

## Applications now being accepted for Colleens

HOLYOKE – The St. Patrick's Committee of Holyoke will present the 2024 Grand Colleen Pageant on Jan. 6, 2024, at Holyoke High School at 7 p.m. and are accepting applications now through Dec. 27.

Eligibility requirements are: must be female, single, (never have been married or have had a child), no less than 17 years old by March 17, 2024 and a senior in high school; no more than 24 years old by March 17, 2024 (age requirement for 2024 only and will revert back to 22 in 2025), resident of Holyoke or South Hadley, must claim Irish ancestry, completion of a resume.

We look forward to receiving your application and resumes. Applications are available online at: [holyokestpatricksparade.com](http://holyokestpatricksparade.com). Contestant Orientation and Tea is scheduled for Dec. 30 at 11 a.m. at Wyckoff Country Club.

For questions or concerns contact Kathy Dulchinos, Colleen Coordinator at 413-592-4945.

## Holyoke High School Theater Company performs multilingual version of 'Our Town'

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke High School Theater Company performed a multilingual version of *Our Town* by Thornton Wilder.

The translated passages were written by Nilo Cruz and Jeff Augustin.

Throughout the performance, subtitles were projected above the stage for people to use as needed. When the actors were speaking English, the subtitles were in Spanish. When they spoke Spanish, the subtitles were in English.

The entirety of the translated subtitles were written by student Jayden Lopez. There were over 800 slides throughout the play.

The goal of this was to make the performance more accessible for all members of the community.

"We decided we wanted to make it ultra-accessible so we projected the translations of the languages," Director Bevan Brunelle said.

The students involved in the play were grateful for the opportunity to incorporate both languages into their perfor-

mances. With so many people in the community who speak Spanish, they felt it was important to have it represented in the play.

"I appreciated that Mrs. Brunelle went out of her way to pick a play that's in English and Spanish because most of our community speaks Spanish," Senior Qua'Nae Golston-Thomas—who played Mrs. Gibbs and Professor Willard—said. "There's been a lot of appreciation for the multilingual aspect of the play from the community."

Bevan Brunelle also credited the Dual Language Program for its inadvertent assistance in allowing the performance to occur.

"One of the students in the play is speaking in Spanish in the play and one of the only reasons she knows Spanish is because of the Dual Language Program," Brunelle said. "And she is fluently speaking Spanish on stage."

The community was greatly supportive of this performance. The cast and crew of the play appreciated everyone who came out to see this production.

See THEATER, page 11



Michael Rivera-Pagan (Dr. Gibbs), Alaina Vargas (Emily Webb) and Qua'Nae Golston-Thomas (Mrs. Gibbs and Professor Willard) looked forward to the performance ahead.

Turley photo by Quinn Suomala

## Activation an 'eye-opening' experience for Velis

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

Senator and Major in the National Guard John Velis was activated early in the month of October to assist with Massachusetts' Emergency Assistance Shelter System.

During this time period, his office remained fully open and operational. After Velis had completed his National Guard duty shifts, he would receive updates from the office so he could stay on top of all the issues in the district.

"At the end of the day I did and could pick up my phone and call my chief of staff and get my whole team on there to ask what is out there, what are the issues, what is going on," Velis said. "I was keeping up to speed on all the issues."

Velis, who represents



John Velis

Holyoke and Agawam as part of his multi-community district in Hampden and Hampshire counties, said this activation stood out from his past experiences as the work he did tied in with an issue he is working with as a state senator.

"What's fascinating about this activation is that it directly correlates with what I would argue is the biggest, most robust debate and issue we have in the Commonwealth right now," Velis said.

"What I was able to see and observe with my own eyes as Major Velis in the National Guard helped me get an incredible understanding when I took that uniform off and put my suit and tie back on and put on my State Senator John Velis uniform."

The activation put him in direct contact with migrant fam-

See ACTIVATION, page 12

## Roca and DoorDash partner to offer local communities resources and support

By Dalton Zbierski  
dzbierski@turley.com

HOLYOKE -- Roca, Inc., a Massachusetts-based non-profit organization dedicated to disrupting incarceration, poverty and racism by promoting hope and driving change, has partnered with DoorDash to provide support for residents in need across the state.

Through its Community Credits Program, established in 2021, DoorDash has committed to donating Roca \$3,000 in gift cards to support its programming and community engagement. This represents Roca's first corporate funding partnership.

Roca works to achieve its mission by engaging young adults, police and the systems at the center of urban violence in relationships to address trauma and make an impact. Roca has five sites in Massachusetts, including Holyoke, Springfield, Boston, Chelsea and Lynn; it also has a location in Baltimore, MD.

The Holyoke site is located at 384 High St.

Roca currently serves 103 young women in Western Massachusetts and 126 young men in Holyoke alone, said Chris Judd, Roca's vice president of individual and corporate giving.

"Having these community credits is a gamechanger," Judd said. "I think it's important I emphasize that our young people, not only being at the highest risk, are also very transient population. A lot of times, a lot of young mothers are in shelters, or, for young men, they're couch surfing and not always in a great living situation."

Roca can use the community credits to encourage young people to visit the facilities and attend programming. To make a difference, Judd said it is important to first get people through the doors.

