyoke Parks and Recreation Department cordially invites the Holyoke community to participate in Trick or Treating through City Hall, Annex Building, Department of Public Works, Wistariahurst, and Holyoke Public Library on

Monday, Oct. 30, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Trick or treaters will collect treats from each department. This is a free event for community members. Offices will have Trick or Treating signage designating office participation.

Holyoke City Hall – 536 Dwight Street

Annex Building – 20 Korean Veterans Plaza

Department of Public Works – 63 Canal Street

Wistariahurst – 238 Cabot Street

Holyoke Public Library – 250 Cabot Street

For more information, please contact the Parks & Recreation Department at 413-322-5620 or www.holyoke.org.



Jeffrey Lewis at Gateway City Arts

HOLYOKE – Jeffery Lewis, an anti-folk cult songwriter from New York City, will perform at Gateway City Arts on Nov. 8 from 8-10 p.m.

Lewis has toured globally and is touring the Northeast with The Burning Hell. He’s shared stages with acts like Daniel Johnston, Roky Erickson, The Fall, Stephen Malkmus & The Jicks, The Vaselines, and The Mountain Goats.

Accompanying Lewis will be The

Burning Hell. The Burning Hell consists of Mathias Kom and multi-instrumentalists Ariel Sharratt and Jake Nicoll.

This is a seated show with room for dancing and full bar in the theater. The Bistro will serve food from 5 to 9 p.m.

Tickets are \$16 in advance and \$21 at the door. Doors open at 7 p.m. Advance tickets are available at gatewaycityarts.com.

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Candidates for city council and school committee deliver statements

Mimi Panitch

I'm Mimi Panitch. I'm running for Holyoke City Council At Large because our city is facing a critical moment. The choices we make now will determine whether we seize the very real opportunities we have to revive this city.



I grew up in Holyoke. I studied law after graduating from Holyoke High School, and practiced law with a Wall Street firm. But Holyoke is hard to leave behind: I returned to the city in the early 2000s. Mayor Pluta appointed me to the Planning Board soon after, and I've been serving there ever since.

My time on the Planning Board has shown me that Holyoke has the assets we need to meet the challenges of our rapidly changing world and emerge as a strong, vibrant, and economically successful city, from our nation-leading renewable energy infrastructure to our remarkable and enduring sense of community.

But that revival depends on the City Council functioning as an effective, transparent, and fair lawmaking body. Too often over the past years and decades the Council has been where good ideas go to die, slain by a minority mired in the past. We can remake this city as a beacon for the coming years, keeping what we treasure from our history while correcting the failures of the past. I want to see that Holyoke, and I ask, humbly, for your vote on Nov. 7.

Jannelle Mojica

My name is Jannelle Mojica running for Ward 2 City Council. I am a mother of 2 young men and wife for 20 years. I work at Holyoke Medical Center as a Registered Medical Assistant. I been working in the medical field for over 20 years.

I am running for Ward 2 City Council seat for the community needs and help. Local councils work together toward improving community well-being and providing better services for the community.

Representing the local, delivering services to meet local needs; Striving to improve quality of life and community well-being.

Public Safety/Criminal Justice redirect public funds to community organizations that provide social services. Many communities are not overpoliced, but deprived of resources they could use to prevent harm and trauma without punishing or surveilling community members such as youth programs and affordable housing. help the community with jobs, education and mental illness.

We need to open to hearing what our community/residents priorities are. We need to make sure they have the opportunity to come and hear their voices those concerns and get together to work together as community to respond to issues and community needs within context.

United we will work, you are important. Together working for Holyoke.

Tessa Murphy-Romboletti

I am excited to be running for re-election for my second term on the City Council At-Large to further contribute to making my hometown a better place. Currently, I'm the executive director of a nonprofit here in Holyoke that



helps underrepresented individuals start and grow their business. In my first term on the city council, I was appointed as the Chair of the Development and Government Relations Committee, which oversees most special permits and the sale or acquisition of city property. This leadership role has taught me a lot and allowed me to ensure that our government works efficiently to support economic development projects and the sale of city owned properties to private development that will create opportunities to expand our tax base, create jobs and provide opportunities for housing and new businesses. I have years of experience working with business, government, and local organizations to identify complex problems which, oftentimes, just need to be approached with common sense. As a city councilor I believe it's important to be out in our community putting in the work, not just taking votes in City Hall. Whether it's planning community events, helping our small businesses thrive, or participating in citywide cleanups, I'm always aiming to be responsive, present, and help Holyoke be its best. I'd greatly appreciate your vote again on Nov. 7.

Meg Magrath-Smith

I am an educator, and have been in Springfield for the past 17 years. By my 10th year of teaching, I was running student council, directing the school plays, and department chair. I have a lot of energy, and I wanted to put it to good use. When I had my own children, my perspective shifted. I didn't want to focus solely on my school community, anymore; I wanted to pour myself into the community in which I was raising my children.



Over the past eight years I have supported E.N. White Elementary School as my son, Finnegan, and daughter, Isabel, joined its wonderful school community. From the Board of Holyoke Preservation Trust, I launched the Annual Garden Tour. I currently serve as the chair of Holyoke's Community Preservation Act (CPA) Committee, which recently celebrated the opening of the new Miracle League playground. I have also served on Mayor Garcia's Transition Team, the Green Holyoke Mayoral Advisory Committee, and the City Waste Advisory Committee, where I supported our recent rollout of the new trash carts and dual-stream recycling.

I am a mother of two, wife, educator, and citizen in full. In these roles, I have proven my effective and skillful engagement in advancing the interests of the community. Now I am running to represent Ward 7 on Holyoke's City Council. I respectfully ask for your vote on Nov. 7.

Gloria Caballero Roca

I am Dr. Gloria Caballero Roca, Candidate for School Committee, Ward 4. I am a professor at the Clemente/Bard College Program and at Bard Micro College at The Care Center here in Holyoke and the Student Engagement Coordinator.

I have lived in Holyoke since 1999. My two sons attended Holyoke public schools and now my granddaughter. At the time, one of my sons attended the Magnet Middle School for the Arts, and graduated from the Dean Technical High School where he studied robotics. My younger son attended Lawrence School and Lynch, graduate from Holyoke High School. Yet, schools have been facing challenges through budget cuts every year. After school programs are few and far between. The housing crisis, the abuse of slum landlords, the lack of infrastructure and cleanliness in

our streets, the drug use and transactions around school zones and the library, the disconnect between the schools and the rest of the city departments to face these social determinants of health and of underperformance of our students, break the fabric of our community. Our schools have been under receivership for the past eight years and it is time to take our schools back, as it is also time to think of a methodology of support and participation of parents, students, administrators, city elected officials as well as state elected officials. This has to be a community-centered project.

With your support, I will apply my community engagement skills in helping our school committee address these challenges facing our schools.

Israel "Izzy" Rivera

Israel Rivera is dedicated to serving the residents of Holyoke and working towards a safer and more inclusive community.



Currently seeking re-election as an at-large city councilor in Holyoke. Izzy currently chairs the Public Safety Committee and is an avid advocate for public safety. Over the past 20 months, Israel has filed a string of orders around the creation of an Office of Returning Citizens, focusing on individuals re-entering society. The goal of this department is to see real-time results in mitigating homelessness, substance abuse, and mental health issues.

Throughout his years of working and organizing within the city, Israel has worked closely with local non-profits such as the Holyoke Safe Neighborhood Initiative, the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Holyoke, Greater Holyoke YMCA, OneHolyoke Community Development Corporation, etc... where he has served in a mentorship role coaching baseball, basketball, softball, community dinners, and community clean-ups.

Lastly, Izzy is a husband, a father to Mikayla, Isla, and Isie (ages 19, 3, 1). He was raised in Holyoke, attended Holyoke public schools, and graduated from Holyoke High School in 2003, Holyoke Community College 2016, University of Massachusetts 2018, currently enrolled at Westfield State's University's Masters in Public Administration program (of which he expects to graduate summer of 2024).

Please consider voting Rivera as one of you six at-large representatives on Nov. 7.

Erin Brunelle

I firmly believe that education is the foundation to a community. It is with this in mind I have advocated for Holyoke Public Schools and the children of Holyoke as a member of the school committee for the past 10 years. We must have a strong, stable and quality foundation in order for our community to truly thrive. I am proud to co-chair the School Building Committee with Mayor Garcia, finally, Holyoke is in the process of building a new, state of the art middle school for our students and community to benefit from. Holyoke is one of few communities in the commonwealth to offer Dual-Language education. The developmental benefits of learning in two languages, coupled with the additional benefit of helping ease the transition for our English language learners, this program shows what can be done when you focus on developing educational practices that benefit your specific community. I look forward to continuing to support Holyoke and its students over the next 4 years.

Axel Fontanez

My name is Axel Fontanez and I'm running for the first time for an at large seat in the Holyoke city election here is a bit about me.



Meet Axel Fontanez a passionate and dedicated individual who is running as a first-time candidate for city council at-large. Axel strongly advocates for public safety, recognizing that a safe environment is essential for the well-being and prosperity of the community. Additionally, he has a deep concern for addressing homelessness, understanding the importance of providing assistance and support to those in need. Axel is also a firm believer in business and economic development, recognizing the potential for growth and opportunity that it can bring to Holyoke. He is committed to attracting new businesses and fostering an environment that encourages entrepreneurs to thrive. What sets Axel apart is his faith-based approach to governing - his principles and values guide his decisions and actions, ensuring that he serves the community with integrity and compassion.

Kocayne Givner

I'm Kocayne "Koco" Givner, current Ward 4 Holyoke City Councilor. Housing insecurity, public safety, and general quality of life issues are what most residents have expressed as concerns. Having filed 26 traffic calming related orders since January 2022, I doubt there is another councilor as concerned about traffic safety as me. Perhaps you've seen my "This is not a highway" signs throughout the city? That is part of a safe driving pledge campaign that I am still working on.



As a Holyoke homeowner and rental housing provider since 2003, I have sought to help my tenants find solutions when navigating city departments. Now, having served nearly a full term, I am more capable and confident than ever. I field requests and provide solutions on a daily basis.

When it comes to city-wide solutions, I am proud to support the efforts of Neighbor-to-Neighbor in their fight to shift the balance of power to create democracy that works for us all. Additionally, I support Mayor Garcia's efforts to reorganize city departments creating fiscally responsible and efficient environments that spend our tax dollars where improvements are needed most. You may have noticed recent efforts with our adoption of new trash bins and tree trimming happening all over the city.

I'm also very proud to be a Reproductive Equity Now city champion who has pledged to support the reproductive rights of women in my community and beyond.

