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FinCom endorses \$12M school construction

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The finance committee unanimously recommended the appropriation of \$12 million for school construction costs.

The final approval will go to the full city council for them to vote on at their next meeting.

These funds will go to H.B. Lawrence School, Lt. Elmer J. McMahon Elementary School, Maurice A. Donahue Elementary School and William J. Dean Vocational Technical High School.

If this money is approved by the full city council, Lawrence and McMahon will be getting their windows and doors replaced. Donahue will have a partial window and door replacement and Dean Tech will have their boiler replaced.

Donahue will only receive a partial window and door replacement as only the older section of the building (from 1973) fills requirements for replacement.

See FINCOM, page 10

Incumbent councilor ousted, two local officials regain seats

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke general election was held on Tuesday, Nov. 7.

On the ballot were candidates for the school committee, the city council and the treasurer.

The candidates for the Ward 1 City Councilor were incumbent Jenny Rivera and Challenger Victor Machado DeJesus.

Rivera won the election with 206 votes to Machado DeJesus' 88.

For Ward 2 City Councilor, Carmen Yolanda Ocasio won against Janelle Mojica with 133 votes to Mojica's 103. Ocasio will replace Wilmer Puello Mota, whose one term was embattled due to legal troubles stemming from an arrest in Rhode Island.

Incumbent David Bartley is returning to his position as Ward 3 City Councilor. He won against Anne Thalheimer with 504 votes to her 279.

Kocayne Givner will also be returning to her position as Ward 4 City Councilor. She won the election with 216 votes against Challenger Ruth Garcia,



There was no vote for mayor in this election now that the mayor is elected every four years.



St. Paul's Church was quiet Tuesday as the election for city council and school committee took place.

Turley photos by Quinn Suomala

who only received 164.

Returning to her position as Ward 5 City Councilor is Linda Vacon, who won

the election with 686 votes.

Challenger Guy O'Donnell received 560 votes.

Juan Anderson-Burgos

will be remaining as the Ward 6 City Councilor. He was the

See ELECTION, page 10

Huge gathering for 'Out of the Darkness' Community Walk

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Massachusetts Chapters' Greater Springfield Out of the Darkness Community Walk was held at School Street Park in Agawam on Saturday, Oct. 21.

Nearly 600 people gathered at this event to support suicide prevention. At the beginning of

the walk, there had been over \$74,000 raised by the different participants and fundraising teams.

The top three teams were: Team Nathan, Team Rusty Free in the Wind and Team Edwards/First Churches. Team Nathan raised \$11,535, Team Rusty Free in the Wind raised \$5,350 and Team Edwards/First Churches raised \$5,180.

All of this fundraising will go into the AFSP to help them

to continue their work as an organization.

"The funds we raise we put right back into the community," Executive Director of AFSP MA Jessica van der Stad said.

AFSP works to educate people on mental health, help fund research on mental health, support those who have lost someone to suicide or who struggle with suicide, and to help advocate for mental health needs.

In fact, AFSP has been around since 1987 and it is the number one non-profit organization in the country focused on mental health and suicide prevention.

"The fundraising that we do goes through the four pillars of ASFP, which is education, research, advocacy and support," AFSP 2023 Greater Springfield Out of the Darkness Community Walk Co-Chair Lyndsey Nunes said.

AFSP is the largest funder of private research focused on suicide prevention and they help to provide education and support for people all across the country.

Walks like the Out of the Darkness Community Walk are one of the major outlets of their work.

At the walk they had several tables set up where people could access materials on programs AFSP offers and resources for the community.

The walk overall is about raising awareness of suicide prevention and also allowing those who struggle with suicide

HPL hosts National Novel Writing Month group

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Public Library will be hosting meetings throughout November in honor of National Novel Writing Month.

NaNoWriMo is celebrated every November by writers around the world. Often, writers will challenge themselves to try to write a novel in a month.

Holyoke Library hopes to support those participating in this challenge, and to encourage more people to come out and give it a shot.

Co-organizers of this event Cal Sieh and Robin Siniaho will both be attempting the NaNoWriMo challenge for the first time themselves.

They encourage anyone interested in writing to get out and try this challenge.



Members of the fundraising team Randi's Rainbow gathered together for a photo after they had completed the walk. The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention had a stand at the Greater Springfield Out of the Darkness Community Walk specifically for members of the LGBTQ+ community, a group that often faces increased difficulties with mental health.

Turley photo by Quinn Suomala

See WALK, page 12

See WRITING page 10



Walking Tour resumes Nov. 11

HOLYOKE – Part 2 of the Walking Tour of Holyoke’s Fairfield Avenue Historic District will pick up where it left off Oct. 28. The tour will resume Saturday, Nov. 11, starting at 10 a.m.

Two members of the city’s Historic District Commission will lead the tour, which is a part of Holyoke’s 150th anniversary observance. The event is free and open to the public.

Starting at 10 a.m., Commissioners Stephen Fay and Marco Crescentini will lead the outing, providing historic and architectural commentary on the houses in the district.

The excursion, which will take about two hours, will begin on the sidewalk between 60 and 66 Fairfield Avenue. Information: Stephen Fay, 413-561-1600.

Meekins Library’s Hammer Gallery exhibits Harold Dumas

WILLIAMSBURG – The vibrant paintings of Holyoke artist, Harold Dumas are on display in the Neil Hammer Gallery at the Meekins Library, 2 Williams St. for the month of November.

There will be an artist reception on Saturday, Nov. 18 from noon-2 p.m. in the Neil Hammer Gallery. Dumas discovered oil painting as a young adult, rendering the world around him by drawing inspiration from the scenic landscapes of Western Massachusetts.

His paintings, “Frozen moments in time, captured in paint, preserved on canvas,” have been self taught through the years by trial and error. Through the inter-

net he discovered art teachers and with online courses has honed his skills and techniques.

Retiring in January 2020, he seized the opportunity to immerse himself in his art, and has successfully made sales through his website and Facebook. His work has been shown at the Southampton August Fair, Northampton Artisan Fair, ARTery Gallery in Holyoke and at the Paradise City Arts Festival.

His artistic goals are straightforward: to secure gallery representation and to continue evolving and expanding his craft. For more information, people may visit haroldjdumasart.com.

Food pantry now open

HOLYOKE – The United Way of Pioneer Valley and Holyoke Community College celebrated the opening of the Holyoke Community Cupboard, a downtown food pantry that will allow residents to pick up free frozen and refrigerated foods in addition to the usual dry goods and shelf-stable items.

The Holyoke Community Cupboard is located on the basement level of the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute, 164 Race St., the scene of a Nov. 2 ribbon-cutting and grand opening event.

“This is a really special occasion,” said HCC President George Timmons. “It’s important, and we want to do our part to try to be good community partners and help the city of Holyoke meet this need, and so we want to do that by providing healthy choices and healthy food and making it easy to access.”

The new food pantry, part of the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts’ network, will serve Holyoke residents as well as those from neighboring towns. It is open Thursdays from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m.

“We’re incredibly thankful for the collaboration,” said Megan Moynihan, chief executive officer of the United Way of Pioneer Valley. “Thank you

so much for opening your arms to the United Way. We saw that there was a gap in services and that it was very important to get a food pantry into Holyoke. Capacity wise, we couldn’t do it alone.”

Among those present and taking part in the ribbon-cutting were state Rep. Patricia Duffy, Andrew Morehouse, executive director of the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, and Jordan Hart, executive director of the Greater Holyoke Chamber of Commerce.

This is the third pantry operated by UWPV after the agency opened sites in Springfield and Chicopee.

“We hope to use this collaboration as a means of finding innovative solutions to food security and to collectively support other initiatives,” said Lee Drewitz, UWPV director of program operations. “This includes offering food demonstrations using food pantry staples and educating the community about the Emergency Food Pantry system.”

HCC also operates a food pantry on campus as part of its Thrive Student Resource Center, which was founded in 2015 with assistance from the United Way of Pioneer Valley.

ARPA Small business program accepting applications

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

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

recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

This round of funding is provided to assist businesses with specific code compliance improvements to buildings, such as accessibility modifications, fire systems and other compliance updates that must be made under orders from public safety or building officials. Minimum award amounts will be \$2,000; maximum award amount will be \$100,000.

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

Support for small businesses and local entrepreneurs is here

HOLYOKE – As the City of Holyoke’s Office of Planning and Economic Development continues to find ways to support small businesses and local entrepreneurs, the need for creative capital solutions was imperative.

