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New superintendent hire will be 'big test'

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Public Schools are officially planning to exit receivership at the end of this school year.

"This is an important step for Holyoke Public Schools," Governor Maura Healey said in a recent press release. "The return to local control will have positive impacts on students, educators and families. I'm grateful for the hard work and partnership of Mayor Garcia, the School Committee and the school district to make progress on ensuring all students are receiving a high-quality education, and we look forward to continuing to work together to ensure they can successfully exit receivership next year."

The state believes in Holyoke's ability to continue improving as a school district on their own.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will be working with the district throughout this year to solidify their transition plan out of receivership.

One of the main priorities as the district works to exit receivership will be to work toward finding and hiring a new superintendent.

The joint committee of the city council and the school com-

mittee met on Oct. 10 and discussed the future process they will engage in for finding a superintendent.

This discussion was brought on by a letter presented to the committee from the Holyoke Teachers Association, which requested that the school committee engage in a transparent and democratic hiring process for a superintendent should the district get out of receivership.

"It is vitally important to establish that the process through which Holyoke makes decisions about its school is both democratic and transparent," City Councilor Kevin Jourdain read from the letter.

Assistant Superintendent Stephen Mahoney reminded the gathered committee that the selection of the superintendent will inherently be a democratic process as the school committee, which will do the selection process, was elected by the people.

The joint committee also agreed that they want the school committee to hear from a variety of people as they begin the process of hiring a new superintendent.

Already the city is forming a community advisory group that is made up of a multitude of constituents from different areas of the district.

This group will help to

See SUPERINTENDENT, page 11



Maurice LaRosa, Jessica Decoteau and Zachary Decoteau from the Reptile Nook held up the burmese python named Chiquita.
Turley photos by Quinn Suomala

Library hosts sssssssssssssssssss Halloween party

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Public Library held a Halloween party for kids and teens to attend.

During this party there was a variety of crafts available for the kids and teens to create, including a make your own superhero mask and some coloring.

Throughout the craft time kids were welcome to eat pizza and candy as part of the celebration. After the

See PARTY, page 6



The Reptile Nook brought a ball python to the Holyoke Public Library Halloween party.

School committee discusses MASC proposed resolutions

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The school committee discussed the Massachusetts Association of School Committee's resolutions at their meeting on Oct. 28.

Through this discussion they vote for or against each resolution so that School Committee Member and Holyoke MASC Representative Ellie Wilson could bring their votes to the next MASC meeting.

The committee discussed a total of ten resolutions addressing a variety of fields within schools.

Voting for a resolution means that Wilson will vote yes during the MASC meeting for the resolution. However, the MASC still has to vote to approve the resolution and then send them to the state for any changes to be implemented.

The first resolution the committee discussed was around the MCAS. The MASC proposed developing an alterna-

"Schools are a dangerous place for kids to be. Gun violence is a huge issue in this country and so as the leaders of this city, as the leaders of this district I think that we should be doing everything in our power...to protect our kids from the gun epidemic."

– Evan Kennedy

tive to the MCAS test.

Many agree that the MCAS has had a negative impact on children in schools, as it has restricted curriculum, targeted underfunded public schools, delayed students from earning a high school diploma and has impacted students' emotional wellbeing.

"As a student who doesn't get a vote in this motion I think it is very important that, regardless of whether the ballot goes yay or nay, that we in Massachusetts look for an alternative to MCAS," Dean Tech Representative Evan Kennedy said.

The school committee

agreed that it would be good for Holyoke if the state found an alternative for MCAS and so voted for Wilson to advocate for this resolution.

The next resolution they discussed proposed increasing the school compulsory attendance age from 16 to 18.

This would mean that students would not be able to drop out of school without parental consent until the age of 18.

The MASC proposed this as they felt it would increase high school graduation rates and thus improve the life outcomes of students.

"18 sounds better because they have a chance to change

their minds," School Committee Member Rosalee Tensley-Williams said. "If a student is 16 years old they're not sure what they want to do and so if it is moved up to 18 they might even change their minds and just stay...sometimes we can't make things too easy to do."

The school committee voted in favor of this resolution, and so Wilson will vote for it at the MASC meeting.

The third resolution addressed having school districts create a communication to parents and guardians explaining the importance of secure firearm storage.

Many in the school committee agreed that this was an important resolution, given the number of school shootings in the United States each year.

"We currently live in a time where guns are one of the number one threats to children, specifically in schools," Kennedy said. "Schools are a dangerous place for kids to be. Gun violence is a huge issue in

this country and so as the leaders of this city, as the leaders of this district I think that we should be doing everything in our power...to protect our kids from the gun epidemic."

However, some committee members felt that this was not the schools' responsibility and they did not want to create potential conflict in the community over this issue.

"Does it ever end?" School Committee Member JOHN Whelihan said. "We're obligated to teach the parents how to store guns, are we obligated to teach the pros and cons of acid rain or the rising tides? Is there ever an end to what we have to do here as a school committee?"

The majority of the school committee still felt that this resolution could be beneficial for the community, and so voted yes for Wilson to support this resolution.

The fourth resolution they discussed would allow school

See RESOLUTIONS, page 11

Citizens Advisory Committee members needed

HOLYOKE – The City of Holyoke seeks Holyoke residents (18+ yrs old) to serve on the volunteer Citizens Advisory Committee through the Office for Community Development to review grant applications and make funding recommendations to the Mayor and City Council for the upcoming fiscal year. This year, the CAC will also participate in the Consolidated Plan development by identifying community needs, priorities, and goals for the next five years.

The CAC is an opportunity to actively participate in local government, to learn about government processes and to make meaningful decisions that impact the community in visible ways. Mayor Garcia seeks communi-

ty members who have personal experience with the services provided by federally funded community development activities like community health centers, food pantries meals, homeless services, addiction services, DV services, affordable housing and Holyoke Housing Authority residents, youth or elderly programs, young parents, first time homeowners, renters, adult educational services, or small business development services. Low-moderate income residents, residents of low-moderate income neighborhoods, and those from groups underrepresented in local government are strongly encouraged to apply.

CAC members meet in the eve-

nings approximately five times per year. Training and professional staff support are provided.

Interested residents should submit a letter and resume to: Mayor Joshua Garcia, City of Holyoke, Room 1, Holyoke MA 01040 or by email to ortzn@holyoke.org by Nov. 15. Other ways to apply will be made available if requested.

Please contact Alicia M. Zoeller, Office for Community Development Administrator at 413-322-5610 or zoellera@holyoke.org with any questions. Additional information about the work of the CAC is available at www.holyoke.org/departments/community-development/.

Hear about Holyoke history

HOLYOKE – On Monday, Nov. 18 at 5:30 p.m., join us for Robert Comeau's third annual talk on A House in Holyoke Through Time. This year, Bob explores the varied history of 250 Pleasant Street, which was home to a private school for children in the Highlands and later a private residence. Free and open to the Public.



Police Chief search extended

HOLYOKE – The search for a new Police Chief has been extended by two weeks after one of the finalists for the position withdrew his candidacy, according to Holyoke Mayor Joshua A. Garcia. Garcia's scheduled interview of the finalists for the position of Police Chief has been postponed. That interview session had been planned for Wednesday, Oct. 30.

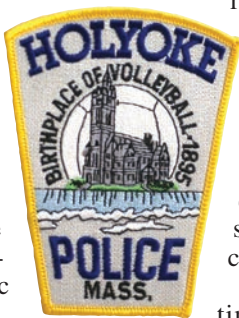
The interviews would have concluded a competitive selection process facilitated by Public Safety Consultants, LLC.

"I want to be certain that the best possible finalists are identified by the Search Committee before we take the final steps in the process," Garcia said. The extended application process will close on Nov. 11.

Following the July 31 retirement of former Chief David Pratt, the Mayor's

Office launched a search for Police Chief candidates. A Search Committee, composed of city officials, community leaders, and law enforcement personnel, reviewed applications, conducted interviews, and assessed candidates through a rigorous evaluation process. The process included a public listening session, public surveys, and an assessment in which each candidate participates in a series of exercises that simulate critical aspects of the job.

Garcia said the date and time of the rescheduled interviews would be posted on the City website and publicized in the area news media. The public will be invited to the interview session. Individuals unable to attend in person will be welcome to join via Holyoke Media, or via a Zoom link that will be publicized prior to the rescheduled interview session.



Museum to hold open house

HOLYOKE – You better watch out, you better not cry. Better not pout, Wistariahurst is telling you why: our Holiday Open House and Festive Market is comin' to town! On Dec. 7 and 8 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., the mood will be right and the spirits up during this captivating weekend of jubilation. Our beloved museum will be decorated with the splendor of the holiday season and filled with cheer as we welcome guests back into our halls. Visitors will be able to explore the first floor of the museum, listen to holiday-themed music, and discover the fun of our Wisty Railroad train set on display. But wait, there's myrrh! Our winter wonderland will feature our Festive Market with local vendors selling a variety of products such as art, jewelry, and other amazing items perfect for your gift exchanges this year. Our

Holiday Open House is guaranteed to bring joy to your world with historical fun and holiday cheer.

"There is nothing better than feeling the magic of the holiday season inside of the museum," Rachel Powell, office assistant, muses. "The greatest gift we see at the museum is seeing people of all ages come together to celebrate the museum and community in the warmth of our halls."

Wistariahurst Museum's 4th Annual Holiday Open House and Festival Market truly offers something for everyone, and we're so excited to welcome the entire community to join us and share in the joy of the season. Our event is a time for celebration and a time to make cherished memories, so we've made sure to make admission to this event free and open to the public.

Grinchmas Spirit festivities returns to Springfield Museums

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Museums is thrilled to present the return of Grinchmas, the most wonderful, awful way to celebrate the holiday season! Beginning with the opening of the Grinch's Grotto on Saturday, Nov. 9, hearts will grow three sizes during annual festivities that honor Springfield native Theodor Seuss Geisel, aka Dr. Seuss, the author who revolutionized learning how to read by making it fun.