Ward 4 is the heart of Holyoke. During my first term I have made sure that our ward is being prioritized. I'm asking for your vote on Nov. 7 so that we can continue this momentum working with city departments on quality-of-life improvements and public safety initiatives.

See CANDIDATES, page 5



CANDIDATES, from page 4

Kevin Jourdain

Councilor-at-Large Kevin Jourdain has formally announced his intention to seek re-election to an at-large seat on the Holyoke City Council this fall. “I have appreciated the opportunity to serve the people of Holyoke on the City Council,” Jourdain said in a statement. “I am proud of the reputation I have earned as a ‘fiscal watchdog’ in the city on behalf of the taxpayers. I am also proud of my work in the name of government accountability, public safety, and the effective delivery of city services – especially education – to our residents. I’d like to continue working hard in pursuit of these and other goals on behalf of the citizens of Holyoke as one of their at-large City Councilors going forward.”



In support of his candidacy, Jourdain recently submitted more than the legally-required number of signatures from voters to the Holyoke City Clerk to officially qualify him for the ballot this Nov. 7. He says he plans an energetic campaign that will focus on reaching out to residents across Holyoke and exploring ways to enhance leadership in local government.

“City government matters a lot,” Jourdain said. “While other levels of government often capture the most attention on television, it’s at the local level where many important decisions are made that have a profound effect on everyday life. Whether it’s a question of how to make our city safer, or how to improve education, or how to revitalize businesses in our downtown, the City Council has a lot of power to make important decisions. As a longtime member of the Council, I think I have experience that provides an important perspective when these and other decisions are being made. I appreciate the opportunity to serve our city and I hope to continue my work on behalf of the people of Holyoke if re-elected this fall.”

Kevin Jourdain currently serves as one of six elected at-large members of the Holyoke City Council. He has served a total of 13 terms as a member of the Council, having been first elected in 1993. He served as Council President from 2012-2017.

Anne Thalheimer

Holyoke is a city of diversity, pride, and history. Our City Council needs to respect our rich history and simultaneously embrace the diversity that makes us unique as a city. My goal is to make local government more responsive, responsible, and respectful, and by doing so increase resident engagement, ensure we have broader representation on City Council, and bring a new and innovative voice to the process. I want municipal government to become something residents want to participate in, rather than something inaccessible, contentious, and difficult to follow. I’m running because I can be the catalyst for this change. In 2017 I created –and continue to co-moderate – a Ward 3 Neighborhood Association group; in addition, I have been a member of the Holyoke Local Cultural Council for nearly a decade and currently serve as co-chair. I am a renter, a proud union member (1199 SEIU), and have been involved with a number of initiatives in Holyoke, including Wayfinder’s Resident Leadership Program, voter outreach and education, and protecting free speech in the city from bad ordinances. I’m an artist and educator who brings compassion and innovative thinking to my work; it’s an approach I believe our municipal government needs more of, not less. We don’t have to have City Council meetings that are four hours long and difficult to follow; we need a local government that directly and efficiently responds to the needs of the people it serves, including in-person ward meetings.

Patti Devine

I am running for city councilor at large to bring a reasonable voice and my 16 years of city councilor experience.

I believe we need to be fully accessible to our constituents. We need to answer the people and help them in every way possible.

I thank Mayor Garcia, Local 1693 of the Firefighters Union; the Superior Officers Union local 409; the Patrolmen’s Union, former columnist for The Republican, Barbara Bernard and Holyoke Forward Pa’lante for their endorsements. I am truly honored.



The Allied Health Careers Exploration Night at STCC will feature demonstrations in the SIMS Medical Center. Submitted Photo

Open house for health careers hosted by STCC on Nov. 16

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield Technical Community College will host Allied Health Careers Exploration Night on Thursday, Nov. 16, to give the public a close-up look at the hands-on programs that lead to in-demand careers in the medical profession.

Scheduled 4:30 -7 p.m., the free event is open to the public is an opportunity to see demonstrations with state-of-the-art training equipment and speak to faculty, staff and students in the STCC School of Health and Patient Simulation.

While no registration is required, visitors are asked to check in with organizers in the first-floor lobby of Building 20, on the Pearl Street side of the campus.

“We encourage anyone interested in learning more about our programs and health careers to attend,” said Christopher Scott, dean of the School of Health and Patient Simulation. “We’re opening our doors to high school students, STCC students who are in general studies or other majors, people thinking of changing careers - really anyone who wants to explore our programs and learn about career opportunities in the health field.”

Some Massachusetts residents may be eligible to enroll in allied health programs at no cost. The state offers a program called MassReconnect, a version of free community college for Massachusetts residents 25 years of age or older to earn an associate degree or certificate.

The night will feature tours of STCC’s SIMS Medical Center, a nationally recognized patient simulation facility, and tours of departments. Visitors can meet faculty and current students and observe demonstrations and hands-on activities.

“This is a terrific opportunity to see if the health care field is a good fit,” Scott said.

Prospective students can ask questions and experience hands-on opportunities that will allow them immersive experiences in each of the healthcare professions offered at STCC.

STCC offers the following programs to get started on the path to a health career: Dental Assistant, Dental Hygiene, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Fire Science, Health Information Technology, Health Science, Medical Assistant, Medical Coding & Billing Specialist, Medical Laboratory Technician, Medical Office Administrative Assistant, Nursing, Occupational Therapy Assistant, Physical Therapist Assistant, Respiratory Care, Radiologic Technology and Surgical Technology.

The following courses are available:

Certified Nursing Assistant, Emergency Medical Technician, Patient Care Technician, Phlebotomy Technician and Sterile Processing Technician.

For more information, contact the School of Health & Patient Simulation. Email SHPS@stcc.edu or call (413) 755-7477.

Healey-Driscoll administration assists covering nursing tuition

HOLYOKE – The Healey-Driscoll Administration celebrated this year’s new nursing community college financial aid scholarship, announcing that for the first time, the funds are sufficient to cover 100 percent of currently enrolled community college nursing students for the year.

Secretary of Education Patrick Tutwiler made the announcement at Holyoke Community College’s Center for Health Education & Simulation, joined by Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development Lauren Jones, Commissioner of Public Health Robbie Goldstein, Senator Jo Comerford (D-Northampton), Co-Chair of the Joint Committee on Higher Education, Senator Adam Gomez (D-Springfield), Representative Patricia Duffy (D-Holyoke), Holyoke Mayor Joshua A. Garcia, Holyoke Community College President Dr. George Timmons, and the administration’s Western Mass Director Kristen Elechko. During the event, the Healey-Driscoll Administration highlighted nursing student scholarship recipients attending Holyoke Community College, celebrating the impact the investment is expected to have for nursing students across the state.

“As the daughter of a school nurse, I know how important it is to have experi-

enced workers in the health care industry. I’m grateful to Senate President Spilka and the Legislature for prioritizing this life changing initiative,” said Healey. “This scholarship for community college nursing students will bolster the nursing pipeline to meet the needs of medical facilities and patients across Massachusetts, which were exacerbated by the pandemic. Like our MassReconnect program which delivers free community college for residents 25 years and older who have not yet completed a degree, this financial aid scholarship for nursing students will also serve as a catalyst for progress in breaking cycles of intergenerational poverty, helping residents complete their higher education credentials so they can attain meaningful careers.”

“The health care industry is a vital STEM sector in Massachusetts and I am thrilled that, as part of our 2023 STEM week, we could highlight this incredible scholarship and the impact it will have on students who pursue a future in nursing at one of Massachusetts 15 incredible community colleges,” said Driscoll. “As one of the most rapidly growing STEM occupations, it is vital that we open pathways for more people to pursue nursing as a career.”

As part of the FY24 budget, Healey,

Driscoll, and the Massachusetts State Legislature are delivering \$18 million in funds for nursing students at community college. The new scholarship program is designed to attract and encourage a pipeline of skilled nurses in Massachusetts.

This year, of the approximately 3,000 nursing and pre-nursing students currently enrolled in one of Massachusetts’ 15 community colleges, all 3,000 are attending at no-cost of their own. The funds for the new nursing financial aid program were sufficient to cover the cost of the estimated 1,500 nursing and pre-nursing students currently enrolled in one of Massachusetts’ 15 community colleges. Another 1,500 community college nursing students had their entire cost of attendance funded by other state and federal resources.

“I am proud of this response to the needs of our healthcare workforce and Holyoke Community College’s role. This campus is a gateway to opportunities and meaningful careers for our region and supporting that is one of my top priorities,” said Duffy.

The new nursing financial aid scholarship is one investment within Healey, Driscoll, and the legislature’s historic commitment to higher education in the FY24 budget. The budget included \$330 million total in student financial aid to

allow Massachusetts residents to more easily access their higher education at a cost they can afford, including \$84 million to MassGrant Plus. The Healey-Driscoll administration also launched MassReconnect, a brand-new program allowing Massachusetts residents 25 and older to earn their community college degree for free, regardless of area of study.

The budget also accomplished tuition equity this year, allowing all Massachusetts high school students, regardless of immigration documentation status, to qualify for in-state tuition and financial aid.

The health care workforce is a critical part of the Commonwealth’s STEM Economy. More than 40 percent of Massachusetts’s economy centers on jobs in STEM fields, including health care, advanced manufacturing, information technology, biotechnology, and clean energy. According to the Massachusetts Department of Economic Research, Nurse Practitioners as an occupation is expected to be the third STEM occupation with the highest growth from 2020 to 2030. Increasing access to higher education is critical to meet employer needs for skilled workers in these high demand industries and inspiring people to pursue meaningful careers.

Guest Column



By Kimberly Palmucci

Black cats? A purr-fect addition to the family

Reports indicate that black cats are less likely to be adopted than other fur colors, and if you've ever purr-sonally known a black cat, you may be just as bewildered as I was when I learned this fact.

As I'm writing this, my two black cats are curled up on a nearby blanket, basking in a sunlit autumn glow. Yet, the stats of the matter remain—according to several studies, including one regarding a cat's fur color and how this impacts their adoptability, the results were certain.

"Black cats in [shelters] should receive extra consideration for rehoming," the study revealed.

Further, entirely black cats did not enjoy "improved outcomes" during the month prior to Halloween, the one time of year when their outcomes might be expected to improve, the study reported.

So, when considering a new pet for the family, why not consider a black cat or two?

Here's my adoption story for Mayra and Rosie, my "foster kittens turned fur-ever cats."