Through the state’s Urban Agenda Grant, OPED staff was able to work with Third Eye Network, who had also been the consultant on the Local Rapid Recovery Planning program, to gather and explain the issues facing small businesses and startups while also providing a number of opportunities and summaries

of the funds potentially available to small businesses and entrepreneurs.

“Business ownership has always been an essential avenue for wealth creation in the U.S. However, access to capital remains a persistent challenge to growing successful ventures, especially those owned by women and People of Color,” said Dr. Lomax R. Campbell, president and CEO, Third Eye Network. “With our examination of its financial ecosystem, we hope the city and its resource partners are better positioned to raise awareness of available financial resources and clarify

support pathways for Holyoke’s diverse small business community.”

Working with partners like HG&E, the Greater Holyoke Chamber of Commerce, EForAll and others, the final report highlights the opportunities and needs to address funding gaps in starting a business in Holyoke.

This tool, Assessing the Field of Capital for Businesses in the Paper City, is available on the OPED website <https://www.holyoke.org/studies-and-working-plans/> and provides information on a number of grant and loan options.

“Our efforts to revive High and Main Street are intertwined with our efforts to support small business development.” Aaron Vega, Director of OPED said “the obstacle to capital is far too often the obstacle that stops small business growth. This report provides a roadmap for startups and small businesses to find the capital and ultimately make their dream a reality.”

For more information, please contact the Office of Planning and Economic Development keittj@holyoke.org or vegaa@holyoke.org (413) 322-5655.

Holyoke Rotary offers tasting fundraiser, silent auction

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Rotary Club has announced the return of Eat, Drink, and Be Holyoke, their premier tasting fundraiser and silent auction on Thursday, Dec. 7. The event will take place at the Holyoke City Hall Ballroom at 5:30 p.m. following the sealing of the Holyoke 150th Anniversary time capsule.

“We are proud to bring back Eat, Drink, and Be Holyoke and excited to be the final event of the Holyoke 150th Anniversary celebrations,” said Barbara Baran, co-president of the Holyoke Rotary Club. “Our community has a long and rich history and the Holyoke Rotary

Club is proud to be a part of it since 1915.”

Eat, Drink, and Be Holyoke will feature food prepared by 110 Grill, Amedeo’s, Crave, Fame, Hamel’s Summit View, Iona’s Kitchen, Kate’s Kitchen, Pics Pub, Rusty’s Place, White Hut, and Woodstone Tavern. Additionally, Brennan’s Place will be providing various alcohol tastings from local and regional breweries, wineries, and distilleries.

Tickets are \$50 and can be purchased online at <https://EDBH.eventbrite.com>.

Proceeds will go towards supporting Rotary projects, mostly within the Holyoke Rotary district of Holyoke, South Hadley, and Granby. Ongoing Holyoke Rotary projects include providing several annual scholarships, providing food for those in need through community collaborations, and funding international clean water initiatives.

Eat, Drink & Be Holyoke is sponsored by platinum sponsor Holyoke Medical Center, and silver sponsors Center for School Crisis Intervention & Assessment, Dowd Insurance, Marcotte Ford, and PeoplesBank.

Veterans Day ceremony Nov. 11

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

This ceremony aims to celebrate the veterans who have served and/or are currently serving in the armed forces. This event emphasizes our support, as a community, not just for veterans, but for their families as well. Refreshments and community engagement with local veteran supporters begins at 9 a.m.

All-female band to perform at Gateway City Arts

HOLYOKE – Cocktail Slippers, a five-piece, all-female rock band from Oslo, Norway, will play in the Divine Theater at Gateway City Arts, Nov. 15 at 8 p.m. Local stalwarts the Fawns and Boston's Glowbox open the show.

Cocktail Slippers was formed in 2001 and has since released three studio albums and two Christmas singles. They are known for their entertaining live rock 'n roll performances, and have played alongside artists such as Nancy Sinatra, Crowded House, Elvis Costello, and The Strokes. The band is continuously touring

Europe and the USA.

The band's main musical influences are Blondie, The Shangri-Las, Joan Jett, Foo Fighters, The Ramones, The Go-Go's and The Beach Boys. The band recorded their first album, Rock It! in early spring 2001 with Modesty Blaze (Ingjerd Sandven Kleivan, formerly known as Lisa Farfisa) on vocals and keyboard, Rocket Queen (Stine Bendiksen) vocals and guitar, Sugar Cane (Astrid Waller) on bass and Tammy Lee Sticks on drums. Later that year Rock It! was released on the Norwegian label MTG Records.

In 2007, Cocktail Slippers was signed by Steven Van Zandt on his label Wicked Cool Records. In 2009 Cocktail Slippers recorded and released their third studio album Saint Valentine's Day Massacre. The album was produced by the band together with Steven Van Zandt and co-produced by Jean Beauvoir.

Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Doors open at 7 p.m. Advance tickets are available online at gatewaycityarts.com. A prix fixed menu will be available at Judd's from 5 to 7 p.m. The Bistro will be open for event food from 5-9 p.m.



FCC to hold Holly Berry Fair on Nov. 18

CHICOPEE – The First Congregational Church at 306 Chicopee St. is having their Annual Holly Berry Fair on Saturday, Nov. 18 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Enjoy great Holiday crafts and gifts from various vendors, raffle baskets, baked goods, yummy food at the snack bar and more.

MiraVista Health Center launches new website

HOLYOKE – MiraVista Behavioral Health Center, which provides inpatient psychiatric care and outpatient substance use recovery programs, has dedicated a section of its website to assist Human Resources professionals in staying current on related services available across the state, as well as having easy access to recently-published information on mental health, substance use treatment, and wellness in the workplace.

The page includes links to government-issued reports such as the U.S. Surgeon General's "Impact of Not Addressing Mental Health," the American Psychiatric Association Foundation's Center for Workplace Mental Health, and Mental Health

America's "2022 Mind the Workplace, Employer Responsibility to Employee Mental Health."

It lists national, state, and regional crisis help lines and includes access to mental-health related articles by MiraVista staff members. Links are also provided to local and statewide substance use treatment resources.

Joel Doolin, Executive Vice President of MiraVista and its sister, TaraVista Behavioral Health Center in Devens, has addressed how these psychiatric hospitals are important resources in their communities.

In a recent interview, Doolin spoke of MiraVista's outreach efforts since opening in April 2021 to inform business-

es, schools and parents of resources available at MiraVista and in the community.

"As a leading provider of mental health and substance use treatment, MiraVista staff has extensive expertise in these topic areas. We are actively working with partners in our community to make sure those resources are available to anyone who needs them," Doolin said. "We reach out to workplace professionals through the HR associations in the area or work directly with HR departments. We are a ready and willing partner to support the needs of those who are seeking treatment."

The page can be visited at <https://www.miravistabhc.care/mental-health-resources-for-hr-professionals/>.

WTC hosts 4th annual food drive

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

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

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

Some of the most-needed items

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

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

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

Youth aviation club enrolling now

WESTFIELD – Aviation Explorer Post and Club 1903 meet monthly all year at Westfield-Barnes Airport Conference Room. The program led by Heather MacInnes is beginning its second year of operation this month. Youth enrollment is now open for all youth ages 11-20.

Youth hear from speakers in all aspects of aviation as well as participate in hands on learning. Field trips to aviation businesses and attractions occur at least quarterly or more. Upcoming

trips include a trip to MedFlight Ambulance Service, a training weekend at H.A. Moses Reservation and a trip to Washington DC in April to visit aviation museums and attractions.

Aviation Exploring compliments other programs for youth that serve young people in aviation careers. Exploring is year-round, however, youth may participate based on their own availability.

For more information and to join go to Tinyurl.com/BAF-Explorers.

UCC community meal to be held Nov. 10

HOLYOKE – The United Congregational Church of Holyoke is hosting its monthly community meal on Friday, Nov. 10 at 5 p.m. featuring traditional Thanksgiving fare. A family movie immediately follows at 6 p.m.

The Community Meal is hosted on the second Friday evening of each month at the church at 300 Appleton St. All Are Welcome to attend, and the meal is completely free of charge. The menu changes monthly; past meals have featured breakfast for dinner, steak sandwiches,

and more. Parents must accompany their children.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

BAIL COMMISSIONERS NEEDED

HOLYOKE DISTRICT COURT

The Massachusetts Trial Court hereby gives notice of the availability of one or more Bail Commissioner appointments for the Holyoke District Court located in Hampden County.

A Bail Commissioner is appointed by the Massachusetts Trial Court to make release and bail determinations for persons arrested when courts are closed (overnights, weekends and holidays.)