"Grinchmas is a one-of-a-kind experience that features photo ops in the laugh-filled Grinch's Grotto, a look at the Grinch Cadillac owned by none other than Ted Geisel (AKA) Dr. Seuss himself and activities galore," says Kay Simpson, President and CEO of the Springfield Museums. "You won't want to miss it!"

Exclusive to the Museums, the Grinch's Grotto is the lovable curmudgeon's home on Mount Crumpit—the perfect spot for holiday photos. This

year, the Grotto features an interactive Who-ville Snack Shack and a towering ice sculpture station that are sure to amuse visitors of all ages. Check the Museums' online calendar to see when the Grinch himself will be there.

The Museums are also accepting entries in its annual gingerbread exhibition—a visitor favorite for more than a decade—through Monday, Nov. 11. Bakeries, schools, organizations, individuals, and families are invited to submit plans supporting this year's theme: Gingerbread in Toyland. The exhibit will be on view from Nov. 29 to Dec. 31, with all the gingerbread creations displayed in a large exhibit hall filled with classic toys, books, and festive decorations.



Colleen applications available

HOLYOKE – The Saint Patrick's Committee of Holyoke is excited to announce that its application for the 69th annual Grand Colleen pageant is now live on their website. Eligibility, requirements, and the online application can all be found at holyokestpatricksparade.com/apply.

Applications will be accepted now through Sunday, Dec. 29. On Monday, Dec. 30, all contestants will have an orientation meeting at the Wyckoff Country Club and the pageant will take place on Saturday, Jan. 4, 2025 at Holyoke High School.

Each year the Grand Colleen Pageant decides the five finalists who then go on to the Coronation Ball to have their Grand Colleen crowned. The Grand Colleen reigns with her Colleen Court on a majestic float over the two-



Elizabeth Gourde
2024 Grand Colleen

mile parade route. Not only does the honor of being a Colleen represent women who are proud of their Irish heritage and community, but the journey helps them build connections, gain self-confidence, and develop skills that will help in their present and future career paths.

2024 Grand Colleen Elizabeth Gourde said, "I want to encourage anyone who is considering running or running again to please do so. This contest pushes you about 10,000 feet outside of your comfort zone but it will reward you for every single foot. It has changed my life for the better and I hope it can do the same for you."

The 72nd Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade will be held on Sunday, March 23 and the 48th Holyoke St. Patrick's Road Race will be held on Saturday, March 22, 2025.

Wistariahurst to host photo exhibit

HOLYOKE – The City of Holyoke is proud to present the opening of Matria, a compelling photo installation by local artist Michelle Falcón Fontanes. Launching on Nov. 14 at Wistariahurst Museum, Matria brings to life the stories and achievements of five inspiring Puerto Rican women from Holyoke who have selflessly dedicated their time and energy to the better of Holyoke.

Supported by funding from the NEFA Making it Public Grant and Mass in Motion, this project captures the resilience and impact of these women as social

justice warriors, advocates, and leaders working within our community.

After its debut at Wistariahurst, Matria will move in Spring 2025 to Holyoke's Puerto Rican Cultural District on Main Street, inviting an even broader audience to witness and celebrate these womens journeys.

Join us on Nov. 14 from 5 to 7 p.m. to honor these community champions and experience the exceptional photographic work of Michelle Falcón Fontanez. Entrance to the Wistariahurst is free to the community during operating hours.

Food drive to benefit Margaret's Pantry set for second week of November

HOLYOKE – The Wealth Transition Collective will be hosting our fifth annual weeklong food drive, Nov. 11 to 15, to benefit Margaret's Pantry at our office in Holyoke in honor of National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. Weather permitting, we will have a table in front of our office for drop-offs. Thanks to the help of our clients, friends and community, we have raised over 4,000 pounds of food and monetary donations of over \$7,500 since the start of this event.

Some of the most-needed items at the pantry during this time of year are:

- Canned Foods: poultry, tuna, soups, stews, chili, gravy, sauces, fruits, vegetables, and beans

- Dried Goods: soup, stuffing, pancake and other baking mixes, tea bags, powdered milk, rice, and pasta

- Other items to consider: potato chips, granulated sugar, peanut butter, frosting, syrup, honey, bottled water, salad dressing, condiments, Jello, and kids 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.

Artists answer call for 'Thrive' exhibit at HCC

HOLYOKE – Artists from as far away as Florida and Ukraine answered the call for submissions for the latest exhibition at the Taber Art Gallery at Holyoke Community College, “Thrive: Beyond Surviving.”

The show, which opened on Oct. 31, and runs through Dec. 20, is a collaboration between the Taber Art Gallery and the Thrive Center, which operates the college’s food pantry and provides other student support services focused on basic needs. The show includes about 60 submissions from artists in the Pioneer Valley, across the United States, and around the world.

Gallery director Rachel Rushing said the theme sprang from conversations she had with Ben Ostiguy, the Thrive Center special programs director.

“Thrive supports HCC students struggling to meet basic needs by focusing primarily on three areas: housing, hunger, and healthcare,” said Rushing. “One of the Taber gallery’s values is collaboration. Working with Thrive is a great way to amplify their program while featuring work from artists who have concerns in these same areas.”

Through an open call for submissions, artists were encouraged to enter work that considers the systemic, communal, or individual obstacles and barriers to survival, what surviving means, how we as humans can continue to dream, push, and hope for more than the minimum, and the struggle of exhaustion versus the ability to rest.



Ben Ostiguy, left, Thrive Center special programs director, and Rachel Rushing, Taber Art Gallery director, unpack submissions for a new exhibit, “Thrive: Beyond Surviving.” They are holding a piece from Norwegian artist Heimir Bjorgulfsson titled “Waiting to Make the Most of It,” photograph on photo collage, 2021.

Submitted photo

“I was impressed by the diversity of media,” said Ostiguy. “Some of the pieces were surprising to me. One is a card catalog, with video inside the drawers. There’s some traditional painting, and a lot of photography. The whole idea of Thrive, and overcoming struggle, there’s a certain vocabulary that we use. But when you bridge that up with the visual

arts, it can be nonverbal and interpreted in many ways.”

For example, Zac Benson, an artist from Anderson, South Carolina, sent in a life preserver made with fabric salvaged from pews of an old church that was being renovated as a safe haven for the town.

“The life jacket, the life preserver,

I won’t say it’s a universal item, but it’s pretty commonly understood across cultures,” said Ostiguy.

Artists in the exhibition include: Hannah Eve Osinoff, Jules Jones, Jeanne Ciravolo, Çağrı Saray, Steven Labadessa, Katerie Gladdys, Michiel Teeuw, Sava Harris, Nishchay Thakur, Maria Golosnaya, Lauren Packard, Sumin Kim, Delnara El, Yan Paul Dubbelman, Katrina Slavik, Diren Demir, Eva Pushkova, Joan Green, Sergey Melnitchenko, Polina Shumacher, Oksana Kami, Nick Gladkiy, Jose Trejo Maya, Yurii Naumovych, Oleksandra Mykhailova, Anastasiia Dekhtiaruk, Hemant Rao, Adam Burton, Sarah Hussein, Conrad Valone, Rhi Stanton, Ilya Fedotov-Fedorov, Tara Austin, Seth Guy, Wayne Friedrich, Peyton Sachs, Iris M. Kirkwood, Kira Somerset, Julia Smiarowska, Mathijs Hunfeld, Aileen Bassis, Beth Krensky, Anna Kavehmehr, Jordan Holms, Jason Thomas Haynes, Alexa Wright, Mols Slom, Shannon Farley, Megan Du, Heimir Bjorgulfsson, Shabnam Piryaeci, Camila Bernardo, Ziyao Lin, Wendell Smith, Zac Benson, Chandler Cheng, Frederick Ingoldby, Jinson Joseph, Lisa DeLoria Weinblatt, Frank Magnotta.

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 Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. during regular school sessions.

COLLEGE NEWS

Elms celebrates Summer graduates

CHICOPEE – Elms College congratulates 101 students who graduated in August 2024.

Sheileen Diaz of Holyoke received a Bachelor of Science

Robert Kass of Holyoke received a Master of Business Administration

Arianna Ketchakeu of Holyoke received a Bachelor of Science

Congratulations to our 101 graduates this past summer who are now joining our more than 13,000 alumni.

Holyoke to host Veterans Day ceremony

HOLYOKE – The Patriotic Events Committee of Holyoke will host a Veterans Day ceremony on Monday, Nov. 11, at 10 a.m. at the Holyoke War Memorial Building.

The observance will salute veterans who have served and personnel currently serving in the armed forces. The event emphasizes support, as a community, not just for veterans, but for their families, as well.

The public and ceremony participants can arrive at 9 a.m. for refreshments and community engagement with local vendors and veteran supporters.

The City of Holyoke’s Patriotic Events Committee invites nominations for this year’s awards to be presented at

the Veterans Day ceremony. The award categories are Public Safety of the Year, Veteran of the Year, Citizen of the Year, and Local Business of the Year.

The criteria for these awards are as follows:

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

For Veteran of the Year, a veteran who has shown exemplary support and dedication for others in the community.

For Citizen of the Year, an individual who has exhibited inspirational leadership, volunteerism, and contributions to the advances of the community.

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

Nominees must be residents of Holyoke or individuals who have made valuable contributions to the city of Holyoke. Anyone can nominate.

Nominations can be sent by email to santiago@holyoke.org. The deadline for nominations was Oct. 25.



HCC opens registration for 2025 classes

HOLYOKE – Registration is now open for Wintersession and Spring 2025 semester classes at Holyoke Community College.

HCC’s 10-day Wintersession term begins Monday, Jan. 6, and ends Friday, January 17. The Spring 2025 semester begins Tuesday, Jan. 21.

Students can earn up to four transferable credits by taking Wintersession classes in anthropology, communications, criminal justice, economics, environmental science, geography, law, management, mathematics, nutrition, psychology, social science, and sociology.

Most Wintersession classes are offered entirely online.

Full 15-week spring semester classes begin Jan. 21. HCC will also be running three accelerated spring flex start sessions: Flex Start I classes begin Jan. 21 and run for seven weeks. Flex Start II classes begin Monday, Feb. 3, and run for 12 weeks; Flex Start III classes begin Monday, March 24, and run for seven weeks.