I met them at a book signing event during which I'd teamed up with a local animal rescue to raise donations. The event started out great, but very soon after I arrived, a dog that I lovingly refer to as "the stinky dog" arrived, too. The event was in a pet store that offered a doggie bathing area, and the stinky dog chanced in after an ill-fated experience—getting sprayed by a skunk.

The dog's owner was noticeably stressed out, and I tried my hardest to ignore the scent, but tears were quite literally forming in my eyes. Approaching the volunteer leading the

See **BLACK CATS**, page 5

Election letters to the editor welcome

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

For more information, call 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

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

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



Guest Column

The questions keep coming



I continue to receive a number of questions each week. It's encouraging that there is so much interest in gardening even as this season is coming to an end. Here are the quandaries we have for this week:

Myrtle still has an abundance of green tomatoes left on the plants in her small gardening plot. "Are my tomatoes still OK to be outside? When I've picked them green in the past I remember putting them in a paper bag to ripen. Is that better than just leaving them on the counter? Mine are mostly cherries and I have quite a few! I looked online and it says to put them in a bag with an apple, but I don't recall using an apple the last time I did this. I sometimes find that advice from the internet gets confusing - too many options! Also, I was wondering what you thought of trying to root the tomato branches that have flowers. Maybe I could grow them inside for the winter."

Lucky you to still have tomato branches with flowers, let alone those with tomatoes on them! I am impressed.

With frost imminent, I typically allow green tomatoes to ripen single layer in trays

or cardboard boxes - something that can "breathe," unlike plastic bags or containers. A paper bag sounds like a fine option too.

The reason for the apple is so that it will emit ethylene gas and hasten the ripening process. Bananas can be used in place of the apple.

There is some controversy about what temperature tomatoes should be kept at to ripen, but it would make sense that ripening would occur at warmer temperatures versus cooler - tomatoes are tropical plants. Typical household temps around 70 degrees are just right.

As far as rooting flowering branches, it would be a fun experiment and tomato stems do root readily. Usually when we take cuttings, we prefer them not to be in flower, though, as it hinders rooting to some degree.

Try it; I'd love to hear how it works out. If they root, keep in mind that winter light is not as bright as summer light. It might be hard to keep the plants growing well inside.

Sylvia, who gardens in Ware, wrote in with this question:

"My beautiful lush morning glory vine doesn't have any buds, let alone blossoms! I fear we will have frost soon. Do you have any idea why this failed? I started four little plants in June, lots of rain, no fertilizer, soil so-so with some compost added during growth and that's it for care."

My first thought is that your soil is too rich. You said no fertilizer, but maybe the

See **GARDEN**, page 5

Can my wife claim her benefit now and switch to a spouse benefit from me later?



By Russell Gloor

Dear Rusty

Can my wife claim her benefits now (at 63, and we know about the reduction for claiming early) and then, when I retire at 66 years and 10 months of age almost 3 years from now, can she switch over to spousal benefits based on my benefit amount? She worked at a higher paying job for much of her career, but is now at a much lower income and would be under the amount that would reduce her benefits further. I currently earn about nine times her annual salary so the spousal benefit for her would be an increase when I retire.

Signed: Seeking Information

Dear Seeking

Yes, your wife can claim her own (reduced) Social Security retirement benefit now and she will be automatically awarded a spousal boost when you later claim your SS retirement benefit. However, your wife's

benefit when you claim will not be 50% of your Full Retirement Age amount because she claimed her own SS benefit early and also because her spousal boost will be awarded prior to her FRA.

Any benefit taken before FRA is reduced, including the spousal benefit.

Here's what will happen if your wife claims her own Social Security at age 63. Your wife's personal SS retirement benefit, when she claims, will be reduced by about 25%. When you claim at your full retirement age, your wife will get a "spousal boost" to her own reduced benefit.

The amount of your wife's spousal boost will be the difference between her FRA entitlement and 50% of your FRA entitlement, reduced because the spousal boost will be awarded automatically before she has reached her own full retirement age. FRA amounts are used to compute the spousal boost, regardless of the age at which benefits are claimed.

When you claim, your wife will not yet be her FRA, so the amount of her spousal boost, the difference between her FRA entitlement and half of your FRA entitlement, will be reduced. The reduced spousal boost will be added to your wife's reduced SS

See **SECURITY**, page 5



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A Quote

OF NOTE

"Every election is determined by who shows up."

Larry Sabato

Letters to the Editor Policy

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

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

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

Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

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

BLACK CATS, from page 4

event—Kathy—I intended to tell her that I, as a very sensitive soul who can't handle the atrocity of foul odors, would be packing up my books and heading out.

When Kathy turned around, I saw that she was wrangling and wrestling with an incredibly tiny black kitten—and this cat was upset. Meowing, crying, and wiggling, the kitten was passed around to several volunteers, and as a person who'd recently drifted into the center of this chaotic scene, the cat was eventually passed to me.

The kitten, Rosie, was around eight-weeks-old. She was so small, but she was zesty. I hadn't expected to be holding a distressed cat, but I understood the assignment; I also related to the kitten's concerns, and holding her close against my chest, I rocked her like an infant and walked down an aisle into a quiet corner.

In my arms, little Rosie calmed down instantly. The volunteers exchanged glances and sighs of relief; at the time, I didn't know why this kitten chose me as the one human who could calm her. But looking back, I know now what I hadn't known then—it was fate!

For the remainder of the event, no

more books were signed. After the kitten had fallen asleep in my arms, I spent the next two hours cradling her, swaying her, and walking around the store. Over the years, in my career as a writer and as a volunteer with several animal groups, I've held countless adoptable pets. But this little kitten? There was something inexplicable about the way she made me feel. As the event neared its end, I knew it would soon be time to hand over the kitten, who would be transported back to her current foster home and, eventually, adopted. And thinking about that, I felt an overwhelming sense of sadness.

"What are the chances of me taking this cat home?" I joked to Kathy, who responded by telling me that I could.

"You said what now?" I retorted, still swaying the cat. "I can take her home with me?"

"Well, you could foster her if you wanted to. It would actually be really helpful," she said. "We've got lots of kittens right now and are looking for foster homes."



I knew that fostering kittens didn't require a lot of space; any extra room, or even a small bathroom, could be used to house the kitten until she found her fur-ever home. My mind ignited into a blaze of calculations, and I came to the conclusion—this could actually work.

"Let me ask my husband," I said, not wanting to make a unilateral decision for the family without him. "He will be the deciding factor."

When my husband, Dom, answered the FaceTime call, I knew the possibility of him saying yes was slim—very slim—but it wasn't zero.

"That's a cute cat," he said when he answered; the camera was focused on the little kitten I was holding. "Now put it back and come home."

I truly did try to put her back; she woke, squirming and letting out a shrill meow as she was placed into a small cat carrier. From inside the carrier, I heard another muffled meow—apparently, Rosie had a twin sister named

Mayra who'd been inside the carrier the entire event because she was shy.

As I packed up my books, watching as all the adoptable pets were brought out of the store, I turned to Kathy.

"Am I going to regret not bringing that kitten home with me?" I asked, hoping Kathy could somehow supply an answer that would make it feel better. "Is it a mistake to let her go?"

"I don't know," she replied, having witnessed the bond Rosie and I had shared. "How do you feel right now?"

My lip started quivering. Quivering. Tears welled in my eyes, and I stood there in the middle of this pet store like a lost child. In that moment, I realized, having Rosie in my arms had been a peace and connection I'd only known twice before, with my other two cats, so, my husband was surely not surprised at all when I rolled up to our house that afternoon with two new foster kittens who we adopted the following day.

These two black cats have now wrapped their paws around my heart—and purr-haps a black cat awaits the love of your family, too!

Or any adoptable pet, for that matter, as all pets are worthy of love.

SECURITY, from page 4

retirement benefit, resulting in her total benefit payment being less than half of yours.

The only way your wife can get the full 50% of your FRA entitlement is to wait until her own FRA at 67 to claim Social Security, but by doing so she also forfeits the money she would otherwise receive if she claimed her own benefit now. As long as she won't significantly

exceed the earnings limit while working before her FRA, claiming now is an acceptable strategy because it will take many years to recover the money forfeited by waiting until her FRA to claim.

It's also reasonable because women statistically outlive men and your wife's benefit as your surviving spouse will be 100% of the amount you are receiving at your death, instead of the smaller spousal amount she was receiving while you were both living.

When to claim is always a personal choice and life expectancy should always be thoughtfully considered, but the answer to your specific question is - yes, if your wife claims her own benefit at 63, she will automatically receive her spousal boost when you claim, but her payment as your spouse will be less than 50% of your FRA benefit amount.

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

GARDEN, from page 4

compost was enough to increase fertility, and nitrogen especially, in such a way that you ended up with all that lush foliage but no flowers.

Morning glories are related to bind weed - that pesky weed that tangles around my garden fence and just about anything else it can get its tendrils on. Try to pull it up and the thick white roots break and new plants pop up.

How does this relate? Well, it sort of proves that morning glories prefer soil that isn't so rich.

Another thought is that you have a late flowering variety! Honest!

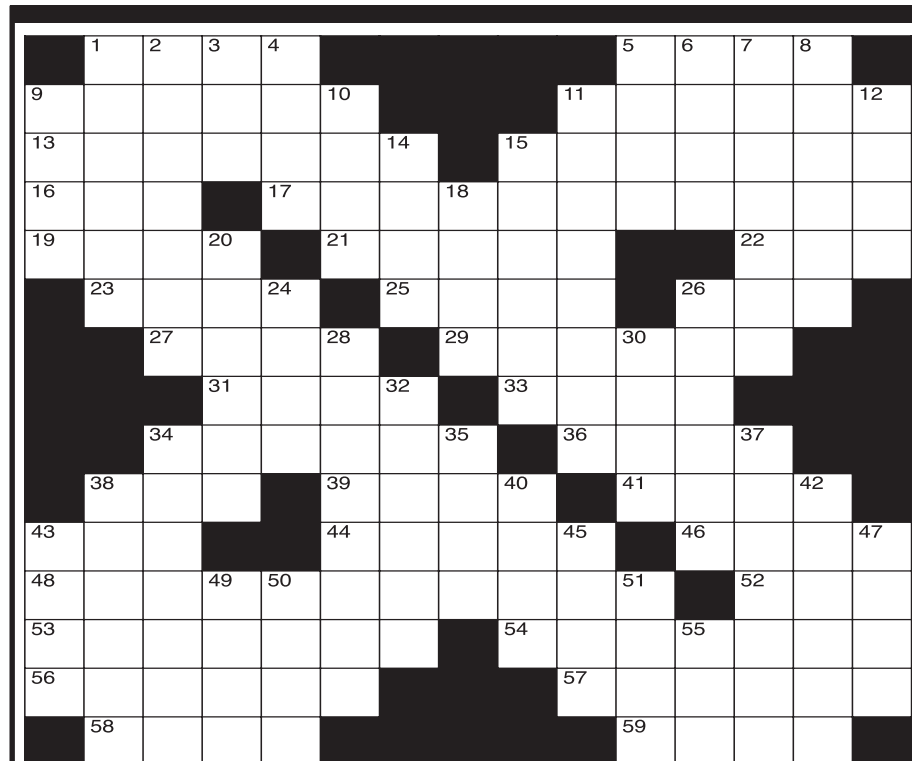
Some varieties take a long time to

flower. One variety that I know grows well and flowers on the early side is an heirloom by the name of Grandpa Ott's.