PLEASE NOTE: This is an appointment only. No salary or benefits are included but fees may be collected from the person in custody at the time of release. The base fee is \$40.00.

Bail Commissioners are required to have reliable transportation in order to travel to the court and the Holyoke Police Department. Familiarity with criminal law and procedures helpful.

If you are interested in being considered for appointment, please contact:

CATHERINE M. COUGHLIN, ESQUIRE
STATE BAIL ADMINISTRATOR
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE TRIAL COURT
tc bail@jud.state.ma.us

The appointing authorities do not discriminate against any applicant because of race, color, sex, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression, status as a veteran, basis of disability or any other federal, state or local protected class.

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Guest Column



When should I retire and claim my Social Security benefits?

Dear Rusty:

I am 64 years old and having difficulty working due to my arthritis, but I can continue part time as a podiatrist. I do not know the best way to determine when to retire. What is the formula or a way to determine which is a better choice?

Signed: Undecided

Dear Undecided

There is a difference between deciding when to retire from working and deciding when to claim your Social Security benefits. For the former, you should consult with a certified financial advisor, but I'll provide you with how Social Security fits into your personal circumstances. In deciding when to claim Social Security, you should look at your financial needs, your life expectancy, your work status and your marital status. There is no one formula right for everyone because everyone's circumstances are different, but here are some things to help decide what is right for you:

Social Security has an "earnings test" which applies to anyone who collects Social Security before reaching their Full Retirement Age. Your FRA is 66 years and 8 months and that is the point at which you get 100% of the SS benefit earned from a lifetime of working.

If you collect SS before your FRA and continue to work, there is a limit to how much you can earn without jeopardizing your benefits. For example, the earnings limit for 2023 is \$21,240 and, if that is exceeded, SS will take away benefits equal to \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit. They "take away" bene-

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.



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

Guest Column

Two ways to enjoy bulbs next spring



My spring bulbs are almost all in the ground. That is saying a lot, considering at work I plant over 2,000 of them! Daffodils, tulips and hyacinth will all welcome visitors to the museum in April and May.

Bulb planting is a ritual that I have come to love. I think in part because the process assists Mother Nature in her efforts to usher in springtime and all of its glorious color!

Did you ever wonder why certain bulbs bloom in the spring? Once you understand the life cycle of specific bulbs you can succeed with bulbs outdoors as well as inside.

Most spring flowering bulbs are native to areas of the world where the fall and winter is cool, and rainfall is abundant. Summers are typically hot and dry.

During the summer bulbs lie dormant, but when temperatures drop and rain moistens the soil each fall, they are awakened and begin to grow new roots and mature their flower buds. Roughly three months later, as soil temperatures rise, bulbs send up foliage and flowers.

When spring rains cease and the soil dries out, bulbs are cued into dormancy once again - their foliage yellows and disappears and the bulbs wait out the arrival of fall to start the cycle all over again.

What this tells us is that we should plant our bulbs before the mercury dips too low. This will give them a chance to root.

Soil temperatures of 50-55 degrees are ideal. If the fall is dry, providing supplemental watering is also a good idea to encourage the rooting process...this year we don't have to worry about that.

What do roots do exactly? You know that they provide food and water to the bulb, but in addition, they anchor it into the soil - very necessary during the freeze/thaw cycles of winter and early spring.

We also learned that there are two times when the bulb is in active growth - when it is rooting, and again in the spring when it sends up its leaves and flower stem. Feeding during these periods is most effective.

I generally broadcast a small amount of organic, well-balanced granular fertilizer into the garden, turn over the soil and plant my bulbs, usually in clumps of at least five bulbs, two-three times their width apart and the same for depth. If you are careful about marking where you've planted them, a top dressing of fertilizer can be added in early spring.

Likewise, you could also wait until you see the first stems poke through the ground and feed them.

I'm sure many gardeners never even thought about what flower bulbs did during the summer months. Now that we understand that they are dormant, merely waiting, we can plant them accordingly, away from spots that pool water and that stay as dry as possible.

Now that we understand a bulb's life cycle, how can we use it to ensure some indoor cheer?

Bulbs need anywhere from 11-20 weeks of chilling and a few more thereafter to bloom. This guide can be used: Crocus require 15 weeks of cold; hyacinth 11-14 weeks, daffodils 15-17 weeks and tulips 14-20 weeks (depending upon season of bloom).

Pick a date which you'd like the bulb to bloom and count backwards. Hypothetically if I want hyacinths to bloom in time for Valentine's Day, planting them within the next week or two would be right on target.

Bulbs can be planted quite close to one another in regular potting soil and your choice of pot. Clay is not recommended because it will dry out readily.

Water lightly to settle the soil, then place the container in a cold, dark location where temps fall between 38 and 45 degrees. One year I used an old refrigerator; another year the crawl space under our office.

I even tried placing pots of bulbs under the bottom steps of my bulk head. Each worked at maintaining low temps, but did have its own idiosyncrasies.

Keep bulbs away from fruit in storage- especially apples, whereby ethylene gas could disfigure the bulbs, and also be on the lookout for rodents looking for lunch.

Daffodils and hyacinth are usually unappetizing.

Check bulbs often, especially as the chilling period draws to a close. You will know the bulbs are close to being ready to move to a new location when sprouting occurs and roots are visible through the drainage holes; soon after, the top will start to grow as well.

After the top has put on an inch of growth, move it to a cool, bright location, about 50-55 degrees. Stems will elongate and flower buds will form after a few weeks.

When in flower, keep the plants cool to prevent legginess - consider enjoying them in your living spaces during the day, but moving them to a cooler climate at night for increased longevity.

It's about now when the garden centers begin their mark-down of spring bulbs. Try your hand at forcing once and it will become your annual ritual!

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

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The Holyoke Sun is published every Friday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.



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A Quote

OF NOTE

"Freedom is nothing but a chance to be better."

Albert Camus

Letters to the Editor Policy

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

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

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

Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

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

Photography submissions needed at APL

AGAWAM – The Friends of the Agawam Public Library is looking for entries to their 4th Open Judged Virtual Photography Show, to be on display after March 15, 2024. The show provides a platform to recognize and encourage photographers and benefits the Agawam Public Library. Twenty-one awards totaling \$1,540 will be determined by judging done on March 1, 2024. Dave Roback and Tim Donelan, both well recognized photographers, will be the judges.

The show is divided into four categories of photography: creative, nature, photojournalism and pictorial. The entry fee is \$25 per entry. Deadline for submissions is Feb. 15, 2024. All images must be original, made by the photographer, captured by film or digitally, and cannot be previous entries in our show.

The Prospectus and Entry Form can be accessed by going to www.agawam-library.org, and scrolling down to the Friends of the Library widget. From there you will be able to click on a link to the show's information.

For further information please contact Bob Kadis at r.kadis@comcast.net or at 413-789-4814.

9/11 Memorial booklet now available

SPRINGFIELD – To tell the story of how Springfield's September 11th Monument came to fruition, the Spirit of Springfield produced a booklet which they will launch on Thursday, Nov. 2, at 11 a.m. in the Armory at MGM Springfield. The event will include a photo exhibit and the event is open to the public.

Spirit of Springfield President Judy Matt will be joined by Springfield Mayor Domenic Sarno, Springfield Fire Commissioner B. J. Calvi, Springfield Police Superintendent Cheryl Clapprod. Will Arment from Charlie Arment Trucking will speak about his experience retrieving the World Trade Center artifact from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. Patrick Sullivan, executive director of the Springfield Department of Parks, Buildings, and Recreation Management, will explain how Riverfront Park was chosen as the final resting place for the artifact. Chris Marion from Chris Marion Photography, will share his experience as the monument's official photographer.

Guests will be greeted by the High School of Commerce JROTC and the Hampden County Sheriff's Department Honor Guard.

"Springfield's September 11th Monument has been one of the most significant contributions the Spirit of Springfield has made to our communi-

ty," said Matt. "It is to remember the lives we lost, honor those who protect us every day, and it serve as a reminder for future generations. The booklet chronicles the tale of how the community came together to create the lasting tribute."

During the event, notes of congratulations will be read. They will include sentiments from Andrew Card, Chief of Staff to President George W. Bush, New York Police Commissioner Edward Caban, and Lieutenant Joseph Jurgens, New York City Firefighter and brother to New York City Court Officer Thomas Jurgens who was killed on Sept. 11, 2001.