Thanks to the state-funded MassEducate program, a community

college education is now free for all Massachusetts residents who have yet to earn a bachelor’s degree.

“MassEducate provides an exciting opportunity for eligible students to attend college without the concern or weight of how to pay for it,” said Mark Hudgik, HCC dean of strategic recruitment initiatives, admissions, and financial aid. “There has never been a better time to enroll

Eligible students who want to earn a certificate or degree need only to complete the standard HCC application, complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) for the 2024-2025 school year, and register for at least six credits (typically two classes).

“Our admissions counselors, academic advisers, and financial aid staff are available to make sure prospective students get all the assistance they need,” said Hudgik.

Class schedules for both Wintersession and Spring 2025 semester classes can be found on the HCC website: hcc.edu.

To enroll, please go to hcc.edu/admissions.

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Guest Column

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters
By Russell Gloor



Why does the government raid Social Security?

Dear Rusty

The Social Security program is funded by employees and their employers.

The federal government does not contribute to the program, right? So why does the federal government feel they have the right to raid the fund? All the money sent to Ukraine and other unnecessary programs could have been used to pay back what they owe to Social Security.

Signed: Disgruntled Senior

Dear Disgruntled Senior

You are correct that the Social Security program is mainly funded by payroll taxes on employee earnings and by employers, who match those employee contributions.

FYI, some additional SS revenue is received from income tax on Social Security benefits, as well as from interest on the special issue government bonds held in the Social Security Trust Fund. But the assertion that the Federal Government used (raided) the Social Security Trust Fund for any other purpose is a myth.

All Social Security revenue received since the program began in 1937 has been accounted for and all excess funds are contained in a special Trust Fund in the form of interest-bearing government bonds, reserved to pay future benefits. FYI, the interest on those bonds contributed about \$67 billion to the Trust Fund reserves in 2023. Social Security revenue, today, is not adequate to pay all benefit obligations and the extra money needed to pay full SS benefits for everyone is obtained by redeeming Trust Fund reserves. Redemption of those Trust Fund bonds is how

See SECURITY, 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

Tulips and daffodils on vacation, oh my!



My spring flowering bulbs have traveled quite a distance to make it to me, and what a debacle in the process.

Usually, my order, placed in late July comes effortlessly around mid October. The east coast port strike may have only lasted three days, but it sent my bulbs that had come from the Netherlands first to New York, then to Mobile, Alabama, then to the Bahamas and finally, a week ago, to New Jersey, where they will be sent to me, hopefully.

I say this because it is time to get the tulips and daffodils I ordered in the ground, so they can do their thing before the calendar finally decides it is November and not September.

We learned how to plant garlic last week, and we plant spring bulbs each fall nearly the same way. Read on for a refresher course, and if you haven't gotten your bulbs in yet, there is no time like the present!

Let's consider these main points:

Timing: We do our best to plant our bulbs in early fall, so that they can take advantage of optimal temperatures for rooting. Strong roots will keep the bulbs in place, well-anchored during the freeze/thaw cycles of winter.

Location: Most bulbs thrive in full sun, in fertile, well-drained soil. It is important to avoid "wet feet" at all costs when planting bulbs. This means you should steer clear of low areas in your yard, or those that tend to pool water, such as under downspouts or roof overhangs.

Fertilization: I like to use a well-balanced granular organic fertilizer for my bulbs, mixing it into the soil at planting at the rate recommended on the bag. Bone meal was always the fertilizer of choice for bulbs, but this is no longer so.

It has been shown that in addition to phosphorus and potassium, bulbs require small amounts of nitrogen and trace minerals for optimal growth. These days advanced methods of cleaning bones by steaming have all but eliminated the nitrogen and trace minerals from bone meal.

In the spring, another fertilizer application can be made, and if you have an option, choose one with a higher nitrogen to support strong leaf growth. Daffodils are less dependent on fertilizer than tulips and hyacinth - the size of these flowers will diminish over time.

Spacing: Most folks will agree that drifts or clusters of bulbs are more stunning than one or two sprinkled here and there

about the garden. Spring bulbs can come in all sizes, so the general rule is to plant them two times the width of the bulb apart from one another.

For example, if the bulb is three inches wide, plant it six inches apart from its neighbor.

Depth: The same rule applies for depth. Two times the height of the bulb is the ideal planting depth; you can even go a tad deeper.

This is especially true if you are hoping your tulip bulbs will return year after year. If your garden soil has been loosened up, planting lots of bulbs is easy.

I have described the fast, "jab and grab" method before, but here it is in a nutshell: Holding your trowel facing in, jab it into the soil and pull forward. If you have not achieved the desired depth, repeat the motion.

Grab the bulb and drop it into the hole, pushing the soil back over as you do so.

Care during bloom time: I always deadhead the spent flowers on my bulbs. The theory behind deadheading is that you remove the flower as it withers, before the plant wastes energy forming a seed.

That way energy is redirected to the bulb, and to forming next year's flowers. In college we were taught to do it, for the above rationale as well as to keep the plant looking tidy.

Most folks simply remove the entire stem at ground level. One part about this process always bothered me though, why don't we just pop off the spent flower parts and leave the stem - it is very leaf-like in appearance and will do a fair job of photosynthesizing and adding to the plant's energy reserves.

Care during post bloom: Unfortunately, foliage should remain in place until it is completely yellow and withered. It seems to take a long time to get to that point, especially for daffodils, and we can get impatient in the process.

There is good reason for leaving it there - it is making energy for flowers next year. The best way around the inevitable ugliness is to camouflage them with other plants.

Try interplanting daffodil bulbs such as alongside daylilies or other leafy plants. Once the foliage yellows it is safe to remove it - a gentle tug is all that is necessary to release the leaves.

I will certainly have my hands full when the shipment of bulbs arrives, but the beautiful gardens around Old Sturbridge Village come springtime will be well-worth the effort!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 32 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

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Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

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

Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

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

Hurricane Helene in the Southern Appalachians

By Julie Midura
Guest Columnist

After months of anticipation and weeks of planning, we were finally on our way to western North Carolina to begin our 200-mile backpacking trip on the Appalachian Trail. Our backcountry permits were safely stashed in our backpacks for the first 70 miles of trail that weave through the Great Smoky Mountains, and the resupply packages we had mailed to several trail towns would be waiting for us in some of the hostels and outfitters as we made our way north.

After the 800 mile drive from our home in MA, we dropped our car off at Mountain Harbour Hostel in Roan Mountain, TN, where my sister met us so that she could shuttle us to Fontana Dam in North Carolina- the starting point of our 17-day backpacking trip. Our SUV would be waiting for us at the hostel.

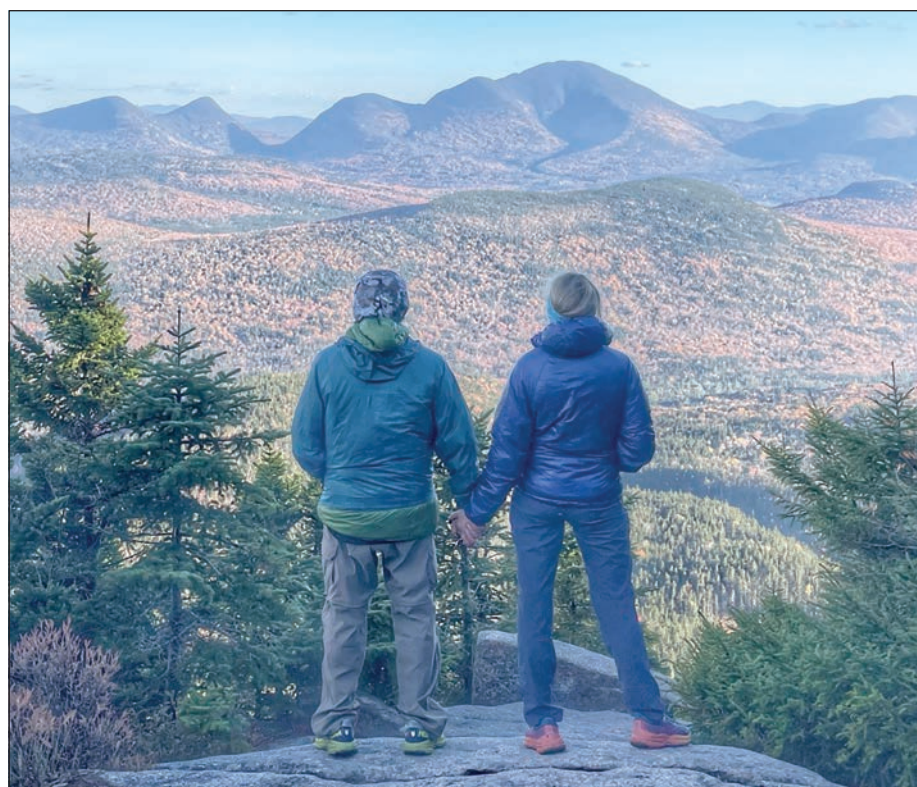
At least, that was the plan.

But on Thursday evening, Sept. 26, just a few hours after arriving in TN, we received an urgent email from Great Smoky Mountain headquarters imploring us to postpone our hike. The hurricane that barreled into Florida was continuing inland without breaking stride... and was heading straight for the Southern Appalachians. Tom and I would be hiking right smack in the middle of it.

We considered delaying the start of our hike to Sunday, but the Appalachian Trail Conservancy soon issued a statement that the trail should be considered closed to hiking from the southern terminus in Georgia all the way to Rockfish Gap, Virginia. 860 miles of trail. This closure was unprecedented.

The unrelenting rain that fell upwards of 30 inches in some areas- was creating perilous conditions in the mountains. Landslides were imminent and trees were falling like toothpicks. As the mountains became overrun with moisture, historic amounts of water rushed down the creeks and into the rivers, which resulted in the highest river levels ever observed across the region.

The monumental force of the flood waters widened the rivers beyond what the riverbanks could contain, rerouting



the water directly into the towns. The angry water carved a path deeply into the earth and swallowed everything in its path, including trees, cars, homes and highways. Tractor trailers were picked up by the catastrophic flooding and crushed like matchbox cars. Highways were washed away, concrete bridges collapsed and entire towns were underwater. Hundreds of lives were lost. What remained were towns, homes and businesses buried in mud and looking more like war zones. The magnitude of the storm has made Hurricane Helene one of the most impactful weather events the Appalachians has ever seen.