Give it a try and you'll be pleasantly surprised by the dark purple flowers with reddish centers.

One thing you didn't mention in your note was exposure; morning glories do need to be planted in full sun in order to flower. I do hope this helps!

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.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Male children
- 5. Robert Wagner series "Hart to ..."
- 9. Unfolded
- 11. Digestive disease
- 13. Wednesday
- 15. Malignant tumor
- 16. Conscientious investment strategy (abbr.)
- 17. Slowed
- 19. Letter of the Semitic abjads
- 21. Weights of cars without fuel
- 22. Former CIA
- 23. Asian country
- 25. Instead
- 26. Ancient Egyptian King
- 27. Privies
- 29. Shopping trips
- 31. Paradoxical anecdote

- 33. It's on the table
- 34. Ancient Persia ruler
- 36. Small American rail
- 38. File extension
- 39. Days (Spanish)
- 41. Everyone has one
- 43. South American plant
- 44. About ilium
- 46. Vanished American hoopster
- 48. A type of breakfast
- 52. Uncooked
- 53. Examined
- 54. Christian recluse
- 56. Strong posts
- 57. Some are for pasta
- 58. Skinny
- 59. School-based organizations

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Ringlet
- 2. Type of complex
- 3. Midway between north and northwest
- 4. It becomes something bigger
- 5. German courtesy title
- 6. Genus of birds
- 7. Marked by public disorder
- 8. Least aggressive
- 9. Russian city
- 10. Insect repellent
- 11. Interruptions
- 12. Scoundrels
- 14. 1,000 calories
- 15. What one does overnight
- 18. Dwarf planet
- 20. Pipe
- 24. Black powdery substance
- 26. Set of four
- 28. Canned fishes
- 30. North Carolina college
- 32. Secured
- 34. A disgraceful event
- 35. Physical suffering
- 37. The home of the free
- 38. Some are boys
- 40. Satisfy
- 42. Makes very happy
- 43. South American plants
- 45. Modes of transportation
- 47. Female sheep
- 49. Type of torch
- 50. Piece of merchandise
- 51. Jump over
- 55. Wife of Amun

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 15

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Holyoke Community to celebrate grand opening of Tech Hub

HOLYOKE – Tech Foundry, the regional leader in IT workforce development and training, in partnership with Holyoke Community College, will celebrate the grand opening of Tech Foundry's new Tech Hub on Wednesday, Oct. 25, beginning at 10 a.m. on the first floor of HCC's Picknelly Adult and Family Education Center, located at 206 Maple St.

The following day, Thursday, Oct. 26, Tech Hub will officially open to the general public, offering free services and classes that include digital skills training workshops, walk-in IT support and troubleshooting, Internet connectivity consultations, and computer distribution (free in limited quantities).

Tech Hub, a program of the Springfield-based nonprofit, Tech Foundry, was started in 2023 as part of a state-wide initiative of the Western Massachusetts Alliance for Digital Equity, which received a \$5.1 million grant earlier this year from the Massachusetts Broadband Institute. Along with HCC, other key partners and supporters of the Tech Hub project include the Accelerate the Future Foundation, Comcast, Google, Bulkley Richardson, and the Massachusetts Broadband Institute.

"Tech Hub's mission is to empower Massachusetts residents through access to the skills and technology needed to thrive in the digital world," said Michelle Wilson, deputy director of Tech Foundry.

The Oct. 25 celebration will include a tour of the Tech Hub facility, a ribbon-cutting ceremony, and remarks from attendees including Tech Foundry CEO



Tech Hub fellow Shanice McKenzie lends assistance to Tech Foundry deputy director Michelle Wilson, seated. *Submitted Photo*

Tricia Canavan, HCC President George Timmons, Holyoke Mayor Joshua Garcia, state Rep. Pat Duffy, Dr. Frank Robinson, vice president for community relations and public health at BayState Health and chair of the Western Massachusetts Alliance for Digital Equity, and Dan Glanville, vice president of government affairs and community impact for Comcast's Western New England Region.

"We understand the important role that the Internet plays in helping build a future of unlimited possibilities for everyone in the community," said Glanville. "We are proud to partner with organizations like Tech Foundry that are making it easier for people across west-

ern Massachusetts to adopt the Internet and succeed in an increasingly digital world."

The emcees for the day will be two graduates of Tech Foundry's 18-week IT Workforce Training program who are now working at Tech Hub: Shanice McKenzie of Springfield and Lasharie Weems of Chicopee.

"An essential component of the Tech Hub is hiring Tech Foundry graduates to help run the program," said Wilson. "This one-year fellowship will allow our graduates to hone their IT skills in service to the community."

Starting Oct. 26, Tech Hub will be open noon to 6 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, with classes

held from noon to 1 p.m. and 5-6 p.m. On Mondays and Fridays, Tech Hub manager Shannon Mumblo and Tech Hub fellows will take their IT services into the community all around western Massachusetts.

"We're starting by doing outreach in Springfield and Holyoke," Mumblo said, "and we have also been making partnerships with different organizations in Amherst and South Hadley. We will take our workshops on the road and go to the places and spaces where they are needed."

To learn more, sign up for classes, and access Tech Hub help-desk support, please visit: techhubmass.net.

If you would like to attend the Oct. 25 grand opening celebration, please RSVP to Michelle Wilson at michelle@thetechfoundry.org.

ARPA, from page 1

improvements to buildings, such as accessibility modifications, fire systems and other compliance updates that must be made under orders from public safety or building officials. Minimum award amounts will be \$2,000; maximum award amount will be \$100,000.

Applications materials are available on Facebook (@HolyokeOCD), by emailing the Mayor's Office at fays@holyoke.org or the Office for Community Development Office at zoellera@holyoke.org or by calling the Office for Community Development at 413-322-5610.

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TAILGATE SPECIALS	USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY 80% LEAN GROUND BEEF \$3.79 7 LB BAG	USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN TRUE TIDES FROZEN FISH ITEMS ALL VARIETIES TUNA, SHRIMP, SALMON 10 OZ. \$4.99 ea
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Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m.
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Multi-sport athletes set for Hall induction

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Athletic Hall of Fame Induction will be honoring three of Holyoke’s athletic “Legends” at their enshrinement banquet on Nov. 4, at the Wycoff Country Club. Donald Graf, Joseph Hohol and Charles Szostkiewicz were all multi-sport athletes and set a very high benchmark for future hopefuls to strive for.

Don Graf was voted “Most Athletic” by the senior class in 1951, in recognition of his three outstanding high school years on the Holyoke football gridiron, the basketball hardwood, and baseball diamond. A three-year starter in the Holyoke backfield, Graf began his senior season scoring five touchdowns in the opener against Turner Falls. He went on to be the top rusher in Western Mass, leading Holyoke to an 8-0-1 record and the AA Conference championship and was the featured back in Holyoke’s 1951 New

See HALL, page 8

Knights score pair of wins



Jayvah Stuckey reaches up to make a save.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

HOLYOKE – Last week, Holyoke girls soccer scored wins over Taconic and Greenfield but lost its regular season finale to Central. The Knights defeated Greenfield 4-0 with two goals from Grace Bechard. With the win, Holyoke finished one of its best regular seasons in recent memory, going 9-5-2 and 6-2-2 in the Pioneer North League. The Knights will make the state tournament for the first time, but their power ranking was not high enough to qualify for Western Mass.



Veronica Colon dribbles through the middle of the field.



Tryana Ayala looks to send the ball up the field.



Jayleen Moquin separates from the opposing defense.



Aiden McCarthy locks up with an opposing player.



Bryn Sullivan tries to stop a Northampton player from entering the circle.



Kylie Blaha sends a free hit away.



Siobhan Armstrong brings in a pass. Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



On defense, Grace Phillips starts up the field.



Gracie Chesmore looks to backhand the ball.

Field hockey finishes regular season

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke High School field hockey team concluded the regular season with four straight losses, including last Thursday night against Northampton 4-2. The Knights went 5-12 this season and will not qualify for tournament. They may have one more game in nonplayoff action before their season is completed.

Monadnock Speedway releases 2024 schedule

WINCHESTER, N.H. – Monadnock Speedway and JDV Productions announced this evening the full 2024 event schedule for the Winchester, New Hampshire oval.

The schedule begins with the JDV Open on Saturday, April 20, 2024 and ends with the return of the Winchester Fair event on Saturday, Sept. 21. The schedule includes 20 events spanning from April through September, including house divisions, touring series dates, special events and more.

The NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour will return to Monadnock Speedway for three dates in 2024: the third annual Granite State Derby on May 4, the third annual Duel at the Dog on July 20 and the second annual Winchester Fair on Sept. 21.

The first competition laps on the brand new track pavement will be on April 20 with Monadnock's house divisions in action. The Mad Dog Modifieds,

Super Streets, Mini Stocks, Pure Stocks, Six Shooters and Mad Pups will be racing. The Mad Dog Modifieds were previously named NHSTRA Modifieds, while the Super Streets were previously NHSTRA Late Models and the Young Guns have been renamed to the Mad Pups.

The house divisions will each have special events throughout the year - headlined by a Triple Crown Series, a Monadnock Salutes Pure Stock special (May 18), 15th annual Firecracker 100 (June 29), the inaugural Six Shooters Showdown (July 13), Mini Stock Meet (August 3), Mad Dog Masters Challenge (August 10) and Super Street Summer Shootout (August 17).

A full 2024 Monadnock event schedule can be found by visiting MonadnockSpeedway.com and JDVProductions.com.

"We're excited to work with the great teams that make up the Monadnock

Speedway house divisions, multiple touring series divisions and others to be sure the 2024 season at Monadnock is one to remember," Josh Vanada, owner of JDV Productions, said. "Our team will look forward to releasing more and more information as the season draws closer. The new pavement at Monadnock Speedway is going to make the racing better than it has ever been and we look forward to showcasing it to dedicated, loyal race fans in 2024."