The 28-page soft cover booklet reminds readers of the tragedies that occurred on Sept. 11, 2001. It tells about the Springfield Police and Fire Departments' and the Spirit of Springfield's goal to obtain an artifact from the World Trade Center, when the piece was picked up, the hero's welcome that it received, the monument's design, and selecting the perfect location. It includes the monument's dedication ceremony with Andrew Card, former Chief of Staff to President George W. Bush, and who will be remembered as the man who whispered to the President that the coun-



try was under attack.

In addition to listing all the names that are on Springfield's September 11th Monument, it highlights some of them including the New York City Firefighter who introduced the daughter of Steve Roberts, a prominent local business man, to her husband.

The booklet, sponsored by Charlie Arment Trucking, MassMutual, Monarch Enterprises, Steve & Georgianne Roberts, St. Pierre Phaneuf Funeral Chapels, The Colvest Group, and Western New England University, will be available for \$10 each. Pre-orders will be accepted at the booklet launch and at spiritofspringfield.org on the September 11th Remembrance Ceremony event page. There will be a \$3 fee for shipping and handling.

Beginning Nov.13, the books will be available during regular business hour at the Springfield Visitor's Center at 1391 Main St. and at the Spirit of Springfield at 1350 Main St., Suite 1004.

For more information about Springfield's September 11th Monument booklet "Forever in Our Hearts," contact the Spirit of Springfield at 413-733-3800, staff@spiritofspringfield.org, or visit spiritofspringfield.org.

SECURITY, from page 4

fits by withholding future payments until they recover the penalty for exceeding the limit. If your earnings are substantially over the limit, you will be ineligible to collect Social Security until either your earnings are less or you reach your FRA.

If you claim SS before your FRA your benefit amount will be permanently reduced. If, for example, you claim SS to start at age 65 your monthly benefit will be about 89% of what it would be at your FRA. That reduced benefit would not change thereafter except for Cost of Living Adjustments usually granted annually.

If Social Security will be a major part of your retirement income, then waiting to get a higher monthly benefit may be a prudent strategy for you. The longer you wait to claim the more your benefit will be.

Your SS benefit will continue to grow until you are 70 years old and at 70 your monthly benefit will be about 27% more than it would be at your FRA. Your maximum SS benefit will be attained at age 70 but waiting until age 70 to claim is only prudent if you anticipate a long life expectancy.

Life expectancy is a very important factor in deciding when to claim SS. If you claim at age 70 instead of at your FRA, you will need to live until you are about 83 to breakeven money wise. If you live even longer than that, then waiting until 70 will yield the highest monthly amount and the most in cumulative

lifetime benefits. But if your anticipated life expectancy is less, claiming earlier may be a better choice.

If you are married and expect your wife to survive you, consider that the benefit your wife can get as your widow will be based on your SS benefit when you die, thus the longer you wait to claim the more your wife's benefit as your widow may be.

If you predecease your wife, her benefit will be based on the amount you were receiving at your death if that is more than her personally earned SS benefit.

So, as you can see, deciding when to claim Social Security is a decision to be made after carefully evaluating your personal circumstances as described above. I hope this provides what you need to make an informed decision, but if you have further questions, people may call 1-888-750-2622 or email SSAdvisor@amacfoundation.org.

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.

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CLUES ACROSS

- Happen again
- Large flightless birds
- A type of account
- Beyond what is natural
- Beloved comfort food
- Rural delivery
- Belonging to us
- Typical
- Pie ___ mode
- Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- Not us
- Discharge
- Made empty
- Fishing net
- Fast-moving, harmless snake
- Analyzed into its parts
- In a way, chilled
- Hindu queen

CLUES DOWN

- Vital public document
- Disinter
- Musical performances
- After B
- Every body has one (abbr.)
- Utilize
- In a way, disproved
- Fisherman's tool
- Of she
- Trauma center
- Commercial flyer
- Administered medicine to calm
- Popular R&B performer
- Regretted
- Leg (slang)
- "Night Train" author
- More supernatural
- Baltimore ball-player

CLUES DOWN

- Shoe parts
- Scores perfectly
- More lucid
- Trim by cutting
- Disreputable people
- Dramatic behaviors
- Disorder
- Private box in a theater
- More dried-up
- Raw
- In operation
- Pillager
- Butterflies with brown wings
- Disallow
- Own up
- Hungarian city
- A way to condemn
- Tax collector
- Lease
- Not out

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 10

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

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.

Art Gallery presents new exhibit by local artist

HOLYOKE – The Taber Art Gallery at Holyoke Community College is pleased to present “Things Aren’t What They Seem,” an exhibition of paintings and drawings by Holyoke artist Ryan Patience Rushing, Nov. 3 through Dec. 29.

An opening reception will be held in the gallery Nov. 3 from 6-8 p.m. as well as a broad line calligraphy workshop on Wed., Nov. 8, from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Rushing is a multidisciplinary artist and designer. Engagement with letterforms is the bedrock of her practice, and a point from which Rushing examines physics, philosophy, and psychology. A philomath and amateur cosmologist, Rushing’s interests span concepts such as simulation theory, string theory, optimistic nihilism, fallacies, and semiotics. The nature of our world and how we understand it are at the core of her work.

“I think a lot about things like simulation theory and the big universe that we live in and how there’s a whole lot more to the world than what we can see,” Rushing said. “I like the dichotomy of using lettering to directly communicate things that are nebulous concepts. And



“Things Aren’t What They Seem,” an exhibition of paintings and drawings by Holyoke artist Ryan Patience Rushing, Nov. 3 through Dec. 29.

Submitted Photo

then, hopefully, while you’re reading, your brain is doing work to question how things aren’t what they seem.”

Rushing’s career spans 15 years of experience in graphic design, marketing, branding, UX design, and front-end website development. She received her bachelor’s degree in fine arts from Louisiana Tech University in 2009.

“I believe in accessible art, and how art should not be just for the rich and the elite,” Rushing said. “Art should be for everyone. You can use Crayola broad tip markers to do calligraphy and drawing. You can use them to do watercolor. They’re available everywhere, and they’re relatively inexpensive, and you can make some really beautiful pieces of art.”

The workshop is open to the public, but advance registration is requested. To register, please go to: hcc.edu/taber-things.

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

PVPA accepting 2024-2025 applications

SOUTH HADLEY – The Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School is announcing that application for the 2024-2025 school year opens on Nov. 1. Applications are available in English and Spanish on the PVPA website, www.pvpa.org/admissions. To request a paper application or for more information, email admissions@pvpa.org or call 413-552-1580 ext. 228.

Eligibility to apply is limited to those students currently in grades six through eleven who are applying for the 2024-2025 school year. Online applications must be submitted by Feb. 11, 2024.

Paper applications must be post-marked no later than Feb. 11, 2024. Late applications will not be accept-

ed. The lottery will be held on Friday, February 16, 2024.

PVPA has a 25+ year history of providing a free, college-preparatory education that is firmly based in a commitment to providing students with a broad exposure to the Arts.

Prospective future students and their families are invited to attend one of the Open House Events happening throughout the open application period. Registration, dates and times are available on the PVPA website www.pvpa.org/admissions.

Enrollment in PVPA is free and open to all Massachusetts students in grades 7-12 on a space available basis. Priority is given to students from Franklin, Hampden and Hampshire counties, as well

as Brookfield, Petersham and Sturbridge. All students are welcome, and students who are passionate about the Arts are strongly encouraged to apply.

PVPA is a publicly funded charter school authorized by Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Per MA General Laws, Chapter 76: Section 5, shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, creed, sex, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, mental or physical disability, age, ancestry, athletic performance, special need, proficiency in the English language or academic achievement.

For more information, and to apply: admissions@pvpa.org.

Community and vendor fair hosted Nov. 16

AGAWAM – Agawam Junior High School 1305 Springfield St. The Agawam Junior High School DC Club and PTO are hosting a Vendor and Community fair in the Cafeteria during Parent/Teacher Conferences on Thursday, Nov. 16, from 5 to 8 p.m. This event is free to attend and open to the community. Vendors will offer a wide variety of merchandise including handmade soap and lotions; crocheted animals; original holiday gifts; jewelry, framed artwork, unique crafts and much more. There will be raffle tickets and snacks available for purchase. All are welcome.

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Yacelin Caraballo attempts to clear the net.



Yohadlie Papon gets the low set.



Ashantily Calderon goes up for a bump.



Nayshaliz Gonzalez reaches for a hit.
Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Knights to host jamboree

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Unified basketball team is having another great season, including a fun match-up this season with Agawam. Holyoke is getting set to host Agawam, Southwick, and Wahconah in an end-of-season jamboree next Thursday afternoon. Special Olympics will be on hand to host the event.