Thankfully, Tom and I were taken in by family members who live in Gatlinburg, TN, which was spared significant damage. While there, we learned that all roads into Roan Mountain- where we had left our SUV- were inaccessible. Power and cell service were nonexistent. We looked on the hostel's Facebook page to see if there were any updates on how they had fared, and were shocked to see a video taken by the owners during the

height of the storm. The entire property we had dropped our car off just three days prior had become unrecognizable. What was once a gravel parking lot was now a raging river. We watched the video as our SUV was inundated by the flood waters.

But we are the lucky ones. Had we already been on the trail when the storm hit, it could have easily been our lives we lost and not simply our car.

A few days later, we rented a car and began the long drive home, feeling heartbroken. Our heartbreak had nothing to do with our flooded SUV. Little to do

with the lost backpacking trip that we had been looking forward to for so long. Rather, it had everything to do with the devastation we witnessed and the people who had lost homes, livelihoods and loved ones.

We arrived back home two weeks earlier than we planned to, and went through the motions of unpacking, doing laundry and going through the mail, all while feeling as though we were in a fog. Tom shared that it felt strange to be back home so soon. Like we weren't supposed to be there.

Both of us were experiencing the kind of sadness that creeps into your bones and settles there.

So we took a day to regroup, then crammed our overnight backpacks and hiking gear into our tiny 2010 Honda Fit with 200,000 miles on the odometer, and headed to the White Mountains of NH. We prayed that our beat up old car would make it through the rough and rutted dirt roads that lead to some of the trailheads.

When we reached the trailhead at 5 p.m., we threw our heavy packs over our shoulders and headed into the woods to find a place to set up our tent for the night. It was our hope that spending a few days away from it all would allow us to process the devastation we saw in Tennessee and North Carolina.

We spent the next few days walking the trails, climbing the mountains and inhaling serenity in the wild places of New Hampshire. As we gazed out at the vast Pemigewasset Wilderness from a rock ledge on Zeacliff while waiting for the sun to set, it truly felt like a balm for our souls.

See you in the wild places, my friends!

SECURITY, from page 4

the federal government "pays back" the cash loaned to it by Social Security.

The excess SS money received from contributions was loaned to the Federal Treasury by the SS Trust Funds, interest-bearing bonds were issued by the government in return for the cash received and the bonds issued are redeemable as needed by Social Security to pay benefits. FYI, the average interest on the 2023 bonds in the Trust Funds was about 4.125%, whereas the average rate of return on all bonds held in reserve was about 2.387%. This transaction is the same as for any other investment vehicle except the bonds in the Trust Funds are redeemable at any time without penalty. Said another way, all excess money ever received by Social Security is/was invested in special-issue government bonds and resides in reserve to pay future benefits, as needed.

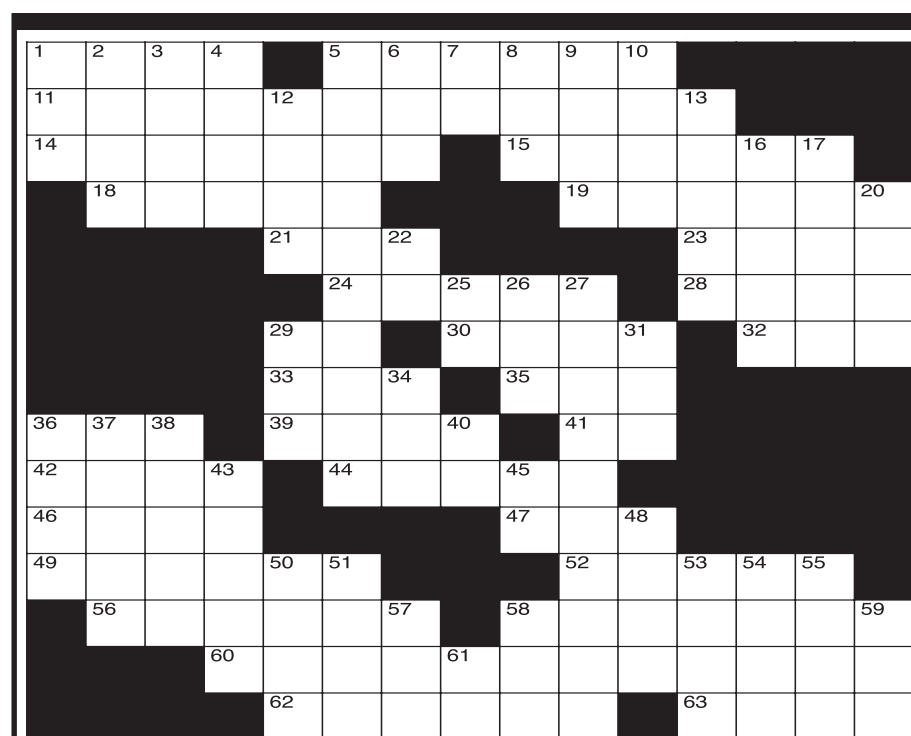
"Paying back" the money represented by bonds held in the Trust Funds would not be a wise financial move because it would eliminate all future interest earned by those bonds again, that interest was about \$67 billion in (2023). Federal money spent for other purposes e.g., Ukraine is from the general U.S. Treasury and not from the Social Security Trust Fund, which is held totally separate from the U.S. Treasury. Since inception, all money ever contributed to Social Security has been and is used for one purpose and one purpose only to pay Social Security benefits to those eligible,

which, by the way, does not include "illegal aliens" or anyone else who is not a legal resident of the United States.

For clarity, Social Security does have a future financial issue because annual benefit obligations are now greater than annual Social Security revenue and money from the SS Trust Fund is now used to make up the difference. Unless the program is reformed soon, the Trust Fund reserves about \$2.8 trillion as of 2023 will be depleted and benefits for all Social Security recipients will be cut by about 23% starting in 2033 or 2034 according to the Trustees of Social Security and the Congressional Budget Office.

Congress needs to act soon to enact Social Security reform to restore the program to fiscal solvency. The Association of Mature American Citizens is steadfastly lobbying Congress to enact the needed Social Security reform as soon as possible.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Absence of effort
- 5. Preserve a dead body
- 11. Gratitude
- 14. The act of coming together again
- 15. Simpler
- 18. Visionaries
- 19. Large, fish-eating bird
- 21. Indicates near
- 23. Former CIA agent and critic
- 24. Icelandic poems
- 28. Pop
- 29. "Hammer" is one
- 30. Senses of self-importance
- 32. Thyrotrophic hormone
- 33. Not around
- 35. Electronic data processing
- 36. Licenses and

passports are two types

- 39. Snake-like fish
- 41. Air Force
- 42. Popular computers
- 44. Of a withered nature
- 46. Wings
- 47. Used in combination
- 49. Laid back
- 52. Jeweled headdress
- 56. In slow tempo
- 58. ___ Falls
- 60. Assertions made again
- 62. Periods of history
- 63. Hyphen

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Body part
- 2. Mimics
- 3. Expel large quantities rapidly

- 4. Sea eagle
- 5. A type of subdivision
- 6. Variety of Chinese
- 7. Mr. T's name on "The A-Team"
- 8. Consumed
- 9. Chinese dynasty
- 10. NFL great Randy
- 12. Ireland
- 13. Palm trees with creeping roots
- 16. Fungal disease
- 17. Impressionable persons
- 20. Affirmative! (slang)
- 22. Instinctive part of the mind
- 25. "The First State"
- 26. A way to develop
- 27. Fraternities
- 29. Woman (French)
- 31. Sunscreen rating
- 34. Beer
- 36. Spiritual leader
- 37. Indigo bush
- 38. Burn with a hot liquid
- 40. Junior's father
- 43. Ray-finned fishes
- 45. Morning
- 48. Line passing side to side through the center (abbr.)
- 50. Double curve
- 51. A small bundle of straw or hay
- 53. Got older
- 54. Crater on Mars
- 55. Humanities
- 57. Relating to the ears
- 58. "To the ___ degree..."
- 59. Residue of a burned product
- 61. It cools a home

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 9

In The News



Maurice LaRosa from the Reptile Nook shared some facts about ball pythons. *Turley photos by Quinn Suomala*



The Reptile Nook brought some millipedes to the Holyoke Public Library Halloween party.



The Reptile Nook brought a cane toad to the Holyoke Public Library Halloween party.

PARTY, from page 1

craft time, the kids got to play a variety of games.

“We’re going to do some games, the main plan is ‘Mummy Says’ which is like Simon Says but with a mummy,” Children’s Librarian Rene Pellisier said. “After that we let them goof around and come up with what they’d like to do.”

On top of this, throughout the entirety of the party, Reptile Nook, a local reptile business, was set up in a separate room with a display of nocturnal creatures.

“We saw [the nocturnal reptiles] and thought Halloween would be perfect,” Pellisier said. “They’re going to show us all some cool nocturnal reptiles.”

The Reptile Nook had a wide variety of nocturnal creatures. They had millipedes, a madagascar hissing cockroach, a cane toad, a burmese python, and ball python and many more.

Also included in their display were examples of different snake sheds as well as some stickers for children and teens to take home.

Pellisier and the other children’s and teen librarians thought that having the Reptile Nook there would be an interesting addition to their typical Halloween party.

“We wanted to try something different from last year’s party,” Pellisier said. “Last year’s party went well but we thought we could do something a bit more exciting.”

The library had worked with the Reptile Nook before and so they knew they would be a perfect addition to the party.

“We wanted everybody to get a chance to see all the cool reptiles,” Pellisier said.

Pellisier was excited for this joint party with the kids and teens. She thought it was a great way to bring the community together in order to celebrate the holiday.

“A big highlight for this event is that it is a children and teen event so we get a lot of older siblings that we don’t always see or younger siblings of some of our teen patrons,” Pellisier said. “We just really get to see a whole connection



Families gathered at the Reptile Nook display area at the Holyoke Public Library Halloween party.

of the youth services department.”