Additional special events during the season will include the 53rd annual weekly racing opener on May 11, the second annual Winchester Open Modified 100 for the JDV Open Modifieds on June 8, the inaugural 350 Super Thunder in the Mountains on June 15 and the 53rd annual championship Saturday on September 14, where all house division champions will be crowned.

The only two-day show of the season will be the finale weekend on September

20 and 21. On Friday night, Sept. 20, a new winners night for house divisions will require drivers who enter the races to have never won a Monadnock event before in that division. The season officially concludes on Sept. 21, with the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour's Winchester Fair and more.

For touring series classes, on top of the Whelen Modified Tour in town three times, the NEMA Midgets will visit once, the NEMA Lites three times, the Evolve Pro Truck Challenge twice and the Pro 4 Modifieds five times. Additional touring series divisions include the R&R Street Stock Open, Little Webb's Super Series and the Senior Tour Auto Racers.

Open Late Models, Open Mini Stock, Big Wheel events and more are also on the calendar. JDV Productions and Monadnock Speedway will release additional information throughout the winter months about the 2024 racing season.

Thunderbirds drop decision to Penguins

WILKES-BARRE, PA – The Springfield Thunderbirds (1-3-0-0) put forth a strong effort, but could not come away victorious, falling to the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins (2-2-0-0) by a score of 3-1 at Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza.



Vadim Zherenko got the start between the pipes for Springfield and had a terrific game, stopping 33 shots on 35 Penguin attempts. On the other end, Joel Blomqvist got the start for the Penguins and picked up his first AHL win with 31 stops.

It was a special night even before the onset of the game for the Bitten family, as Sam Bitten took the ice for his AHL debut alongside his older brother Will, marking the first time in T-Birds history that a pair of brothers skated as Springfield teammates.

Unlike the other games the Thunderbirds have had this season, the first period did not bring any goals and the two teams remained scoreless heading to their dressing rooms. Zherenko was the much busier goaltender during the first period, as he denied all 14 Penguins shots sent his way.

At the 1:35 mark of the second frame, Wilkes-Barre got on the board first. Forward Vinnie Hinostroza broke

behind the T-Birds defense, took a stretch feed from Rem Pitlick, and scored on a backhand deke that snuck past Zherenko.

The score did not remain 1-0 for long, as Adam Gaudette continued his red-hot start to the season with a stroke of luck. An innocent clearing attempt around the boards instead saw the puck skitter to the edge of the crease. After linemate Nathan Walker spotted the loose puck, he was stopped by Blomqvist on the initial chance, but the hulking Gaudette slammed the rebound home to tie the game up at 1-1 at the 3:18 mark of the period.

As the game hit its midpoint, Wilkes-Barre forward Jansen Harkins broke away from the pack and went in on a breakaway with a chance to restore the Penguin lead, but Zherenko was up to the challenge and made the stop with the left leg. Later on in the period, T-Birds had a great chance to go up a goal with Zachary Bolduc stripping a Penguins defenseman before making it a 2-on-1 with Will Bitten. Unfortunately for the rookie winger, Blomqvist made the stop, knocking away the shot with his blocker, and keeping the score at 1-1. The second period would not bring

any scoring for both teams, as the score remained the same at 1-1 going into the third and final period.

The two teams traded chances to start the third period, but neither team could convert. It was not until the 9:03 mark that one of the teams would take the lead. The Penguins power play finally cracked its dry spell, as Pitlick jabbed a power play goal home after a scramble in front of Zherenko's crease, giving his team the 2-1 lead.

With 3:01 to go in the game, the T-Birds were given a power play thanks to a Wilkes-Barre bench minor for too many men on the ice. Walker nearly deadlocked the score, but his deflection on a point shot deflected off the crossbar and stayed out. Shortly after the power play ended, Harkins put the game out of reach with an empty-netter, his first goal as a Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguin.

Springfield's three-game weekend continues as the team travels to play Lehigh Valley on Sunday afternoon for a 3:05 p.m. matchup against the Phantoms. The T-Birds will look to avenge their home loss on Friday night against the Phantoms and pick up their second win of the season.

The T-Birds return home to the MassMutual Center next Saturday, Oct. 28 for our Ok-T-Bird-Fest game to face off against the Providence Bruins for the second time this season. The puck will drop at 7:05 p.m. at the Thunderdome.

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.

HALL, from page 7

Year's Day "Peanut Bowl" Game in Georgia.

A three-year starting guard, Graf was co-captain in his senior year. Directing the team to the 1950-51 Valley League championship, with a 17-2 regular season record, the season ending with a first-round loss in the Western Mass tournament against St. John's of Worcester. Graf was also a three-year starting catcher and was behind the plate for the 1950 HHS team that won the school's first ever Massachusetts State Championships, by beating Sommerville 10-0 in the finals.

One of the last "four-sport athletes" at Holyoke High, Joe Hohol was unstoppable on the ice, unhittable on the mound, and uncatchable on the football field, earning "All-Western Mass" recognition in all three seasons. As a sophomore, Joe easily made the varsity lineup on the Holyoke hockey team and began contributing heavily to the offense. As member of the

Holyoke swim team, he earned a Gold Medal with the relay team at the 1954 Massachusetts State Principals' Association Meet. He was forced to choose one the following year, and made a home on the ice, and played on the first line. He finished his senior year as the teams' leading scorer and was named to the "All-Western Mass" First Team.

After enjoying the taste of success on Holyoke's 1953 State Championship team, Hohol would become an overpowering pitcher and closed out his high school career in a dominating fashion, posting an 8-0 record for the Valley League champions. He also batted over .300 and won the Valley League "Stolen Bases" title, while earning "All-Western Mass" First Team honors.

Hohol's fourth letter came earlier that year as he decided to try football where he was earned the starting wide receiver nod and "All-Western Mass" Third Team recognition.

While most Holyokers would connect Charles Szostkiewicz with the sport

of bowling and the 35 years he owned the Holyoke Bowl-O-Drone, Charlie had made a name for himself as an athlete at Holyoke High School, lettering in soccer, basketball and baseball.

A four-year varsity soccer player, his Holyoke team qualified for the Western Mass tournament in his junior year. He began his senior season netting the hat trick in a winning effort over Smith Academy, before leading the team to a Hampshire League Championship. Charlie would later score the winning goal in a game against Monson to advance to the Western Mass tourney finals.

Moving indoors, Szostkiewicz was a two-year starter and was the tri-captain with Len Collamore and Don Farr in his senior year. Behind the leadership of the "Three Basketeers", Holyoke advanced to the Western Mass Tournament finals against Cathedral, but the quest for a crown eluded them. A four-year varsity star on the baseball diamond, Charlie led Holyoke in batting as a senior, hitting over .300, in helping

Holyoke win the 1949 Valley League championship.

Also to be inducted are 1995 HHS basketball standout Willfredo Cabrera, 1979 HHS girls' sports pioneer Ann Lavelle Mann, 2000 Western Mass "Outstanding Softball Pitcher" Laurin Maruca, 1972 Holyoke Trade 1,000 point scorer Robert Morneau, 1991 HHS football running back Mike Westbrooks, and 1968 HHS soccer and swim star Victor Zwirko, as well as two-time MIAA D-1 Basketball Coach of the year Thomas Brassil and MIAA Boys DIII Coach of the Year James McGrath and the 2012 Holyoke High Western Mass Girls Division I Basketball Team.

The Holyoke Public School Athletic Hall of fame was created in 2017 to honor the achievements and contributions to the Holyoke Public Schools athletics. An annual Hall of Fame banquet is held each year to honor these inductees, with all proceeds used to support Holyoke Athletics. Banquet tickets at \$35 and can be purchased online through "Eventbright.com".

**City of Holyoke
Notice of Public Hearing**
The Holyoke License Board will be holding a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, November 1, 2023, at 5:15 pm.** You can join via Zoom.com; ID **82461031216**; CALL IN: *67 **646 558 8656** or in person at **City Hall Annex 20 Korean Veterans Plaza Room 403**, regarding the application for a **Transfer of an Seasonal All Alcohol Liquor License (Off-Premises) from OM Holyoke Gas LLC DBA A&A Gas to Robert K, LLC, at 820 High Street**, pursuant to M.G.L. Ch.138.
Applicant: Robert K, LLC
License Board:
Anthony Luciano,
Chairman
10/20, 10/27/2023

**City of Holyoke
PUBLIC HEARING
NOTICE**
The Holyoke Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.com** ID: 836 3939 8493; Call in *67 646 558 8656 to hear a Special Permit in the DR Zone (Sec 8.8.4) to reduce the minimum lot size and frontage requirements at 267 Elm Street (Parcel 004-03-004).
APPLICANT:
GEM Holdings, LLC
PLANNING BOARD:
Mimi Panitch
10/27, 11/03/2023

**City of Holyoke
Notice of Public Hearing**
The Holyoke License Board will be holding a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, November 1, 2023, at 5:15 pm.** You can join via Zoom.com; ID **82461031216**; CALL IN: *67 **646 558 8656** or in person at **City Hall Annex 20 Korean Veterans Plaza Room 403**, regarding the application for a **Transfer of a Wine and Malt Beverage Liquor License (Off-Premises) from EST Market Corp. DBA Appleton Market, at 435 Appleton Street**, pursuant to M.G.L. Ch.138.
Applicant: EST. Market Corp.
License Board:
Anthony Luciano,
Chairman
10/20, 10/27/2023

**City of Holyoke
Notice of Public Hearing**
The Holyoke License Board will be holding a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, November 1, 2023, at 5:15 pm.** You can join via Zoom.com; ID **82461031216**; CALL IN: *67 **646 558 8656** or in person at **City Hall Annex 20 Korean Veterans Plaza Room 403**, regarding the application for a **Transfer of an Annual Wine and Malt Beverage Liquor License (Off-Premises) from OM Holyoke Gas LLC DBA A&A Gas to Robert K, LLC, at 820 High Street**, pursuant to M.G.L. Ch.138.
Applicant: Robert K, LLC
License Board:
Anthony Luciano,
Chairman
10/20, 10/27/2023

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD14P1891EA
Estate of:
Francisco Acevedo**

**Date of Death: 05/20/2011
CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
FORMAL
APPOINTMENT OF
SUCCESSOR PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE**
To all interested persons:
A Petition has been filed by: **Marta Romero** of Holyoke, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order that **Abimael Acevedo-Romero** of Holyoke, MA be appointed as Successor Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before 10:00 a.m. on **11/13/2023**.