Papermen to join Union Hockey League

HOLYOKE – This week, Brian Pratt, president of the Holyoke Papermen Hockey Club, announced his team’s participation in the newly-formed Union Hockey League. The UHL consists of 16 teams in the northeast and Midwest and is a senior level semi-professional league. Pratt said the Papermen are putting together their roster at this point.

“We have 14 skaters and two goalies signed, looking to add about 8 more players,” Pratt said. “We have four preseason games in December and 20 regular season games starting Jan 5.”

The schedule for the league has not been released yet and Pratt did not say where the Papermen would be playing their home games. Closest to Holyoke

are Fitzpatrick Rink, state-run facility right in Holyoke next to Holyoke High School’s Roberts Sports Complex, and nearby is Olympia Ice Center in West Springfield. More information will be forthcoming about the team and the new league as the Papermen prepare to participate in the new league. For more information, go to: <https://www.unionhockeyleague.com/>.

Holyoke ousted in first round

HOLYOKE – After an 11-win season, Holyoke High School girls volleyball was able to qualify for the Division 2 State Tournament and was placed in a first-round matchup at Milton High School, which is near Boston. Unfortunately, the Knights season came to an end in that match-up as they lost in three straight sets 3-0. The Knights finished at 11-7 overall.



Emiliano Santiago makes his way down the court.



Ari Birks shoot for the Knights.
Turley photos by David Henry



Jayden Rivera takes a shot.



Sam Nadeau hits the foul line for Holyoke.



Jaedeson Santos makes a long shot attempt.

Westfield State University Owls reach conference finals

WESTFIELD – The Westfield State University men’s soccer team appeared in their first conference title game since 2017, falling to top-seeded Bridgewater State 5-0 in the 2023 Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference Championship game from Mazzaferro Field in Bridgewater, Mass. on Sunday.

The Owls conclude a successful season campaign as Westfield (7-8-2) increased their season win total by four games from last year, securing the second overall seed in the MASCAC Tournament.

The Owls run to the title game included a memorable penalty-kick shootout victory over Salem State in the league semifinals to advance to today’s conference title game with a relatively short turnaround given the effort and intensity of Friday night’s match.

In just his second season as Westfield’s head men’s soccer coach, Dr. Christopher Streeter led the Owls back to the conference championship match for the first time in six years, coaching a group that was comprised of experienced upper-classmen and impact rookies.

Bridgewater quickly opened the scoring 4:28 into the match with Nicholas Ribeiro (Bellingham, Mass.) potting his sixth goal of the season to put the Bears ahead 1-0. From that point forward, senior David Nelson (East Bridgewater, Mass.) took control of the contest, scoring the next three goals to complete the hat-trick, ultimately securing the conference title for a Bears team that suffered just two regulation losses all season.

The Bears outshot the Owls 20-9 in the game as Westfield rotated all

four goalkeepers into the match. Luke Theroux (Chicopee, Mass.) wrapped up an impressive first season with the Owls, starting the match and picking up one save.

Senior Drew Adams (North Attleboro, Mass.) stopped all four shots faced while first-year Berto Truiolo (Springfield, Mass.) got his first taste of postseason play, securing two saves. Senior Collin O’Brien (Windsor Lock, Conn.) also saw playing time in net for Westfield. Coleby Andrade (Falmouth, Mass.) led the Owls with two shots.

Worcester Railers drop OT thriller to Adirondack

WORCESTER – Worcester dropped a 5-4 overtime decision to Adirondack, allowing four power play goals along the way. The overtime goal, scored by Matt Stief, was a 4-on-3 goal with Railers forward Zach White in the penalty box for tripping.

From close up, and on replay, it did not look much like a trip and the Railers were careful not to be critical of the call. That could cost them money. They were not happy, but White stood up and took the blame.

“It wasn’t a good play,” he said. “I was trying for the puck and then he fell...that was terrible by me.”

Coach Jordan Smotherman discreetly not critical of the officiating. Neither was he critical of his player.

“That’s just the kind of guy he is,” Smotherman said of White taking the blame.

There was plenty of blame, but plenty of credit in what turned out to be a terrific game after a sluggish first period. After scoring two goals in the game’s first 40 minutes the teams combined for seven in the last 23:16.

The overtime loss earned the Railers one point and after the last two seasons when they missed the playoffs by a point, they can understand the value of that. The problem is that in the third period they blew a 3-1 lead and 4-3 lead before the game went into overtime.

“That can’t happen,” Smotherman said of the late lapses, “especially their fourth goal. We completely lose our heads and five guys wind up in the corner. That can’t happen in small margin games.”

The fourth Adirondack goal was scored by Riley Smith with just 2:34 left in the third period. He drilled a 25-foot shot past Tristan Lennox’ blocker. What made it worse was that while it was not officially a shorthanded goal, Thunder defenseman Tristan Thompson had been injured near his own net and was still in the defensive zone trying to get off the

ice when Adirondack scored.

The Railers goals were scored by Andrei Bakanov, Ashton Calder and Brendan Robbins. Bakanov had two goals to register the first multi-goal game of his Railers career. Anthony Callin, once again a key offensive player for Worcester, had three assists.

The score after the first 20 minutes would have been about 7-6 if icings had counted as goals. As has been traditional in hockey, they did not. Thus it was a 0-0 game going into the second period.

About seven minutes into the period the Railers were whistled for icing three times in the span of a minute but as things progressed the teams began to generate more offense but could not score.

The Railers and the Thunder traded power play goals in the second period with Adirondack scoring first. Thompson gave his team a 1-0 lead at 9:32 by drilling a 55-foot slapshot home from the right point.

Bakanov tied it at 1-1 at 17:59 with his first goal of the season. It was on the power play as he converted a nice goal-mouth pass from Callin. Bakanov gave Worcester the lead at 1:55 of the third period, again on the power play, with a sizzling high wrist shot from between the circles.

Calder scored a marvelous shorthanded goal at 5:45 to make it 3-1. He was sent free on a breakaway when Jake Pivonka batted the puck out of mid-air and sent it directly to his streaking teammate. Calder beat Jeremy Brodeur with a backhand from in close.

Erik Middendorf tied it for Adirondack with goals at 7:29 and 8:57, both on power plays, the first with the Railers two men short. Robbins banged in a rebound off the back wall at 14:26, Callin having taken the original shot, but Smith scored that crucial tying goal exactly three minutes.

From there it was on to overtime and the 5-4 final.

Thunderbirds fall to Bridgeport Islanders in weekend finale

BRIDGEPORT – The Springfield Thunderbirds (6-5-0-0) could not withstand a late rally by the Bridgeport Islanders (3-5-1-0) in a 3-2 defeat on Sunday afternoon at Total Mortgage Arena.

For the first time in three games this weekend, it would be the T-Birds to get the 1-0 lead in the opening period. Operating a man down at the 8:40 mark, Nathan Walker picked up a feed from Calle Rosen and raced into the Islanders zone on a 2-on-1 with Matthew Peca. The captain served as a decoy and Walker wristed a try through the stick side of Ken Appleby, giving Springfield the 1-0 edge. The goal was Walker’s seventh of the season and an AHL-best third shorthanded tally.

Walker’s goal gave Springfield the lead, but the T-Birds had a difficult time generating much else in the opening 20 minutes, getting outshot 13-5 by Bridgeport in the first frame. While Springfield did successfully kill off nearly a minute of 5-on-3 Bridgeport power play time, the Islanders were able to parlay that offensive momentum into a tying strike by ex-Providence Bruin Sam Asselin at 16:44, when he grabbed a puck neatly off the right-wing wall, spun toward the faceoff dot, and snapped a shot through Vadim Zherenko to deadlock the game, 1-1, heading into the intermission. Asselin’s goal marked the third straight Islanders goal scored by the top-line winger dating back over a four-game span.

The T-Birds’ power play did not get a chance until the 4:52 mark

of the second period, and Springfield did not wait even 10 seconds to get a man-advantage marker for the sixth time in seven games. After Peca won a faceoff, he moved the puck to Joey Duszak at the line, and the veteran defender lifted a wrist shot toward the net. Walker found himself in the middle of the action again, as he deflected it through Appleby’s equipment to restore Springfield’s lead, 2-1, at the 5:00 mark of the second.

The T-Birds kept on dealing with a relentless flurry of pressure from the Islanders, but Zherenko and the Springfield defense held the fort to take the 2-1 advantage into the third. Zherenko made 27 saves through the first two periods alone.