Additionally, Pellisier had discovered that without the Halloween party many teens would not have had a fun activity to do for Halloween.

“The teens don’t really have many places to go, a lot of times they are not able to go trick-or-treating, so they’re stuck at home” Pellisier said. “I talked to a lot of teens who, before the party, weren’t excited about Halloween because there wasn’t anything to do and so when they found out about the party they were excited.”

Pellisier was happy to provide this fun and safe environment for the teens to celebrate Halloween.

The library has a variety of fun events planned for the months of November and December.

One upcoming event is the annual performance of the Nutcracker ballet at the library.

“We make it a big todo in the library,” Pellisier said. “We do cookie decorating, we do gift wrapping, we do all sorts of things along with it.”

To keep updated on when this event will be and what other events the library has planned, go to their website at <https://www.holyokelibrary.org/>.

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Knights fall in final game

HOLYOKE – Last Tuesday, Holyoke High School boys soccer fell to Westfield in its final action of the season. The Knights would finish with just two wins on the season. Their second win came in nonplayoff action against Southwick. Holyoke went 2-14-2 on the season.



Jaybriel Rivera-Santos looks to control the ball in the middle of the field.



Xavier Matos looks for a steal.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Carlos Ocascio goes after the ball.



Ryan Kennedy attempts to turn play toward the offensive end of the field.

Knights fall to Westfield

HOLYOKE – After an incredibly tough loss against Central, Holyoke was able to put some points on the board last Friday night against Westfield High School.

The Knights fell to the Bombers 52-21 to finish the regular season at 2-6. Holyoke would then be entered into nonplayoff action as it navigates its way toward Thanksgiving.

This week, the Knights were scheduled to host Putnam Vocational, a team they have played in the past in independent action, but have not seen this season. They will have another non-playoff game in Week 10 followed by South Hadley on Thanksgiving morning.

Authier honored for college career

WESTFIELD – Westfield State men's soccer clinched the #2 seed in the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference tournament with a 3-1 win over Salem State at Alumni Field on Saturday afternoon to wrap up the regular season.

Westfield moves to 7-6-5 overall and 4-1-2 in the MASCAC with the win. Salem is now 5-7-5 and 2-3-2 in the league.

The MASCAC will formally announce the tournament's seedings and matchups later today at www.MASCAC.org. Westfield will host a semifinal round game on Friday, with opponent and time still TBD.

Westfield got on the scoreboard first with Ryan Viana

(Framingham, Mass.) heading home a tremendous serve from Dominic Cirelli (Springfield, Mass./Central) in the ninth minute of play.

Salem equalized before the half with Vanilton Xavier (Brockton, Mass.) getting a pass slid across the box from Jonathan Diaz (Methuen, Mass.), and Xavier beat Owls goalkeeper Luke Theroux (Chicopee, Mass.) on the right side to force a 1-1 tie at the half.

Westfield got what proved to be the game winner in the 61st minute, with Sonny Mazza (E. Longmeadow, Mass.) touching a short pass to Aidan Ferguson (Augsburg, Germany) in the penalty area for Ferguson to bury. Westfield's Coleby Andrade

(Falmouth, Mass.) started the sequence with a shot that was saved but not controlled by the Vikings to set up the scramble in the penalty area.

The Owls tacked on an insurance goal in the 84th minute, as Ethan Margolis (Wakefield, Mass.) ran on to a through ball from Andrade and found the net from a sharp angle on the right side to give Westfield a 3-1 lead.

Salem got a couple of good scoring chances late, as Diaz fired a hard shot from the top of the 18 that Theroux saved, and Theroux made another stop on a shot from Matheus Pelissari (Lowell, Mass./Chelmsford) in the closing seconds to help preserve the win.

Theroux finished with

eight saves for the Owls, while Salem's Marcelo Silva (Marlborough, Mass.) made three saves.

The match was relatively evenly played throughout, with Salem holding a 13-11 edge in total shots, and had three corner kicks to Westfield's 1, but the Owls made the most of their chances throughout the day.

Westfield State celebrated the careers of their five seniors before the game, recognizing senior captains Andrade, Jacoby Authier (Holyoke, Mass.), and Josh Wietecha (Chicopee, Mass./Comp) along with Matthew Elmasian (Springfield, Mass./Minnechaug) and Edwin Zaruma-Buri (Northampton, Mass.) before the match.

Worcester Railers take road loss to Norfolk Admirals

NORFOLK, VA – The Worcester Railers HC (3-4-0-0 6pts) fell to the Norfolk Admirals (4-2-1-0, 9pts), on Sunday afternoon by the final score of 4-2 in front of a crowd of 3,224 at the Norfolk Scope. The Railers are back on the ice next at the DCU Center taking on the Maine Mariners on Friday, November 8th at 7:05 p.m. EST.

Worcester struck first tonight with a goal from Jack Randl (1-0-1) who scored 13:31 into the first period. Norfolk was quick to tie the score when Carson

Golder (1-0-1) scored for the Admirals. Making the score 1-1 to end the first period. In the second period Norfolk pushed the score to 3-1 with goals from Sean Montgomery (1-0-1) and Connor Fedorek (1-0-1). Connor Welsh (1-0-1) later in the second cut into that deficit with his power play goal making the score 3-2 heading into the third.

The Railers got the scoring started in the first tonight when Jack Randl (2nd) scored on a shorthanded breakaway 13:31 into the first period. Norfolk

responded back with a goal of their own just over 30 seconds after when Carson Golder (3rd) scored to tie the game at 1-1 Norfolk outshot Worcester 11-8.

Norfolk took the lead 7:49 into the second period, when Sean Montgomery (2nd) found the back of the net on dishes from Graham Sward and Carson Musser. His goal was followed up by Connor Fedorek (1st) who extended the Norfolk lead to 3-1 in the 11th minute of the second period. The Railers cut the Norfolk lead to one when Connor Welsh

(3rd) scored a power play goal assisted by Matthew Kopperud making the score 3-2. Norfolk outshot Worcester 7-6.

It took nearly the entire 20 minutes of the third period action for either team to score. The Railers had an opportunity late in the third to tie the score on the power play but could not find the back of the net. The lone goal in the third period came on the Railers empty net scored by Brady Fleurent (3rd) at 19:52 making the final score 4-2. Norfolk outshot Worcester 9-7, and 27-21 in the game.

Springfield Thunderbirds fall to Lehigh Valley Phantoms at home

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (3-7-0-0) and the Lehigh Valley Phantoms (3-3-1-1) combined for 88 penalty minutes on Saturday night inside the MassMutual Center. After the dust settled, the Phantoms came away with a 5-2 victory.

Before the opening draw even happened, there were indications of fireworks as Springfield bruiser Sam Bitten and Lehigh Valley captain Garrett Wilson exchanged pleasantries, leading both players to be separated by the officials. Still, the two enforcers' inevitable showdown occurred just 21 seconds into gameplay, as the two combatants traded fists in the neutral zone and elevated the noise level of both the benches and the crowd.

Two subsequent scraps followed the Bitten/Wilson tangle as Hunter Skinner squared off with rookie Hunter

McDonald, and Marcus Sylvegard got his chance to drop his gloves for his first AHL fight against J.R. Avon. All three concurrent sets of fighting majors happened in the first 7:49 of the period.

All the while, both teams had numerous chances to crack a scoreless draw, but the starting goaltenders were calm in the eye of the chaos around them. Colten Ellis made 16 first-period saves in the Springfield net, while Eetu Makiniemi denied 10 Springfield offerings in the opening 20 minutes.

Both teams left power play chances on the table in the opening half of the period, but in the dying minutes, Lehigh Valley earned a 5-on-3 on two straight high-stick minors to Springfield. Jacob Gaucher finally opened the scoring with just 48 seconds left in the frame, jabbing a

rebound between Ellis's legs just outside the goal crease.

Gaucher added to his total just 38 seconds into the middle period. Moments after the T-Birds killed off a power play, the puck took a fortuitous kick to Gaucher's stick in the slot, and he chopped a backhander past Ellis to give the Phantoms a 2-0 advantage.

2:59 later, the Lehigh Valley power play continued its early-season surge as Samu Tuomaala wristed one through traffic on the left side and past Ellis to make it a 3-0 lead for the visitors.

Springfield's power play entered the night with just two power-play goals over its first nine games, but the man advantage found its groove late in the second as Drew Callin cleaned up a rebound from Nikita Alexandrov in the blue paint to make it a 3-1 game with 5:04 left in the frame.

Unfortunately, the momentum did not carry into the third. Gaucher completed his hat trick just 6:33 into the final period, scooping up a centering pass after a misplay behind the Springfield net and making it 4-1.

Dalibor Dvorsky continued his torrid run with a goal in his third straight game, picking up Springfield's second power-play goal at 8:14 of the third period, cutting the lead to 4-2.

That would be as close as the T-Birds would come, and Anthony Richard capped the scoring with a breakaway goal at 12:56 to round out the scoring.

The T-Birds complete their home-stand on Wednesday morning for the annual School Day Game against the Bridgeport Islanders. Puck drop is set for 10:35 a.m. for the second meeting between the rivals.

Basketball Hall of Fame Series heads for Vegas

PHOENIX – Position Sports, in partnership with the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame and the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority (LVCVA), announced that the 2027 Hall of Fame Series Las Vegas will take place at the iconic Allegiant Stadium on November 12, 2027, marking the first-ever basketball game at the renowned stadium.

The historic event will feature two marquee matchups between elite men's basketball programs: Arizona vs. Duke and Indiana vs. Kansas. Both games will once again be showcased on TNT Sports' networks and platforms, with additional programming information to be announced at a later date.

These four teams represent some of the most storied traditions in college basketball, with a combined 15 national championships, over 35 Hall of Famers, and a legion of passionate fans. The rivalry between Duke and Arizona, which will be on display in Tucson, Ariz., on November 22, as well as the timeless Kansas vs. Indiana matchup, is set to

provide fans an unforgettable experience and signal a significant milestone in Las Vegas' sports history.