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

The estate is being administered under formal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but recipients are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: October 16, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
10/27/2023

**COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
HAMPDEN, Div.
Probate & Family Court
Dept.
HD23E0051PP**

To David L. Ager of Holyoke, in the County of Hampden, and to all other persons interested.

A petition has been presented to said Court by Elizabeth C. Ouimette, of Holyoke, in the County of Hampden, representing that they hold as joint tenant 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 Five Hundred Fifty Thousand (\$550,000.00) 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 peti-

tion 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 **eighteenth day of December 2023**, the return day of this citation.

Witness, **BARBARA M. HYLAND**, Esquire, First Justice of said Court, this 17th day of October 2023.

Rosemary A. Saccomani,
Register
10/27, 11/03, 11/10/2023

**City of Holyoke
PUBLIC HEARING
NOTICE**

The Holyoke Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.com** ID: 836 3939 8493; Call in *67 646 558 8656 to hear, pursuant to the Holyoke Zoning Ordinance, a Special Permit for Multiple Principal Structures (Sec 5.4); submitted by Convergent Energy & Power, LP on behalf of Holyoke Energy Storage 1, LLC, to be located at Sargeant Street, (019-01-003).

Convergent Energy, Inc. is seeking a modification to a previously approved Special Permit (Sect 9.3.4) Notice of Decision (File 2021-18).

APPLICANT:
Convergent Energy & Power, LP
PLANNING BOARD:
Mimi Panitch
10/27, 11/03/2023

**CITY OF HOLYOKE
PURCHASING
DEPARTMENT
REQUEST FOR
PROPOSALS
INVITATION TO BID
2024-22W
ELEVATOR REPAIR
SEALED BIDS ARE DUE
BY 2:00 PM ON 11/17/2023
EMAIL SUBMISSIONS
WILL NOT BE
ACCEPTED**

The City of Holyoke is seeking sealed bids for the provision of all labor and materials required to repair an elevator located at 310 Appleton St (War Memorial Building) in Holyoke MA.

Documents will be available from the City of Holyoke's Purchasing Office, 536 Dwight Street, Room 3, Holyoke, MA 01040 beginning at 12:00PM on Wednesday October 25, 2023. Bid documents may be requested via email to sweeney@holyoke.org or in person at the City of Holyoke's Purchasing Office. The deadline to submit bid proposals is **November 17, 2023, by 2:00PM**, at which time all bids received will be publicly opened in compliance with Chapter 30B and the City of Holyoke's Ordinances. No electronic Submissions will be accepted. **THE CITY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS.**
10/27/2023

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD23P2171EA
Estate of:
William F Leahy
Date of Death: 08/15/2023
CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
FORMAL**

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

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/17/2023**.

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

**UNSUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION
UNDER THE
MASSACHUSETTS
UNIFORM PROBATE
CODE (MUPC)**

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: October 20, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
10/27/2023

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758**

**Docket No. HD23P1523EA
Estate of:
Marilyn Catherine Loudon
Also known as:
Marilyn Loudon,
Marilyn Maher Loudon
Date of Death: 07/09/2023**

**CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
FORMAL
ADJUDICATION**
To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Kelly A Maher of Holyoke, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Kelly A Maher of Holyoke, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administra-**

tion.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/20/2023**.

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

**UNSUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION
UNDER THE
MASSACHUSETTS
UNIFORM PROBATE
CODE (MUPC)**

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: October 23, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
10/27/2023

**City of Holyoke
Office of Purchasing
536 Dwight Street, Room 3
Holyoke, MA 01040
RFQ 2024-24E Parking
Deck Feasibility**

The City of Holyoke (City) is requesting qualifications from firms to provide professional engineering services to perform a detailed existing conditions assessment and feasibility study for future rehabilitation of the City Hall Parking Deck located at 536 Dwight Street in Holyoke, Massachusetts. The existing conditions assessment shall include survey, structural evaluation, and hazardous materials assessment of the existing structure. Upon completion of the feasibility study, the selected firm shall also prepare a preliminary design for the City's preferred alternative. The firm selected for this project shall have a demonstrated ability to

execute this type of project and provide the City with the technical assistance required to make informed choices in developing and implementing this project. The City is looking for the existing conditions assessment and feasibility study to be completed by September 30, 2024 with preliminary design completed by March 31, 2025.

This project is funded with Federal Funds. Respondents will be verified for eligibility to receive Federal Funds and must comply with all Federal Requirements including Part 200. Documents will be available on 10/24/2023 at 12PM and can be obtained in person from the purchasing office or electronically from morrowj@holyoke.org or sweeney@holyoke.org. Submittal will be received

until 11/21/23 at 2PM. No electronic submissions will be allowed. The city reserves the right to reject any and all proposals.
10/27/2023

**City of Holyoke
Office of Purchasing
536 Dwight Street, Room 3
Holyoke, MA 01040
Request for Qualifications
Pumping Station
RFQ 2024-23E**

The city is requesting Qualifications from firms to provide professional engineering services related to the replacement of the Springdale Sewer Pumping Station. The firm selected for this project shall have a demonstrated ability to execute this type of project and provide the city with the technical assistance required to make informed choices in developing and implementing this project. The city is looking for substantial completion of assessment by Sept 30, 2024 with preliminary design completed by March 31, 2025. This project will be funded in part or in whole with Federal Funds. Respondents will be verified for eligibility to receive Federal Funds and must comply with all Federal requirements including Part 200. Documents will be available on 10/23/2024 at 12PM they can be requested electronically from morrowj@holyoke.org or sweeney@holyoke.org. Submittals are **DUE 11/21/2023 at 2:30PM**. Electronic submissions will not be allowed. The city reserves the right to reject any and all proposals.
10/27/2023

**City of Holyoke
Office of Purchasing
536 Dwight Street, Room 3
Holyoke, MA 01040
REQUEST FOR QUOTES**

The city of Holyoke is requesting quotes for the provisions and installation of a custom fabricated steel tube trellis on the Pine Street porch at the Wistariahurst Museum starting on 10/25/2023. Quotes will need to include all material and labor necessary to complete the work. Full project specs can be requested from morrowj@holyoke.org or sweeney@holyoke.org

Electronic submission WILL BE ACCEPTED for this project, and must be received by **11/9/23 at 12PM**. The city reserves the right to reject any and all quotes.
10/27/2023



**think
OUTSIDE
of the
BIG
BOX
SUPPORT
COMMUNITY
BUSINESSES**

Baystate Children's Hospital welcomes facility dog

SPRINGFIELD – Baystate Children's Hospital's first-ever facility dog, Isabela, Isa for short, who joined the team thanks to a \$150,000 grant from the Dunkin' Joy in Childhood Foundation. Baystate's newest employee goes to work every day to provide special animal assisted therapy to pediatric patients, their families, and staff members.

The Foundation's Dogs for Joy pro-



BCH's first facility dog, Isabela, at her meet and greet. Submitted Photo

gram seeks to increase the number of in-resident dogs in children's hospitals across the country. Facility dogs like Isa are professionally trained to work in a healthcare setting. Unlike volunteer dogs that visit a hospital or medical center for a short time, facility dogs are at the hospital every day with their handlers. In most cases they are used exclusively for clinical work. These dogs are trained to help with tasks like teaching kids how to take medication, keeping a child calm during medical intervention and providing incentives for kids to get out of bed for a walk, these dogs serve as a source of happiness and provide a sense of normalcy for patients.

"Dogs like Isabela are often described as better than any medicine. They just know when someone needs comfort, support, and love, and they give it unconditionally without judgement and expect nothing in return," said Dr. Charlotte Boney, chair, Department of Pediatrics at Baystate.

"We are thrilled to bring joy to patients and their families at Baystate

Children's Hospital through our Dogs for Joy program," said April McGonnigal, Director of the Joy in Childhood Foundation. "We have seen the incredible impact that these special pups bring to children's hospitals throughout the country and look forward to seeing the meaningful impact that Isa has on the patients, staff and families at Baystate."

Isabela, a Golden Retriever, was born and raised at Canine Assistants in Milton, Georgia, a non-profit organization which teaches and provides service dogs for children and adults with physical disabilities or other special needs.

Already a star before arriving at Baystate Children's Hospital, Isabela, now almost 19 months old, began her education at just seven weeks. She has completed over 1500 hours of individual instruction and 2,250 hours of group instruction and was the first of her litter to graduate at only 17 months old.

Isa and her handlers provide goal-oriented interventions Isa will be working with pediatric patients across many areas of the children's hospital

including inpatient units, the emergency department, radiology, and some outpatient areas. Isa also has some designated time to support hospital staff across the medical center. She has a calm and intuitive demeanor and has been an added support for staff during debriefs following difficult situations, or when rounding on units to help uplift spirits.

"Isabela is a wonderful new addition to the Baystate Children's Hospital staff. As a dog lover and huge Golden Retriever enthusiast who has been blessed with many Golden Retrievers over the years, these lovable dogs are known for their gentle nature, goofy sweet smiles, and deep loyalty to and affection for humans. They make great service dogs and we are lucky to have Isa as part of our team," Dr. Boney said. Visit Isabela on Instagram @ Isabela_inspires.

For more information on Baystate Children's Hospital, visit baystatehealth.org/bch.

To learn more about the Dunkin' Joy in Childhood Foundation's Dogs for Joy program please visit www.bringjoy.org.

Questions answered by a Baystate Health breast surgeon

SPRINGFIELD – Should you have a mastectomy or lumpectomy? That's a question that can only best be answered in consultation with your breast cancer team. There are many questions to ask your doctor, here a just a few along with some general answers from Dr. Jesse Casaubon of Baystate Surgical Oncology and Breast Specialists.

Q: What is a mastectomy, what are the pros and cons of mastectomy and what can be expected after surgery such as restrictions, recovery time, and more?

A: A mastectomy is a procedure that removes all of the breast tissue and is typically compared to lumpectomy which involves removal of the infected area only but leaves the remainder of the breast tissue intact.

There are many pros and cons but the important thing to note is that for breast cancer, either option is effective, assuming that the patient is a candidate for lumpectomy (for example some women have cancer that has spread throughout multiple areas of the breast and require mastectomy/are not candidates for lesser surgery). By effective I mean that the survival between the two is exactly the same. There is a slightly lower risk of having the cancer come back when someone chooses mastectomy, however, if they choose lumpectomy and the cancer returns, it typically

recurs within the breast and the patient would then be a candidate for mastectomy which is likely why the survival is the same between the two. Unfortunately, mastectomy is a much larger procedure that is associated with a higher risk of bleeding and infection. It also will permanently change how the chest feels and looks.

Q: What are the different types of mastectomies?