After a quiet first half of the third period, the T-Birds’ defensive levee finally came apart at the 12:02 mark when Matthew Maggio cleaned up a rebound from a Robin Salo shot that had glanced off a T-Birds defender. Maggio tied the score at one apiece, and not even three minutes later, Salo joined the scoring fun, pumping home a rebound off a Karson Kuhlman net drive at 14:25 to give the Islanders their first lead, 3-2.

The T-Birds’ offense could not find another tally before time ran out, and thus brought an end to the club’s five-game win streak. Zherenko finished his night with 32 stops, while Appleby got his first win despite only needing to block 17 Springfield offerings.

Springfield returned home for the annual T-Birds School Day Game on Wednesday.

How to contact the Sports Editor

Have the scoop on a local sports story? Want to submit a team photo, pass along a potential story idea, or just find out how to get a copy of that great photo of your young athlete? Please send all sports-related press releases and information to Sports Editor Greg Scibelli at: sports@turley.com or call, 1-413-283-8393.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention encourages getting a flu vaccine

SPRINGFIELD – The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend getting a flu shot by the end of October. But the Vaccine is still recommended to get even after that date.

“Whether we have a severe or mild flu season predicted should not matter when it comes to getting your flu shot. Everyone with some exceptions needs to get one,” said Dr. Armando Paez, chief of Infectious Disease Division, Baystate Health.

The CDC recommends that everyone 6 months and older who does not have any conditions that may prevent them from getting flu vaccine, such as a prior reaction after receiving the flu vaccine, should be vaccinated now, preferably before the end of October. The flu vac-

cine composition for 2023-2024 has been updated to best match the flu viruses that are anticipated to be commonly circulating this season.

One-dose flu shots are appropriate for most people, with rare exceptions for children younger than 6 months of age and those with severe, life-threatening allergies to any ingredient in the flu vaccine or who have had a previous severe allergic reaction to a dose of flu vaccine. Some children ages 6 months through 8 years may require 2 doses. Flu vaccinations are particularly important for those individuals at risk of severe illness and complications from flu.

These include older adults, residents of long-term care facilities, women who are pregnant, adults and children with

a weakened immune system, and those with chronic medical conditions and obesity. Persons who live with or care for individuals at risk of severe infection such as healthcare personnel and others living in the home are also essential to be vaccinated.

For people 65 years and older, there are three preferentially recommended higher-dose or adjuvant flu vaccines: Fluzone High-Dose Quadrivalent vaccine, Flublok Quadrivalent recombinant flu vaccine and Fluad Quadrivalent adjuvant flu vaccine. More information is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/highrisk/65over.htm>.

Flu shots can be given at the same time as other vaccines, including the updated COVID-19 vaccine.

For more information on Baystate Health, visit baystatehealth.org or for more information about Baystate Children’s Hospital, visit baystatehealth.org/bch.



**HOLYOKE, MA
Notice of Public Hearing**

The DGR Committee of the Holyoke City Council will hold a public hearing on **Monday, November 20, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.** to hear a special permit application of Zachary Bruneau per 4.7.3 non-conforming to rebuild old garage on the same footprint at 15 Brookline Avenue (127-00-143) Meeting will take place at Holyoke City Hall, 536 Dwight St., and can be accessed remotely via www.zoom.us Meeting ID 823 1086 6135 Meeting Passcode 192638 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 with same Meeting ID and Passcode. For an electronic copy of this application or to provide comments for the public hearing, please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org or by phone 413-322-5525.

DGR Chair
Tessa Murphy-Romboletti
11/10, 11/17/2023

**HOLYOKE, MA
Notice of Public Hearing**

The DGR Committee of the Holyoke City Council will hold a public hearing on **Monday, November 20, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.** to hear a special permit application of Delfina Saillant per 7.2.9 to convert basement into a livable studio space at 20 Pearl Street (094-00-065) Meeting will take place at Holyoke City Hall, 536 Dwight St., and can be accessed remotely via www.zoom.us Meeting ID 823 1086 6135 Meeting Passcode 192638 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 with same Meeting ID and Passcode. For an electronic copy of this application or to provide comments for the public hearing, please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org or by phone 413-322-5525.

DGR Chair
Tessa Murphy-Romboletti
11/10, 11/17/2023

**PUBLIC HEARING
NOTICE**

The Holyoke Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.** via Zoom.com; ID: 83639398493; CALL IN 1 646 558 8656 to hear, pursuant to the Holyoke Zoning Ordinance, a **Site Plan Review** petition (Sec 10), submitted by ESG-H2, LLC for the 28 Water Street-Phase H2 project to be located at 28 Water Street (051-01-009).

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

APPLICANT:
ESG-H2, LLC

PLANNING BOARD:
Mimi Panitch
11/10, 11/17/2023

**City of Holyoke
PUBLIC HEARING
NOTICE**

The Holyoke Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.** via Zoom.com; ID: 83639398493; CALL IN 1 646 558 8656 to hear, pursuant to the Holyoke Zoning Ordinance, a Special Permit for a Parking Reduction (Sec 6.1.7), submitted by Womeldorf & Associates, LLC, for the Crafts Block Redevelopment, to be located at 141-147 High Street.

For a complete copy of the application and site plan, con-

tact the Planning Department at (413) 322-5575.

APPLICANT: Womeldorf & Associates, LLC,

PLANNING BOARD:
Mimi Panitch
11/10, 11/17/2023

**HOLYOKE, MA
Notice of Public Hearing**

The DGR Committee of the Holyoke City Council will hold a public hearing on **Monday, November 20, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.** to hear a special permit application of O'Connell Professional Nurse Service, Inc dba O'Connell Care at Home per 8.4.0 Professional office overlay district operate a professional office at 1763 Northampton Street (108-00-083) Meeting will take place at Holyoke City Hall, 536 Dwight St., and can be accessed remotely via www.zoom.us Meeting ID 823 1086 6135 Meeting Passcode 192638 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 with same Meeting ID and Passcode. For an electronic copy of this application or to provide comments for the public hearing, please contact City Council Admin. Asst. Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org or by phone 413-322-5525.

DGR Chair
Tessa Murphy-Romboletti
11/10, 11/17/2023

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

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

A petition has been presented to said Court by Elizabeth C. Ouimette, of Holyoke, in the County of Hampden, representing that they hold as joint tenant in an undivided part or share of land lying in Holyoke, in the County of Hampden, setting forth that they desire that all of said land may be sold at a private sale or public auction for not less than Five Hundred Fifty Thousand (\$550,000.00) Dollars, and praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any part of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided either at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute the net proceeds thereof after full adjudication of the equitable claims contained in said petition and supplemental memorandum filed with the Court.

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

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

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

**City of Holyoke
Office of Purchasing**
536 Dwight Street,
Room 3
Holyoke, MA 01040
**Invitation to Bid 2024-27FD
Fire Station #6 Boiler**

Replacement

The City of Holyoke invites written proposals from qualified individuals or firms for the construction of the **"Boiler Replacement, Fire Station No. 6, Holyoke, MA"** in accordance with Contract, Documents prepared by R.W. Hall of Agawam, MA and the City of Holyoke. Fire Station No. 6 is located at 640 Homestead Avenue, Holyoke, MA. DCAMM Certificate required in the category of work defined as MECHANICAL SYSTEMS.

A pre-bid walk through will be held at Fire Station #6 on 11/16/2023 at 1PM. Full specs will be available on 11/8/2023 at 12PM EST. They can be requested electronically from morrowj@holyoke.org or sweeneye@holyoke.org. **Bid will be received until 11/28/2023 at 1PM**, at which time they will be opened and read according to MGL Ch.30B and all applicable MA public purchasing laws. This project is funded with Federal funds. Respondents will be verified for eligibility to receive Federal funds and must comply with all Federal requirements including Part 200. No electronic submissions will be allowed. The city reserves the right to reject any and all bids. 11/10/2023

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No. HD23P2080EA
Estate of:
James H. Byrnes
Date of Death:
September 1, 2023
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **James A. Byrnes of Westfield, MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

James A. Byrnes of Westfield, 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. 11/10/2023

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No. HD23P1212EA
Estate of:
Heather Mary Dupuis
Date of Death: 10/19/2022
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**
To all persons interested in the above captioned

estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Robert J Dupuis of Springfield, MA.**

Robert J Dupuis of Springfield, 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. 11/10/2023

**CITY OF HOLYOKE
PURCHASING
DEPARTMENT
REQUEST FOR
PROPOSALS 2024-18
2024-18, EASTHAMPTON
RD. / RTE. 141
LAND SALE
SEALED SUBMITTALS
ARE DUE BY 1:30 PM ON
11/21/2023.
EMAIL SUBMISSIONS
WILL NOT BE
ACCEPTED.**

The City of Holyoke is soliciting proposals for the undeveloped lot located on Route 141 near the Easthampton border, south of the Log Cabin and adjacent to the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game East Mountain Wildlife Management Area and Mount Tom State Reservation. The Property is described in the Holyoke Assessor's Records as Map 212, Block 00, Parcel 001, consisting of approximately 53.5 acres of land. The Property is zoned as Business General (BG) with an assessed value of \$1,119,200.00.