Allegiant Stadium, home of the NFL's Las Vegas Raiders and Super Bowl LVIII, will be hosting its first college basketball games, showcasing the versatility of the venue. The stadium will also serve as the site for the 2028 NCAA Men's Final Four, further solidifying its position as a premier destination for top-tier sporting events.

The Hall of Fame Series, owned and operated by Position Sports, is a collection of multi-game, singular events that showcase several of the top collegiate basketball teams in exciting non-conference matchups played both domestically and abroad. The inaugural Hall of Fame Series took place in 2023 in Las Vegas, Charlotte, San Antonio, Toronto, and Phoenix, and the series continues its successful run in 2024 with upcoming stops in Las Vegas (November 4), Phoenix (November 14), Baltimore (November 15), and New York (December 14).

WSU Owls win conference title

WESTFIELD – Westfield State women's cross country ran to a dominating win at the 2024 Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference Championships on Saturday at the Doyle Conservation Center in Leominster, Mass.

Westfield placed eight runners in the meet's top 10, finishing with 20 points, 42 points better than runner up Bridgewater State.

The Owls individual performances were highlighted by a runner up placing from Tealei Chandonnet (Dracut, Mass./Greater Lowell Tech) in a time of 18:56.16, and conference rookie of the year honors for Sophia Rebenciuc (Southwick, Mass./Bedford), who placed sixth overall in 19:27.51.

"Our goal was to get nine runners in the top 10, and we just missed it," said Owls head coach Marlee Berg-Haryasz, who was named the league's women's cross country coach of the year. "We got 20 points as a team, which is the 2nd best team score in MASCAC history. We set that as a goal, as we knew we came into the meet favored, so it gave us something to work for, and the women 'packed

up' and really stepped up for a memorable day. We had a bunch of times that were personal bests or very close to them."

While Bridgewater's Naomi Cass won the individual title, Westfield runners ran 2-3-4-5-6-7-8-10 among their scoring seven runners.

Julianne Kelly (Natick, Mass.) was third in 19:05, Shea Hamel (Longmeadow, Mass.) fourth in 19:20, Molly Kennedy (West Springfield, Mass.) placed fifth in 19:23, Reese Stevens (Agawam, Mass.) seventh in 19:34, and Brynn LeCours (Haverhill, Mass.) eighth in 19:39. Eliza Lee (Walpole, Mass.) placed 10th in 20:06. The top 10 runners in the race will earn all-conference honors when formally announced by the league later this week.

For the Owls, the conference title is their fourth in a row, and 26th overall in the league's 39 championship meets since the meet was first held in 1985.

Westfield will be idle next weekend before competing at the NCAA Regional meet in Connecticut on Nov. 16.

► In The News

Enrollment now open for Massachusetts Home Energy Assistance Program

Eligible Massachusetts households can now apply for financial assistance for the 2024-2025 heating season

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities today announced that the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) enrollment period for the 2024-2025 winter heating season will open on Oct. 1. This critical program provides financial relief to eligible households to

help them pay their winter heating bills, ensuring they can keep their homes safe and warm during the colder months.

HEAP is a free, statewide resource that assists eligible renters and homeowners by paying a portion of their winter heating bills directly to their heating companies. Starting Oct. 1, homeowners and renters can apply online or through local administering agencies across the state. The assistance period runs from Nov. 1, 2024, to April 30, 2025. HEAP offers grants that do not need to be repaid; however, households must meet specific eligibility requirements to qualify.

"No resident should have to worry about heating their home during the winter," said Secretary of Housing and Livable Communities Ed Augustus. "With high costs continuing to strain household finances, the Home Energy Assistance Program is more critical than ever. We urge anyone in need of heating assistance to explore their eligibility by applying online or visiting the nearest administering agency. Please share this valuable information with loved ones or neighbors who could benefit from this support during the colder months."

Eligibility is determined by several factors, including household size and the combined gross annual income of residents 18 and older. Qualifying households, including those with the cost of heat included in the rent, can receive assistance for all heating sources, including oil, electricity, natural gas, propane, kerosene, wood and coal. Households do not need to be on public assistance or have unpaid heating bills to qualify.

For more information find your local HEAP agency at <https://hedfuel.azurewebsites.net/>

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD24C0352CA
In the matter of:
Sonia Cordero
CITATION ON PETITION
TO CHANGE NAME**

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Sonia Cordero of Holyoke, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

**Sonia Cordero
IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/04/2024.**

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: November 05, 2024

Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
11/08/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No. HD24P2266EA
Estate of:
Frances Fallon
Date of Death: 03/02/2024
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Maureen Fallon of Holyoke, MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Maureen Fallon of Holyoke, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal 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 interested parties 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. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
11/08/2024

**CITY OF HOLYOKE
PUBLIC HEARING
NOTICE**

The Holyoke Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, November 19, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.com**; ID: 836-3939-8493; CALL IN *67 646 558 8656 to hear, pursuant to the Holyoke Zoning Ordinance, a **Site Plan Review** (Sec 10A); Holyoke MA BESS Lightshift Energy

(File 165), submitted by Delorean Power LLC dba Lightshift Energy (176-00-036).

A complete copy of the application may be seen in the Office of Planning and Economic Development at 20 Korean Veterans Plaza, 8:30 am-4:30 pm, M-F.

APPLICANT:
Delorean Power LLC
dba Lightshift Energy
PLANNING BOARD:
Mimi Panitch, Chair
11/01, 11/08/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD24P2279EA
Estate of:
Kevin J. Paul
Date of Death: 09/22/2024
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR FORMAL
ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by **Norine M. White of Chicopee, 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: **Norine M. White of Chicopee, 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 11/29/2024.** This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: October 29, 2024
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
11/08/2024

**LEGAL NOTICE
CITY OF HOLYOKE
GAS & ELECTRIC
DEPARTMENT
2025 UTILITY LINE
MATERIAL**

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

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

The right is hereby reserved to reject any or all

proposals, or to accept any proposal that in the opinion of the Manager may be in the best interest of the City of Holyoke.
Please mark sealed envelopes "**Bid for 2025 Utility Line Material**" and address them to:
James M. Lavelle, Manager
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept
99 Suffolk St.
Holyoke, MA 01040
11/08/2024

**LEGAL NOTICE
CITY OF HOLYOKE
GAS & ELECTRIC
DEPARTMENT
LNG VAPORIZATION
SYSTEM GLYCOL
HEATERS**

Sealed bids for the above contract will be received by Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept until **2:00 p.m., November 15, 2024**, at the Office of the Manager, 99 Suffolk St, Holyoke, MA 01040, at which time the bids will be publicly opened and read.
Additional information may be obtained from:
Chi Wong
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept
99 Suffolk St
Holyoke, MA 01040
(413) 536-9308
cwong@hged.com

**Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD24P2267EA
Estate of:
Mary Kathleen Smart
Also known as:
M Kathleen Smart
Date of Death: 10/14/2024
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR FORMAL
ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by **Tina M. Holman 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: **Tina M. Holman 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 11/27/2024.** This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: October 29, 2024
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
11/08/2024

**LEGAL NOTICE
CITY OF HOLYOKE
GAS & ELECTRIC
DEPARTMENT
2025 UTILITY LINE
MATERIAL**

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

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

The right is hereby reserved to reject any or all

proposals, or to accept any proposal that in the opinion of the Manager may be in the best interest of the City of Holyoke.
Please mark sealed envelopes "**Bid for 2025 Utility Line Material**" and address them to:
James M. Lavelle, Manager
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept
99 Suffolk St.
Holyoke, MA 01040
11/08/2024

**LEGAL NOTICE
CITY OF HOLYOKE
GAS & ELECTRIC
DEPARTMENT
LNG VAPORIZATION
SYSTEM GLYCOL
HEATERS**

Sealed bids for the above contract will be received by Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept until **2:00 p.m., November 15, 2024**, at the Office of the Manager, 99 Suffolk St, Holyoke, MA 01040, at which time the bids will be publicly opened and read.
Additional information may be obtained from:
Chi Wong
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept
99 Suffolk St
Holyoke, MA 01040
(413) 536-9308
cwong@hged.com

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

Please mark sealed envelopes "**Bid for 2025 Utility Line Material**" and address them to:
James M. Lavelle, Manager
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept
99 Suffolk St.
Holyoke, MA 01040
11/08/2024

**LEGAL NOTICE
CITY OF HOLYOKE
GAS & ELECTRIC
DEPARTMENT
LNG VAPORIZATION
SYSTEM GLYCOL
HEATERS**

Sealed bids for the above contract will be received by Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept until **2:00 p.m., November 15, 2024**, at the Office of the Manager, 99 Suffolk St, Holyoke, MA 01040, at which time the bids will be publicly opened and read.

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

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

Please mark sealed envelopes "**Bid for LNG Vaporization System Glycol Heaters**" and address them to:
James M. Lavelle, Manager
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept
99 Suffolk St
Holyoke, MA 01040
11/08/2024

**REQUEST FOR
PROPOSALS #2025-16SD
Student Information
System,
Holyoke Public School
District**

The Holyoke Public Schools (HPS) is seeking proposals for a comprehensive, integrated student information system (SIS) that can successfully provide the products and services described in this Request for Proposals (RFP).

HPS seeks an SIS provider that can provide, implement, and support K-12 student information systems and is fully compliant with the Massachusetts data interoperability standards.

HPS seeks a provider that offers a core system in conjunction with possible third-party solution(s) that will be configured and integrated to provide the full range of system functionality to meet the requirements as stated in this RFP. The solution shall have proven state of the art technology that will provide the ability to plan, control and account for school districts, and State agencies' required student information activities and resources.

HPS invites qualified SIS solution providers to submit a proposal to provide a comprehensive SIS solution. The selected provider will provide both software and system integration utilizing the MA state model.