A: There are different types of mastectomies. The most basic mastectomy is called a total mastectomy and involves removing the breast and most of the overlying skin so that the chest wall looks flat afterward. Other variations of the mastectomy involve leaving skin, or sometimes even leaving the nipple and areola so that a plastic surgeon can perform reconstruction or rebuilding of the breast

Q: Will I be a candidate for breast reconstruction?

A: Many women are candidates for breast reconstruction though it is important to note what things make reconstruction riskier such as uncontrolled diabetes and smoking. Only the plastic surgeon can decide after discussing with you.

Q: What is a lumpectomy and what are the pros and cons of lumpectomy



Dr. Jesse Casaubon

and what can be expected after surgery such as restrictions and recovery?

A: Lumpectomy is typically a less intensive/invasive procedure and the recovery is quicker. Everybody is different but usually within a week or so people are feeling close to normal. It is important to recognize that it takes a long time to get completely back to normal with any procedure.

Mastectomy takes longer typically, often we will tell people it will be weeks until they are feeling almost like normal.

Q: Are there different types of lumpectomies?

A: Yes. It is typically just related to how much tissue needs to be removed compared to how much is being left behind and what will need to be done to the tissue that is being left behind so that it looks good.

Q: What will my breast look like after a lumpectomy?

A: Your breast should look relatively similar after lumpectomy to what it did before lumpectomy.

Q: What are the determinants you consider when suggesting one over the other?

A: We typically recommend that women who are candidates for lumpec-

tomy undergo the procedure instead of mastectomy given the survival is the same and the procedure itself is much better tolerated. It is important to note that there are studies looking at quality of life after these 2 surgeries and that it is almost always better (quality of life after surgery is almost always higher) for patients who are able to preserve their breast.

Q: Depending upon the procedure I choose, will I need additional treatment?

A: One of the main downsides of lumpectomy is that often, radiation is recommended which will help decrease the chance of the cancer coming back in the breast. This is one of the reasons why many women elect to remove the breast entirely.

Q: Will I need to have chemotherapy or hormonal therapy?

A: The decision for chemotherapy or hormone therapy is not often related to which surgery you pick and more related to which type of cancer, and how aggressive that type is. The lymph nodes are often sampled during these procedures to understand if the cancer has spread and this will often influence these additional treatment recommendations as well.

For more information on breast cancer surgery at Baystate Health visit: \ <https://www.baystatehealth.org/services/cancer/treatment/surgery/breast-surgery>.

Precision medicine is changing treatment for breast cancer

SPRINGFIELD – When it comes to treating most cancers today, specialists are quick to denounce the "one-size-fits-all" or "cookie cutter" approach that has changed over the past several decades.

It was back on April 16, 1999, that a short article appeared in The Wall Street Journal entitled "New Era of Personalized Medicine: Targeting Drugs for Each Unique Genetic Profile," which introduced to the public the new term personalized medicine.

"Decades ago, most patients with breast cancer received the same treatments. At that time, there really wasn't a way for us to differentiate treatments for more effective outcomes based on a woman's specific type of breast cancer," said medical oncologist and breast specialist Dr. Prarthna Bhardwa of the Baystate Regional Cancer Program.

Personalized medicine, now more often referred to as precision medicine, is an innovative approach to the tailoring of medical treatment. It is based on the individual characteristics of each patient

by identifying the molecular fingerprints of various cancers and using them to divide cancer's once-broad categories into far more precise types and subtypes. It allows for medical care that "focuses on the right drug at the right dose at the right time for the right patient."

"Modern science has allowed us to focus on improving outcomes for our patients. Today, we are seeing women diagnosed with stage 4 breast cancer, who years ago would have an average life expectancy of months to now surviving for years with treatments that are improving the quality of life for many," Bhardwaj said.

"Many of these new treatments began with patients who had advanced or stage 4 breast cancer. When oncologists started to see success in treating these patients with targeted therapies, what followed was incorporating them into treatment for patients with earlier stage cancers to achieve better outcomes for them as well," Bhardwaj said.

One of the earliest examples of

putting precision medicine to work for breast cancer patients, and that served as an initial step in identifying different types of breast cancers, was the discovery in 1986 of the HER2 gene that promotes the rapid growth of cancer cells. HER2-positive breast cancers, which tend to be more aggressive than other types of breast cancer, account for about 15-20 percent of all breast cancer diagnoses, where the breast tumor has high levels of the protein known as HER2 which stands for human epidermal growth factor receptor 2.

"Not all patients benefit from the same treatments, and this is what inspired researchers to learn why. Breast cancers are routinely tested for hormone receptors, specifically estrogen and progesterone, as well as HER2 currently. There is a subset of women who have triple-negative breast cancer who do not express HER2, estrogen or progesterone, resulting in their not being able to be treated with therapies targeting these protein markers and leaving them to rely

on standard infusional chemotherapy," Bhardwaj said.

"Although several gene defects have been identified today that contribute to breast cancer, we don't yet have treatments against all of them, but the good news is that more are slowly beginning to be introduced in the fight against breast cancer. One of the newest and fastest-growing types of anticancer drugs is antibody-drug conjugates (ADCs) like Enhertu (trastuzumab deruxtecan). ADCs involve the targeting properties of monoclonal antibodies, which bind to a specific protein attached to those cells and then go on to release a chemotherapy drug, preferentially killing cancer cells but preserving the normal cells," Dr. Bhardwaj said.

Surgery remains an integral treatment for early-stage breast cancer. This can be in the form of a lumpectomy or mastectomy, depending on the tumor size and breast size. Precision medicine

See TREATMENT, page 15

CPA, from page 1

voters one way or another, they believe that they should not have to endorse the tax reduction this time.

“What I am trying to understand from you is, what’s different now? We didn’t use the petition process last time...how is it that the council this time has to take a position versus the first time?” Jourdain asked.

The councilors do not want to vote to endorse the CPA question as they believe the decision should be entirely up to the voters and, if they were to take a vote to endorse it, they are not sure if the vote would pass.

All of the councilors agree that the voters should have a say on whether or not the CPA tax should be reduced, however several of them would not vote in favor of the reduction.

“I’m in favor of putting the ballot question on the ballot because enough voters have asked for it, but I’m going to vote no to the ballot question,” Councilor Joseph McGiverin said.

Several councilors were also concerned that this opinion threw the legality of the initial vote to create the CPA into question.

Five years ago, when creating the initial CPA tax, the councilors did not vote one way or another to endorse the creation.

Now, the councilors were reportedly told by the law department that they need to follow the exact same process this year to place the CPA question on the ballot as they did five years ago.

Therefore, now that they are being told that a different process needs to be followed this year, there were concerns raised that this throws the original vote to create the CPA into question.

“This is what happened in 2016 that the law department approved,

because they’re required to write the summary, so if that’s true, then is the current CPA validly adopted?” Jourdain asked.

Bissonnette stated that an amendment was a different part of the statute than the initial adoption of the CPA, which is why there are the different processes needed.

“It’s different provisions of the statute to initially adopt,” Bissonnette said. “To initially adopt requires a proceeding that also can include a petition process. With respect to the amendment to reduce the percentage, that is a different process under a different section of the CPA statute, and that process has to be followed in this instance to put it on the ballot.”

The councilors had not heard this before and, as the law department had helped them to draft the initial language for the planned November 2023 ballot question, they were unsure as to why this two-step process had not been mentioned prior.

Given these questions, the councilors hope to speak with the law department and the lawyer from KP Law about this opinion to clarify if the original vote was done correctly or not.

They want to ensure they do this process correctly so that if the question is put on the ballot it will be binding.

“What we need is...to have this person come in and we can talk about this because I would like an opinion about the validity of the current CPA law, because if what they’re saying is true it calls into question potentially the validity of the current law because we’re following the exact same order with the exact same language that goes to the ballot,” Jourdain said.

Therefore, this matter was referred back to the finance committee for further discussion.

RECEIVERSHIP, from page 1

chronically underperforming, according to the DESE website, the district needs to be both low performing and not showing signs of improvement over time.

Additionally, the district needs to have scores in the lowest 10% of districts statewide.

That analysis will include district performance on state assessment over a four-year period based on composite performance index in English and mathematics, the percentage of students in “warning” or “failing” categories on state assessments, and improvement in student academic achievement.

If the district has this low performance and there are concerns of the ability of the district to improve student achievement, the district will go under receivership.

Going under receivership means that the commissioner appoints a new leader, a receiver, who will have the same powers as the superintendent and the school committee.

In Holyoke, the initial receiver appointed was Dr. Stephen Zrike Jr. He would step down from the role at the end of June, 2020 and Alberto Vázquez Mato was selected to replace him.

Vázquez Mato was replaced by Anthony Soto after he resigned from the receiver position in March 2021.

Soto presented Holyoke with the best chance of having some local control while under receivership due to Soto being a Dean Technical graduate.

According to the DESE website, Holyoke was placed under receivership in 2015 as the student achievement and growth was among the lowest in the state, with many of the schools in the bottom 10% statewide.

Holyoke also had some of the lowest graduation rates and one of the highest

dropout rates in the state.

Due to all of these factors, the district was placed under receivership and a turn-around plan was put in place.

This plan has been updated since 2015, once in Jan. 2018 and once in Dec. 2022.

Through the use of these plans, Holyoke has worked hard on improving the district.

Since 2015, the district has experienced many improvements.

There has been a 16.4% increase in the graduation rate among students in the ninth-grade cohort. There was also a reduction in the dropout rate from 7.7% to 5.1% over the period of the receivership.

Additionally, the number of students in grades 10-12 in advanced coursework increased from 16% in 2015 to 35% in 2022.

Given these numbers, as well as several other improvements, Holyoke is hopeful about their ability to continue to improve through local control.

School Committee Member John Whelihan believes that this will be a good step forward for the district.

“I just think that the city, the teachers, the students, the parents, they deserve a school system that has local control,” Whelihan said.

The goal of petitioning to end the receivership is for HPS to be controlled more locally. However, the school committee and other members of the district do not necessarily expect to get full local control right away.

“I don’t necessarily see him flipping the switch and turning 100% control right away to Holyoke; it might be some sort of a partnership with DESE for a couple of years or a short period of time,” Whelihan said. “That would still be an improvement.”

The district should receive Riley’s decision in Spring of 2024.

MOVIES, from page 1

Eric Michaelian, an accused killer who is released from prison due to police misconduct. A young college girl was murdered, but it’s not over.

The grieving family is upset with the travesty of justice and realizes that there is no reasonable possibility of righting the wrong.

However, one member of the family, the hot-headed young kid, played by Shane Ryan-Reid captures Dennis and brings him home to the consternation of the family.