Proposals will be received at the City of Holyoke's Purchasing Office, 536 Dwight Street, Room 3, Holyoke, MA 01040 beginning at 11:00AM on Tuesday October 17, 2023. Bid documents may be requested via email to morrowj@holyoke.org or sweeneye@holyoke.org or in person at the City of Holyoke's Purchasing Office. The deadline to submit proposals is November 21, 2023, by 2:00PM, at which time all submissions received will be publicly opened in compliance with Chapter 30B and the City of Holyoke's Ordinances. **THE CITY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS** 11/03, 11/10, 11/17/2023

**Holyoke, MA
Notice of Public Hearing**
The DGR Committee of the Holyoke City Council will hold a public hearing on **Monday, November 20, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.** to hear a special permit application of CAMRAC, LLC dba Enterprise Rent-A-Car per 7.2.13 for rental of motor vehicles at 7 Cray Ave (106-00-045) Meeting will take place at Holyoke City Hall,

536 Dwight St., and can be accessed remotely via www.zoom.us Meeting ID 823 1086 6135 Meeting Passcode 192638 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 with same Meeting ID and Passcode. For an electronic copy of this application or to provide comments for the public hearing, please contact City Council Admin. Asst. Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org or by phone 413-322-5525.

DGR Chair
Tessa Murphy-Romboletti
11/10, 11/17/2023

**City of Holyoke
Office of Purchasing
536 Dwight Street,
Room 3
Holyoke, MA 01040
Invitation to Bid 2024-28FD
HVAC Replacements
Fire Stations #3**

The City of Holyoke invites written proposals from qualified individuals or firms for the construction of the **"HVAC Replacement, Fire Stations Nos. 3 & 6, Holyoke, MA"** in accordance with Contract Documents prepared by R.W. Hall of Agawam, MA and the City of Holyoke. Fire Station No. 3 is located at 1579 Northampton Street and Fire Station No. 6 is located at 640 Homestead Avenue, Holyoke, MA. DCAMM Certificate required in the category of work defined as MECHANICAL SYSTEMS.

A pre-bid walkthrough will be held starting at Fire Station #3 on 11/16/2023 at 12PM. Full specs will be available on 11/8/2023 at 12PM EST. They can be requested electronically from morrowj@holyoke.org or sweeneye@holyoke.org. **Bid will be received until 11/28/2023 at 1:30pm**, at which time they will be opened and read according to MGL Ch.30B and all applicable MA public purchasing laws. This project is funded with Federal funds. Respondents will be verified for eligibility to receive Federal funds and must comply with all Federal requirements including Part 200. No electronic submissions will be allowed. The city reserves the right to reject any and all bids. 11/10/2023

**CITY OF HOLYOKE
PURCHASING
DEPARTMENT
REQUEST FOR
PROPOSALS
2024-20 OPED
EQUITY ARTERY
LEASE SPACE
SEALED SUBMITTALS
ARE DUE BY 1:30 PM ON
11/21/2023.
EMAIL SUBMISSIONS
WILL NOT BE
ACCEPTED**

The City of Holyoke is soliciting proposals from qualified, locally based companies and/or individuals to provide leased space for a storefront for the ARtery and Splattery, a retail art gallery and painting room operated by Holyoke Art. The key requirements for the space are: a minimum of 2000 sq/ft (ADA accessible), 500 sq/ft retail space, storage, public restrooms, classroom space, and painting room with a sink.

Proposals will be received at the City of Holyoke's Purchasing Office, 536 Dwight Street, Room 3, Holyoke, MA 01040 beginning at 11:00AM on Wednesday October 18, 2023. Bid documents may be requested via email to morrowj@holyoke.org or sweeneye@holyoke.org or in person at the City of Holyoke's Purchasing Office. The deadline to submit proposals is November 21, 2023, by 1:30 PM, at which time all submissions received will be publicly opened in compliance with Chapter 30B and the City of Holyoke's Ordinances. No electronic Submissions will be accepted. **THE CITY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS** 11/03, 11/10, 11/17/2023

**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. HD21A0094AD
& HD21A0095AD
In the matter of:
Anthony Michael Preterotti
&
Kaylianna Marie Preterotti
CITATION
G.L. c. 210, §6**

TO:
**John Michael Preterotti,
Jr.**
any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth.

A petition has been presented to said court by:

**Jason Boire of
Springfield, MA
Anabela Boire of
Springfield, MA**

requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to

**Anthony Michael Boire &
Kaylianna Marie Boire**
If you object to this adoption you are entitled to the appointment of an attorney if you are an indigent person.

An indigent person is defined by SJC Rule 3.10. The definition includes but is not limited to persons receiving TAFDC, EACDC, poverty related veteran's benefits, Medicaid, and SSI. The Court will determine if you are indigent. Contact an Assistant Judicial Case Manager or Adoption Clerk of the Court on or before the date listed below to obtain the necessary forms.

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT **Springfield** ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON: **12/15/2023.**

WITNESS, **Hon. Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court. Date: October 25, 2023

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
11/03, 11/10, 11/17/2023

See NOTICES, page 10



ELECTION, from page 1

only one to run for the position. For the Ward 7 City Councilor position, Meg McGrath-Smith won the election with 834 votes, beating out Eileen Brady Leahy who only received 486 votes. McGrath-Smith will replace outgoing Council President Todd McGee, who did not seek re-election. The candidates for City Councilor At-Large were challengers Patricia Devine, Mimi Panitch, Michael Sullivan, Axel Fontanez, and Howard Greaney, Jr. and Incumbents Kevin Jourdain,

Jose Maldonado Velez, Tessa Murphy-Romboletti and Israel Rivera. Of these nine candidates, only six were able to be elected. Those elected for the at-large position were Murphy-Romboletti with 2,668 votes, Devine with 2,538 votes, Jourdain with 2,480 votes, Rivera with 2,471 votes, Greaney Jr. with 2,150 votes and Sullivan with 2,118 votes. Greaney and Sullivan return to the council after being away for one term. Greaney was outvoted from his at-large seat two years ago while Sullivan ran for mayor, falling short against Mayor

Joshua Garcia. At-large Councilors Joseph McGiverin and Peter Tallman did not seek re-election. Incumbent Maldonado Velez lost his position with only 2047 votes. He was the only incumbent not re-elected to his position on the city council. Panitch received 2,102 votes and Fontanez received 1,322. Candidates for School Committee At-Large, Erin Bridget Brunelle and Luisette Arroyo Rosado ran uncontested. Brunelle received 3,042 votes and Arroyo Rosado received 1,360. There were no candidates for the

Ward 1 School Committee position. Rosalee Tensley Williams ran uncontested for the Ward 2 School Committee position. As did Yadilette Rivera Colon for the Ward 3 position, John Whelihan for the Ward 5 position, William Collamore for the Ward 6 position and Eleanor Wilson for the Ward 7 position. For the Ward 4 School Committee position Gloria Caballero Roca won the election with 321 votes to Faizul Sibdhanny Jr.'s 51. Rory Casey was the only person who ran for treasurer, so he was elected for the position.

WRITING, from page 1

“Whether it’s your first or fifth time dedicating your November to writing, we’re in it together; we applaud you for taking on the challenge,” Sieh said. Sieh and Siniaho had heard about the NaNoWriMo challenge before and wanted to support those in the community interested in trying it. To do this, they have organized three different meetings, or “writing rooms” at the library throughout the month of November. These meetings are open to people of all ages and levels of experience. The first meeting for the writers was Wednesday, Nov. 1 from 6-8 p.m.. The second meeting is planned for Nov. 8 at the same time. There will also be a meeting on Saturday, Nov. 18 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. During these meeting times writers are welcome to come to the Community Room to enjoy some refreshments. There will also be books on writing available for those who want assistance. “We’re going to provide refreshments, have people sign-up for an email thread where we’re going to send encouraging words and have people talk about their word count, and we’re just going to offer a place to write,” Siniaho said. In the Community Room there will

also be pens and notebooks for those who need additional tools for writing. Those attending are encouraged to stay in the Community Room or find their own space to write in the library. “People can either have their refreshments there and then go find their happy place in the library to write or they can write right there,” Siniaho said. “The teen room will be open for writing and the children’s room and we’ll have guest passes for the computers for people who don’t have their library cards.” Sieh and Siniaho also hope to host a wrap-up party at the end of the challenge, though the exact date and time for that will be decided upon by the participants in the challenge at a later time. The library has created a group on the NaNoWriMo website <https://nanowrimo.org/>. This group is titled Holyoke Public Library Writer’s Room. Those who are interested can create a free account on NaNoWriMo and join this group to be able to speak with fellow writers and the organizers of the event throughout the writing process. To those wondering if completing NaNoWriMo is truly possible, Siniaho had some words of encouragement. “Many ask if it’s possible to write a book in a month and yes, it really is,” Siniaho said. If you have any questions on how to sign up for NaNoWriMo, feel free to call Siniaho at (413)420-8119 or Sieh at (413)420-8101 for assistance.