Proposals must be prepared in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the City of Holyoke. All proposals must comply in all respects with the instructions, conditions, specifications, and other requirements in the

Request for Proposals, which can be obtained from the City of Holyoke 536 Dwight Street, Room 3 Holyoke, MA 01040, Monday through Friday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm; or electronically from sweeney@holyoke.org

Proposers must submit one (1) original unbound single-sided copy, one (1) double-sided bound copy, and one (1) electronic copy saved on a standard memory stick, of the technical (non-price) proposal, and one (1) original copy in a separately sealed envelope containing the price proposal, certificate of non-collusion, and certificate of tax compliance and all required forms by **December 5, 2024 at 2:00 PM EST** to the attention of: Edward Sweeney, Chief Procurement Officer, City of Holyoke 536 Dwight Street, Room 3 Holyoke, MA 01040. Proposals that are faxed, emailed, or late will not be accepted. **Price proposals and technical proposals must be submitted in separate envelopes.**

The City intends to select a proposer shortly after receipt of the RFP responses. Work on the project must commence as soon as possible after contract execution. **To meet the District's objectives, we need to have the system operational for scheduling by March 1, 2025.** The City reserves the right to reject any and all proposals.
11/08/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD24C0355CA
In the matter of:
----- O'Neil
CITATION ON PETITION
TO CHANGE NAME
A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been**

filed by ----- **O'Neil of Holyoke, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

**Tyrone Mark O'Neil
IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/04/2024.**

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: November 06, 2024
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
11/08/2024

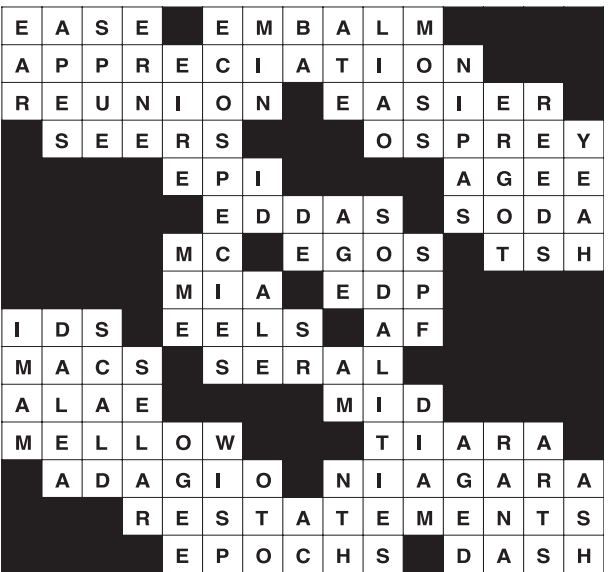
**NOTICE OF
PUBLIC AUCTION**

Swinging Bridges Auction Company, Lic #2755 will hold a Public Auction on **November 23, 2024. Unclaimed items to be sold at 9 a.m. at Pawn Depot Inc., 448 Appleton St., Holyoke, MA 01040.**

20% buyers fee, 6.25% MA sales tax.
11/08, 11/15/2024



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SUPPORT
COMMUNITY
BUSINESSES**



The Holyoke Sun
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

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MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY. EXTRAORDINARY performance. Central Boiler certified Classic Edge Titanium HDX OUTDOOR WOOD FURNACE. Call today **413-296-4320**.

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All hardwood.
Tree length available
*Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap). Quality & volumes **guaranteed!!** New England Forest Products **(413)477-0083**

MORE HEAT LESS WOOD. Central Boiler Classic Edge HDX Outdoor Wood Furnace. EPA Certified. Titanium Stainless Steel. 26% Tax Credit. Call **(508) 882-0178**.

MISCELLANEOUS

HORSE WINTER BLANKETS, size 76, new/used; riding Cap size 6-7/8, box of leather, bridles etc. Two folding saddle stands. Entertainment center, 5'x4.5'. Call **508-867-9734**.

WANTED

Buy, Sell & Trade Video Games
Retro World
413-301-5020 M-S 11-7
187 Main St.
Indian Orchard, MA

WANTED

FEMALE MODELS WANTED FOR PHOTO SHOOT. \$80 per session. Future work available. Call **413-727-9846**. Email: **bru2bru2@comcast.net**.

WANTED TO BUY

ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.

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

SEEKING: Old Collectables. We are looking to pay cash for pipe holders, tobacco tins, advertising tins, beer trays, beer taps, beer signs, brass figures, etc. Please don't hesitate to reach out. **Teestreasures413@gmail.com**. Call or text: **413-374-7388** Marty. Located in Western Mass.

JUNK REMOVAL

ARA JUNK FURNITURE REMOVAL

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

JUNK REMOVAL



2***A & B HOUSEHOLD REMOVAL SERVICE*******
Cellars, attics, garages cleaned, yard debris. Barns & sheds demolished. Swimming pools removed. Cheaper than dumpster fees and we do all the work. Lowest rates. Fully insured. **(413)283-6512, cell (413)222-8868**.

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We load it & take it.
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CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

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HANDYMAN RESIDENTIAL REPAIRS. Powerwashing, home repairs, interior/exterior painting, ceiling/wall repairs and chimney repairs. Fully licensed/insured. Lic. #105950CSL. Call **413-566-5596/413-433-5073**.

HOME IMPROVEMENTS. REMODELING Kitchens, baths. Ceramic tile, windows, painting, wallpapering, siding, decks. Insurance work. Fully insured. Free estimates. **(413)246-2783** Ron.

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Insured
Josh Rozell 413-636-5957

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Interior only \$199.00 for average 12x16 room. Very neat, references, prompt service call **(508)867-2550**.

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GREG LAFOUNTAIN PLUMBING & HEATING Lic #19196 Repairs & Replacement of fixtures, water heater installations, steam/HW boiler replacement. Kitchen & Bath remodeling. 30 years experience. Fully insured. \$10 Gift Card With Work Performed. Call Greg **(413)592-1505**.

ROOFING

JENKINS ROOFING specializing in residential roofs & repairs, chimney repairs. Hampden, MA - **413-566-5596/413-433-5073**. Lic. #105950CSL. Fully insured.

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

MONDAY AT NOON

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DL & G TREE SERVICE- Everything from tree pruning, tree removal, stump grinding, storm damage and brush chipping. Honest and Dependable. Fully insured. Now offering a Senior Citizen and Veteran discount. Call today for free estimate **(413)478-4212**.

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HELP WANTED

FLEXIBLE HOURS, decent pay & tips, healthy physical exercise, learn to move furniture and pianos correctly. Jimmy Burgoff Moving & Hauling, Belchertown. **413-256-6800**.

HOUSEKEEPER: Monday and Friday, 5 hours a day. Duties: cleaning, washing clothes, ironing. Three references from prior experience with names/phone. Send to **PO Box 8, Hampden, MA 01036**.

JOURNEYMAN PLUMBER WANTED.

Excellent pay & benefits. Must be licensed in MA. Pioneer Plumbing **413-623-5911** or **pioneerinoffice@gmail.com**.

QVDC IS LOOKING for a part-time facilities person to attend to three properties in downtown Ware. Duties include minor repairs, scheduling necessary inspections and serving as a liaison with outside contractors. Previous maintenance experience preferred. Please visit **www.qvdc.org** for information.

Post your job openings in our classifieds.

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

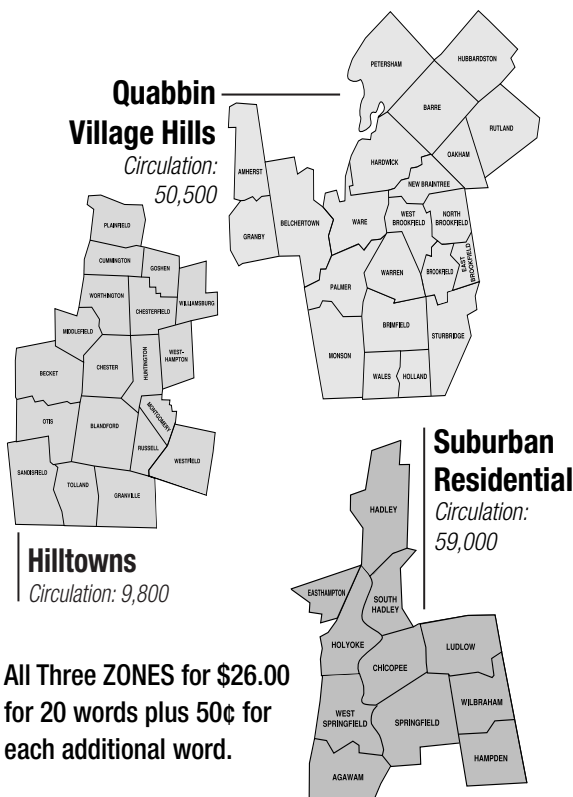
DEADLINES: **MONDAY AT NOON**

CATEGORY:

1	2	3	4		
5	6	7	8		
9	10	11	12		
13	14	15	16		
17	18	19	20	Base Price \$26.00	
21	Base Price \$26.50	22	Base Price \$27.00	23	Base Price \$27.50
24	Base Price \$28.00				
25	Base Price \$28.50	26	Base Price \$29.00	27	Base Price \$29.50
28	Base Price \$30.00				
29	Base Price \$30.50	30	Base Price \$31.00	31	Base Price \$31.50
32	Base Price \$32.00				
33	Base Price \$32.50	34	Base Price \$33.00	35	Base Price \$33.50
36	Base Price \$34.00				
37	Base Price \$34.50	38	Base Price \$35.00	39	Base Price \$35.50
40	Base Price \$36.00				

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SUPERINTENDENT, from page 1

advice the school committee throughout the process of regaining local control, and this will include the hiring of a superintendent.

In this letter the teachers also emphasized how important the process of hiring a superintendent is, as that will be the first step they need to complete once the district has local control.

"The hiring of the superintendent is our first test as a community in taking control of our schools," the letter said.

Jourdain agreed that this process will be crucial for the future of Holyoke schools and for Holyoke as a city.

"Really this one is going to be big, because man, we goof this up again, if we get local control back and we fumble the football, good lord on all of us," he said. "We just cannot lose local control ever again. So we have to make sure whoever this new visionary leader is going to be for our city, they've got to be real solid."

The school committee has been working hard to ensure that they are fully prepared to take on the challenge

of finding a superintendent.

They want to have the application open to a multitude of people and, while Receiver/Superintendent Anthony Soto is welcome to apply, they also plan to consider other options.

The school committee plans to receive training on how to best go about this process.