Still, what can they do? They believe Dennis guilty, but as he has been found innocent in court, what recourse do they have?

“The family of the victim comes face to face with Dennis and holds their own trial to decide his fate. When the system fails, family justice is the only way and FATAL JUSTICE will be executed.”

There is a reason why McGahee wanted to make this movie. His favorite film is “Twelve Angry Men”.

“Twelve Angry Men” has tugged at the heart strings of many for decades, and has been done in several versions, including the most famous, as well as a number of foreign language incarnations.

“Fatal Justice” is a courtroom drama, but not in a courtroom.

After the trial, will the real villain be revealed? Maybe, but with a twist.

The second film shown was “Deadly Western”.

For McGahee, this is definitely going off on a tangent, as he is not at all a fan of Westerns and swore never to wear a cowboy hat. Nevertheless, the deed was done.

“Deadly Western”, filmed against a backdrop that appears to be a western ghost town, is where science fiction meets the horse opera.

Eric Michaelian plays Clark, a rather befuddled lawman who wakes up with no memory of who he is or why he is in the town, but struggles to find all that out, with little success.

No matter, he is going to give it the old college try.



Actors Chris Spinelli, Lorrie Bacon and Eric Michaelian share a heated moment in “Deadly Western”.
Turley Photos by Richard Murphy



The cast of “Fatal Justice”.



The characters in “Fatal Justice” have their final discussion.

His wife, Beth, played by Lorrie Bacon, comes back to town with her brother, the wise-guy Elias, played by Chris Spinelli. With those two and a few others, he is going to have to defend the town against the desperados out to take it over.

The defenders do not appear to be an awe-inspiring militia, yet they go into battle.

Though the evildoers are routed, the triumph can only be described as pyrrhic.

But, it’s not over and it all ends with a surrealistic twist.

The two movies screened on Saturday share something else that is also a departure for McGahee in that they were not made locally.

McGahee and company would leave Massachusetts to go out west to Hollywood to make the two films.

If you follow McGahee, you realize that he has several people he relies on to make and crew his movies. Well, that repertoire company went with him to California.

This was done at the suggestion of Gregory Hatanaka, who owns Cinema Epoch, the distributor of McGahee’s movies. Hatanaka flew McGahee and his team out to the West Coast to make the films.

The results were viewed by an enthusiastic audience at the Hall of Fame, but if you are a McGahee fan and missed the premieres, don’t fret. Both features are available on the Tubi streaming channel.

Many of McGahee’s other, more classic horror movies are also on Tubi and other streaming services.

His latest, “Scary Tales: Dead Zone”, has just been released on Tubi as well. We should note, those of you who are in fear that McGahee has abandoned New England, “Scary Tales: Dead Zone” was locally made.

It has appeared in time for Halloween.

It was a good evening at the Hall of Fame and the fans left wondering what Geno McGahee will be showing there next.

Maybe a comedy?

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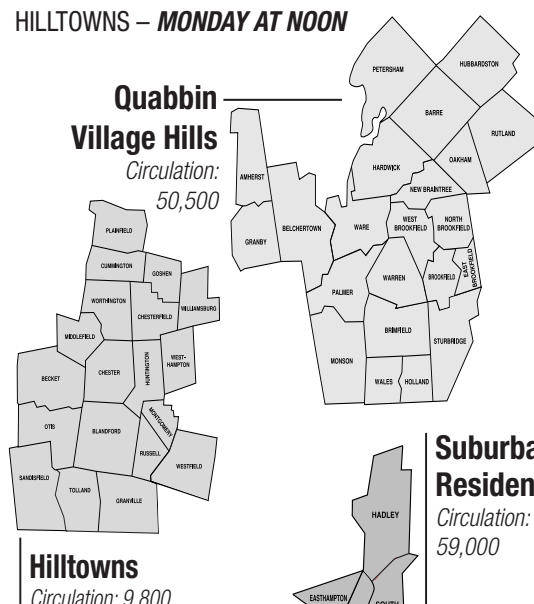
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WNE to host open house

SPRINGFIELD – Western New England University will host high school students, transfer students, and their parents at an open house on Saturday, Oct. 28, from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. starting in the University commons.

The event is free. Registration in advance is requested. Visit wne.edu/openhouse to register or call 413-782-1321.

This undergraduate open house is intended for all prospective students, regardless of their year in high school, and transfer students. It is an opportunity to come to campus to get a sense of the University's warm and engaging community, while learning about the wide variety of academic programs and emphasis on interdisciplinary collaboration.

Students and parents will have the chance to tour the campus and a first-year residence hall, meet current students, get a general overview of the admissions and financial aid process, and have academic questions answered.

The day concludes with an exhibit where students can gather more information on student clubs and activities, honors programs, athletic opportunities at both the NCAA and recreational levels, as well as hear from the Career Development Center regarding the varied internship and career opportunities students are receiving.

HCC welcomes new Taber Art Gallery director

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College has appointed Rachel Rushing as director of the college's Taber Art Gallery.

Originally from Louisiana, Rushing is an interdisciplinary artist with a special interest in photography. She comes to HCC by way of Dallas, where Rushing worked with the Nasher Sculpture Center to develop the visitor experiences program and manage special projects, such as the 2022 exhibition of CARNE y ARENA, a virtual reality exhibition written and directed by Academy Award winning Mexican filmmaker Alejandro González Iñárritu that integrates viewers into the true accounts of refugees in their journey across the southern U.S. border.

Rushing also founded and co-directed Sunset Art Studios, a social practice art gallery, residency, and studio in Dallas. She now lives in Holyoke.

"Hit the ground running" is an overused phrase, but it absolutely describes the energy Rachel's brought to the position," said Kim Hicks, dean of Social Sciences, Arts & Humanities. "In the brief time she's been at HCC, she's made connections with faculty, students, and the Holyoke Public Library, one of our most reliable community partners. She's mounted her first exhibit and has been working with the grants office on an application to the Holyoke Cultural Council. Rachel has been making things happen."

Rushing becomes only the second director since the gallery opened in 1998, succeeding founding director Amy Johnquest, who retired last spring.



Rachel Rushing has been named new art director at Taber Art Gallery.

Submitted photo

"I'm really excited," Rushing said. "Gallery work and working with artists is something I've always been really passionate about. I think galleries on college campuses are really important ways to connect students with the bigger art world."

Her first show as Taber director was an exhibition of photographs by John Leni Marcy titled "The City on Paper: Representations of HolyoRícan Life," which was curated and captioned by HCC students enrolled in Latinx Studies classes.

"I was thrilled to bring this project to HCC as my first exhibition as the Taber Art Gallery director," said Rushing. "It

combines many of my goals as gallery director, particularly cross-departmental collaboration, community connection, and inclusion through multilingual content. I'm looking forward to the Taber becoming an active space for students and the broader Pioneer Valley community through contemporary art and programming that expands the imagination and invites connection and creative exchange."

The Taber Art Gallery, located off the lobby of the HCC Library on the second floor of the HCC Donahue Building, is free and open to the public Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. during regular school sessions.

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TREATMENT, from page 12

has opened the window to allow targeted medical therapy to help shrink larger tumors or to treat positive lymph nodes and allow for smaller surgeries with less surgical risks, such as lymphedema which is a chronic swelling of the arm. There may even be a day when surgery does not need to be part of a treatment plan, and clinical trials are ongoing looking for the appropriate cancer and patient scenarios to which this could apply.

The most optimal treatment for breast cancer today involves a multidisciplinary team like that found at Baystate Health involving surgeons,

medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, pathologists, and radiologists.

"At Baystate Health, we are fortunate to have a robust breast cancer program with dedicated healthcare professionals who work in tandem to provide the most appropriate care for an individual," Bhardwaj said.

"Any type of cancer diagnosis is a life-changing event for patients, and we are striving hard to make treatments more effective and less toxic. It is a privilege to be an oncologist guiding patients through their cancer journey as the field evolves in exciting ways," she added.

For more information on the Baystate Regional Cancer Program, or to make an appointment, visit baystatehealth.org/cancer.

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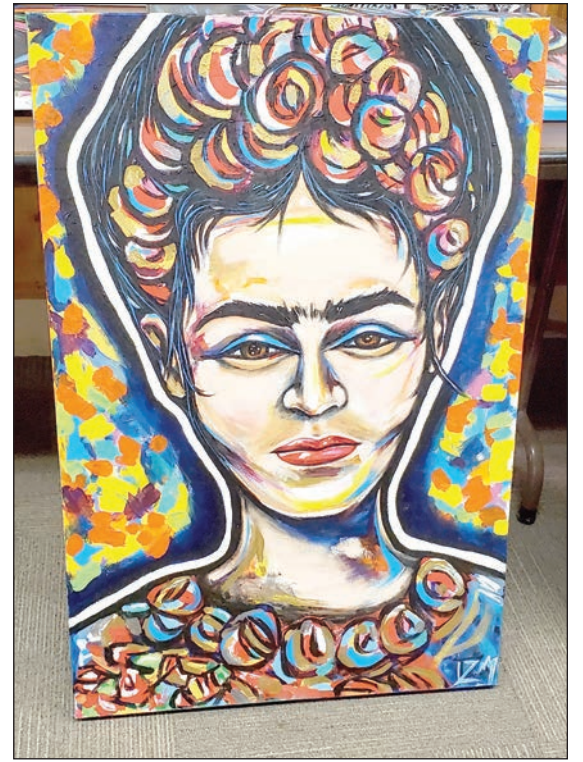
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Orlando Santos, aka iZM PriZM



Artwork by Santos.



Submitted Photos, Quabbin Art Association

Artist Orlando Santos draws a crowd at recent event



BELCHERTOWN – This past Thursday, the Quabbin Art Association hosted Holyoke artist Orlando Santos, aka “iZM PriZM,” before the largest crowd they have assembled in recent years.

“Santos dazzled members and the general public with a display of more than two dozen pieces of abstract art,” the

Quabbin Art Association released. “With an incredible sense of humor, Santos shared the story of his life, the family who inspired and supported a career that began only four years ago.”

Since then, his visual art has spread quickly throughout the Pioneer Valley. He maintains a studio in Holyoke and “encourages visits from his fellow artists

and the public,” the QAA added.

“You can find him at Facebook or on Instagram at ‘iZM PriZM,’” a press statement reads.

Funding for the presentation was provided in part by a grant from the Belchertown Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Mass Cultural Council.



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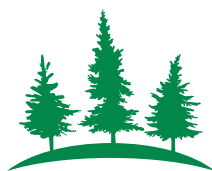
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