FINCOM, from page 1

These replacements will be crucial for improving the environments of the school buildings. “New windows I can’t say enough about what they do to a school, it makes it feel like a new school,” Superintendent Anthony Soto said. “The windows they have at McMahan are really aging and you can’t see through them, they don’t really let natural light in and with this we’re going to be able to replace all those windows.” This project will be an accelerated repair project under the MSBA and therefore, as explained by City Councilor Joseph McGiverin, qualifies for MSBA to cover up to 80% of the costs of the project. According to the information given to the finance committee, if the MSBA provides the full grant of 80%, the city would pay for \$3.2 million of the project. Jourdain pointed out that \$3.2 million is 25% of the \$12,708,775 total budget, not 20%. Executive Director of Finance for Holyoke Public Schools Sean Mangano explained that the total budget planned contained a 5% contingency. “The total budget includes about a 5% contingency in it and when you see some of the grant numbers they don’t always include the contingency because they want to wait to see what you’re applying for it,” Mangano said. “The good news is that the project number includes a contingency as well so when we bid it out

there is potential for it to come out a little bit lower if we don’t use the contingency.” Additionally, the finance committee and Mangano applied for Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funds for this project. They pitched for up to \$2 million; therefore the city would potentially only need to pay \$1.2 million for these crucial projects. “I got approval from the state to cover half the costs of the city’s share, up to \$2 million,” Soto said. Mayor Joshua Garcia is uncertain if the city will use bonds to pay for this project or be able to use other methods. “There are several options available at this point, I haven’t decided one way or another as everything is in the air at this point,” Garcia said. “It may be that we can absorb the costs completely, depending on where things stand.” According to Soto, the project itself is expected to take this summer, so long as they are able to get the materials to begin work right as school gets out. Given this information, the finance committee unanimously supported the appropriation of these costs. “These are really important improvements, I think it’s really going to make a big difference in these schools and we’re going to do it at a very affordable price for taxpayers,” City Councilor Kevin Jourdain said. The recommendation from the finance committee will go to the city council to vote on at their next meeting.

Public Notices from page 9

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division Docket No. HD23P1819EA Estate of: Karen M. Sullivan Also Known As: Karen Sullivan Date of Death: June 11, 2023
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Jennifer A. Nelson of Easthampton, MA** a Will has been admitted to informal probate. **Jennifer A. Nelson of Easthampton, 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

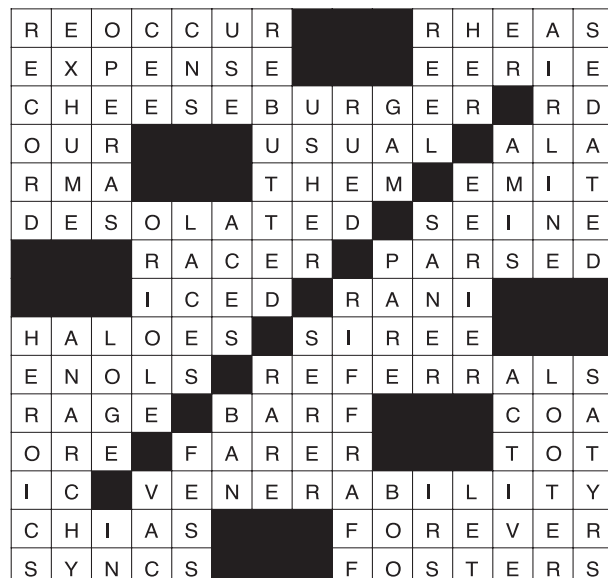
Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 11/10/2023
Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD23P2194GD In the matter of: Tiana Jones Of: Holyoke, MA RESPONDENT Alleged Incapacitated Person CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF

GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Department Of Developmental Serv of Springfield, MA** in the above captioned matter alleging that **Tiana Jones** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Kaleigh Kennedy of Holyoke, MA** (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve on the bond. The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian

is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority. **You have the right to object to this proceeding.** If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 11/24/2023. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds

of your objection within 30 days after the return date. **IMPORTANT NOTICE**
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person’s right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.
WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court. Date: October 26, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani Register of Probate 11/10/2023

EARLY DEADLINE
In observance of **THANKSGIVING PUBLIC NOTICES** WILL HAVE AN **EARLY AD DEADLINE** Place your public notice no later than **Thurs., Nov. 16 Noon** FOR PUBLICATION THE WEEK OF NOV. 20-24
A TURLEY PUBLICATION
24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069
413-283-8393 • www.turley.com



PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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FOR SALE

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FRIDAY & SATURDAY, NOV. 10 & 11. 113 BOGAN RD., MONSON, 8am-4pm. Furniture, garden tools, household items, costume jewelry, sterling & gold jewelry, antiques.

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MISCELLANEOUS

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Kiara Smith was one of the speakers at the Greater Springfield Out of the Darkness Community Walk.



American Foundation for Suicide Prevention 2023 Greater Springfield Out of the Darkness Community Walk Co-Chair Lyndsey Nunes introduced keynote speaker, Senator John Velis.



Nearly 600 participants gathered to do the Greater Springfield Out of the Darkness Community Walk for suicide prevention.

Turley photos by Quinn Suomala



Walk participants and fundraisers gathered on stage to share their own stories about struggles with and losses from suicide.



The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention handed out different colored beads to represent different struggles and losses during their walk so that people could see that they are not alone in their challenges.



Despite the rainy weather, nearly 600 people gathered at Agawam School Street Park to participate in the Greater Springfield Out of the Darkness Community Walk.

WALK, from page 1

or have suffered a loss from suicide to find other people who have gone through the same struggle.

AFSP started doing walks like these in 2004 and they are proud to see how much they have grown since the beginning.

“These walks started in 2004 and many people questioned if people would come out to walk for suicide prevention, would they come out to talk about mental health,” van der Stad said. “We’ve seen over the years an increase in the number of participants...it’s really just that opportunity to start talking about it, having a real conversation about mental health. The goal is to make mental health something we can talk about on a daily basis.”

One way AFSP facilitates these connections and conversations is through their honor beads. They have beads in nine different colors that they offer to people at the event, with each bead representing a different struggle.

These beads allow people to show their connection to the cause and to find others who share their experiences.

“People can select the beads that they are connected to,” Nune said. “So we have a way to signal to each other our connection to the cause without having to



The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention put up 626 pinwheels to represent the 626 people who died of suicide in MA in 2022.

come out and ask.”

“It helps to show that you’re not alone because you see hundreds of other people at these events wearing different colors and it recognizes that we are all part of this mission,” van der Stad said.

It was hard to feel alone at the walk. With hundreds of people in participation—all wearing the different color beads—everyone there was truly united as a community.

Those who volunteer and work for AFSP are proud of these moments of unity.

Nune told the story of her first walk

and how impactful it was for her to be able to see that she was not alone.

“The day that we walked on that field I just remembered thinking, ‘wow, for the first time, everyone here just gets me. I don’t have to fake it, I can be with my emotions and I know that there’s support from the community,’” she said. “Some people who were strangers at that point have now become like family. I think that’s the big piece; the community has unity in it.”

They feel that walks like these really demonstrate the change they are bringing to how mental health and suicide preven-

tion are talked about in society.

“We’re seeing the change in how we talk about this,” van der Stad said. “I think we are creating a culture that is smart about mental health and that is being more proactive in how we talk about it and how we prevent tragedies.”

AFSP will continue hosting walks like these and many other events for as long as they need to. Though, as said by Senator John Velis, the hope is for one day for these to no longer be necessary.

“Maybe someday this walk won’t be required, wouldn’t that be something special?” Velis said.

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