"Our next meeting we're going to get an update to review the superintendent hiring process, what goes into it, again," School Committee Member John Whelihan said.

The school committee has also discussed hiring a consultant to assist them in the search process, such as the Massachusetts Association of School Committees.

"The Massachusetts Association of School Committees can do this for the city of Holyoke and work with us on the process," William Collamore said. "We are looking properly for the best way to get the best superintendent."

More than anything, the joint committee encouraged cooperation from all sides throughout this process, as the more people working on this process the better.

How to avoid price gouging

People often find that the cost of high-demand items skyrockets during popular events or emergencies, such as ice storms, severe cold snaps, power outages, hurricanes, floods or other types of disasters. Better Business Bureau often receives reports about the frequency of scams involving sought-after items, such as high prices on gas, water, or hotel rooms after a natural disaster or during a popular event. Some state attorneys general offices have initiated state price-gouging laws, which automatically go into effect during a declared state of emergency to prevent businesses from over-charging customers.

Price gouging is a term referring to when a seller spikes the prices of goods, services, or commodities to a level much higher than is considered reasonable or fair and is considered exploitative, potentially to an unethical extent. The best way to avoid price gouging is to plan ahead and have the necessary supplies you need before a disaster, if possible.

BBB warns businesses to avoid the

temptation to raise prices during popular events or a situation such as a storm or a pandemic because it may be illegal to do so in certain states and because it erodes marketplace trust. People will remember which businesses took advantage of them.

Anyone who suspects price gouging during a declared state of emergency should report it to Better Business Bureau by filing a complaint, or go to BBB Ad Truth. Consumers can report these activities to the state attorney general's office. When reporting a price gouging complaint, gather as much information as safely possible and follow these three tips:

- **Be as specific about the transaction as possible**, including the name and address of the business, names of any employees involved, and information detailing the spike in pricing.

- **Gather documentation supporting the price gouging** (receipts, photos of products and their advertised pricing, invoices, etc.)

See **GOUGING**, page 12

RESOLUTIONS, from page 1

districts to set up monitoring devices on buses to catch drivers who pass stopped school buses.

Districts would not be required to have this surveillance, the resolution would simply allow them to use this technology.

With this in mind, the school committee voted to approve this resolution.

The following resolution the committee discussed would allow a municipality to increase their levy limit beyond the 2.5% for additional educational costs.

"A vote yes for this would allow us to increase more than 2.5 to meet educational needs," Wilson said.

The school committee unanimously voted against this resolution.

The sixth resolution, which the committee voted in favor of, would approve legislation to improve the fiscal health of rural school districts.

This would pass all legislation encompassing recommendations from the legislative commission on the fiscal health of rural schools report.

The seventh resolution asks that the Massachusetts Legislature advance legislation that mandates Inflation Index catch ups to Chapter 70 foundation aid.

This should account for inflation that has occurred since the Student Opportunity Act was passed.

Additionally, it would ask that the MASC work with the Massachusetts Legislature to ensure that catch ups are made to Chapter 70 aid in future years where inflation is above 4.5%.

The school committee voted in favor

of this resolution

The eighth resolution asks that the state recognize financial challenges many non-regional school districts face in transportation costs. It asks that a special fund be established to provide funding to these districts.

The committee passed this resolution, so Wilson will vote yes on it at the MASC meeting.

The ninth resolution works in relation to the Massachusetts School Building Association.

It asks that when the MSBA assess school building projects for funding it evaluates schools in three tiers, assessing elementary schools, comprehensive high schools and vocational, technical, and agricultural schools separately.

The goal of this resolution is to ensure that districts receive true cost

reimbursement for school projects.

"Vocational education is very important to us as a district and if we were to remodel or build I would like the actual cost being used to be considered and not just one for a traditional school," Wilson said.

The tenth and final resolution calls for the state to support an increased capacity for vocational, technical and agricultural schools (also known as Chapter 74 schools).

The school committee greatly supported this resolution as they want to ensure that everyone in Holyoke who seeks a vocational education is able to receive it.

To learn more about the MASC resolutions, go to their website at <https://www.masc.org/2024-report-of-the-resolutions-committee/>.

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HELP WANTED

THE TOWN OF HUNTINGTON is hiring for the following seasonal on call Highway Department positions: **Sidewalk Machine Operator, Pickup Truck Driver** for Plowing and Sanding, and **Dump Truck Driver** for Plowing and Sanding. For more information, please visit www.huntingtonma.us, email admin@huntingtonma.us, or call **413-512-5200**. Positions are open until filled. Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

The Town of Huntington is seeking a part-time **WATER AND SEWER ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR** for 18 hours per week. Applicants must be proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, and Outlook and well organized. Hours are flexible but must be worked during the regular Water and Sewer department hours of Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to assist the Water and Sewer Department as needed. Application and complete job description are available online at www.huntingtonma.us or by emailing WaterandSewer@huntingtonma.us. Position is open until filled.
Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

WARREN WATER DISTRICT is hiring for part-time office help. Please apply in person at **988 Main St., Warren 413-436-9819**. EOE.

HELP WANTED

TOWN OF WORTHINGTON
HIGHWAY POSITION OPENING
The Town of Worthington is soliciting letters of interest from qualified candidates to fill **two full-time Equipment Operator/General Laborer** positions in the Town Highway Department.

Valid MA CDL operator, Hydraulic Hoister's licenses and OSHA-10 certification is preferred.
• Highway maintenance laborer salary rate range: \$18.16 - \$26.46
• Highway maintenance laborer with CDL and Hoister's license salary rate range: \$25.00 - \$36.41
Further information can be found on the Town's website:

www.worthington-ma.us
Questions will be answered by the Highway Superintendent at 64 Huntington Road, Monday-Friday, 7 AM to 3 PM; 413-238-5830 or send letter of interest, resume and three (3) references with relevant contact information to: worthingtonhighway@gmail.com or to Worthington Highway Department, PO Box 643, Worthington, MA, 01098. This posting will remain pertinent until the two positions are filled.
The Town of Worthington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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

HELP WANTED

TOWN OF WORTHINGTON
HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT OPENING
Highway Department

The Town of Worthington is soliciting letters of interest and resumes from qualified candidates to fill the position of Highway Superintendent. Nature of work: The Highway Superintendent is responsible for administering and overseeing the daily activities of the Highway Department including the maintenance and repair of town roads, parks, bridges, equipment maintenance and snow/ice removal operations.

This is a benefited position which requires a thorough knowledge of the principles, practices and techniques of highway department maintenance, construction and procurement. Salary rate range: \$62,941.00 - \$91,707.00, with potential for winter overtime. More information can be found on the Town of Worthington website:

www.worthington-ma.us
Please send letter of interest, resume and three (3) references with relevant contact information to: selectboard@worthington-ma.us. This posting will remain pertinent until the positions are filled.
The Town of Worthington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

HELP WANTED

Worthington Police Department
51 Huntington Road,
Worthington, MA 01098

FULL-TIME POLICE OFFICER
The Worthington Police Department is seeking qualified candidates for **Full-time Police Officer**.

Applicants must be a minimum of 21 years of age or older, a U.S. Citizen and possess a valid driver's license. They should also have a high school diploma/GED, license to carry and be certified by Massachusetts Municipal Police Training Committee and be POST certified.

This is a benefited position with a salary range of: \$52,000.00 - \$75,733.00. The successful candidate shall be highly motivated, self-disciplined and possess a community policing philosophy and live in, or near Worthington. Previous candidates must reapply. Send letter of interest, resume and three references with relevant contact information to:

To: **Worthington Police Department**
P.O. Box 246
Worthington, MA 01098

Or via email to: chief@worthingtonpd.org
Subject line: Employment
Responses will be accepted and reviewed until the position is filled.

The Town of Worthington is an Equal Opportunity Employer

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



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REAL ESTATE

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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- Fresh Blueberries **\$3.99** pint
- Mac & Cortland Apples 5lb Tote Bags **\$5.99**
- Green Cabbage **59¢/lb**
- Locally Grown Butternut & Acorn Squash **89¢/lb**
- Sweet Grape
- Tomatoes, Pint Size **2 for \$5.00**
- Massachusetts Fresh Cranberries...12 oz Bags **2 for \$5.00**
- Boar's Head Honey Maple Ham **\$9.99/lb**
- Boar's Head Imported Swiss Cheese **\$9.99/lb**



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Crafters, vendors needed for Holly Wreath Bazaar

AGAWAM – The Agawam Congregational Church is seeking crafters and vendors for our Christmas Holly Wreath bazaar to be held on Nov. 23 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. To register pick up an application at the church, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. For more details call the church at (413) 786-7111 or email at office@agawamcong.com.

Food Fest West set for Nov. 20

AGAWAM – The Food Fest West will be taking place on Wednesday, Nov. 20, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the Crestview Country Club, Shoemake Ln. For more information and tickets visit westoftheriverchamber.com.

GOUGING, from page 11

- **Compare pricing of similar products with other sellers in the area and online.** It's important to note similarities and differences between brands, size/quantity, manufacturers, model numbers, and prices.
- **Check your state's laws.** Price gouging laws vary by state. Consumers should first check their state's specific regulations to understand if an increase

Pawzaar Craft Fair to benefit TJO Animals

FEEDING HILLS – The annual Pawzaar Craft Fair is a signature event for the Foundation for TJO Animals. It is a local craft fair that attracts some of the Pioneer Valley's finest crafters, along with hundreds of animal-loving patrons, all to benefit homeless animals in the community.

The event will be held at the Polish American Club at 139 Southwick Street, Feeding Hills, on Saturday, Nov. 16, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

There will be 40 vendors, raffles, pet merchandise, baked goods, festive music, and a special raffle for a fully decorated, pet-themed Christmas tree.

More information is available on www.tjofoundation.org, by emailing info@tjofoundation.org or by calling 413.306.5161.

qualifies as price gouging. Some states may have specific thresholds for what constitutes illegal price hikes.

- **Report to federal agencies.** For price gouging related to essential goods during emergencies, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) or the Department of Justice may investigate. Provide the appropriate links.

- **Spread awareness.** Share your experiences on social media (without violating platform terms) to raise awareness.

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