"Sometimes, having these tokens will give them some incentive as well," Judd said. "We can say, 'Hey, your next

meal is on us,' instead of them having to worry if their baby has (enough to eat)."

DoorDash launched its Community Credits Program to help empower local organizations such as Roca and work with those in need. DoorDash Public Engagement Manager Darrel Davis said his team met with Roca earlier this year to learn more about the organization's mission and the communities it serves and left impressed.

"Just hearing from Roca, we were able to understand that these gift cards can definitely help them make a greater impact on the folks they interact with directly," Davis said. "From our perspective, this was really about how we could come together to support a really great community organization that's doing amazing work across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts."

Davis said community is

See RESOURCES, page 12

## In The News

# Holyoke Community College to host first fall graduate reception

HOLYOKE – For the first time in its 77-year history, Holyoke Community College will celebrate its fall semester graduates with a special reception on Wed., Nov. 29.

HCC's inaugural Fall Graduate Reception will run from 5-7 p.m. on the main HCC campus, beginning in HCC's Leslie Phillips Theater for the official ceremony and continuing over appetizers and activities in the PeoplesBank Conference Room on the third floor of HCC's Kittredge Center for Business and Workforce Development.

"This will be a family-friendly event

with food, photo opportunities, and fun as we recognize the accomplishments of HCC students who will complete their graduation requirements by the end of December and the fall 2023 semester," said Sharale Mathis, vice president of Academic and Student Affairs.

According to the HCC Registrar's Office, 172 HCC students will be fall 2023 semester graduates, many of whom will transfer to four-year schools for the spring 2024 semester. Although fall graduates are always invited to attend HCC's formal Commencement ceremony in the spring, historically, many choose not to

attend.

"Our goal with this ceremony is to celebrate our fall graduates, strengthen their connection to HCC in the hopes that they will remain engaged with the college and attend our 76th Commencement ceremony on Saturday, June 1, 2024," Mathis said. "I'm excited for this. I think everyone is excited about it."

During the first part of the event in the Leslie Phillips Theater, new President George Timmons will offer some welcome remarks, followed by student speakers Alannah Brunt, a Latinx Studies major from Springfield, and Marcos

Figuroa, a Communications, Media, and Theater Arts major from Holyoke. Julie Phillips, director of Institutional Development, will welcome the fall graduates as new members of HCC's Alumni Association.

About 5:45 p.m., students and their families will be directed to the PeoplesBank Conference Room for appetizers, activities, and photo opportunities, and to collect their free HCC swag bag.

Like spring Commencement, the Nov. 29 event will be livestreamed on the HCC website for those who cannot attend: [hcc.edu](http://hcc.edu)



## Be safe cooking this holiday season

WORCESTER – The holiday season is almost here, and it is a time when home cooking activities are at their peak. Unfortunately, all this cooking leads to a related peak in cooking fires, says Donny McKendall of SERVPRO of South Worcester. Cooking fires are responsible for nearly half of all home fires, according to the National Fire Protection Association.

"To help keep your holidays from, literally, going up in smoke, it's critical to know and use safe cooking practices," says McKendall.

According to the NFPA, Thanksgiving is the leading day of the year for home cooking fires, with more than three times the daily average for such incidents. The NFPA urges home cooks to take some basic safety steps to help prevent cooking fires. Keep your cooking area clean and keep anything that can

burn (dish towels, oven mitts, packaging) at least three feet away from cooking equipment. Keep a close eye on what's cooking, setting a timer to help you monitor foods with longer cooking times. Keep in mind that the leading contributing factor to cooking fires and to fire deaths overall is unattended cooking, so plan to be at home and in or near the kitchen at all times when cooking.

"For those who use a turkey fryer to cook their Thanksgiving bird," says McKendall, "it's important to note that more than two-thirds of home cooking fires begin with the ignition of cooking materials, including food, fat, and grease. The NFPA strongly discourages the use of these fryers. They use large amounts of oil at high temperatures, which can lead to the type of fire seen here. If you do use one, follow all placement, use, and safety instructions carefully."

## Holiday open house at Wistariahurst Museum next weekend

HOLYOKE – Embrace the magic of the holiday season at Wistariahurst's Holiday Open House and Festive Market on Dec. 2 and 3 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. During this captivating weekend, the museum will be decorated with the season's splendor and festive cheer. The event features a festive market with local vendors to jump-start holiday shopping. The local vendors will offer an array of products such as art, delicious treats, jewelry, and many other amazing items

that will be perfect for your holiday gift exchanges this year. Throughout the event, people of all ages will be able to enjoy holiday story time, an exciting festive model train, sample tasty treats, and groove to your favorite holiday tunes.

"Our Holiday Open House is the event I look forward to most throughout the year," Megan Seiler, museum director said "It's so delightful to see everyone filled with excitement for the

holidays, and to celebrate that with them inside our museum is amazing."

Wistariahurst Museum's Holiday Open House and Festive Market truly offers something for everyone. The event is a time for celebration and a time to make cherished memories, admission to this event absolutely free and open to the public.

Please visit <https://wistariahurst.org/events/holiday-open-house-festive-market/> to learn more about this event.

## NAMI joins in on Giving Tuesday

HOLYOKE – GivingTuesday is a global generosity movement, unleashing the power of people and organizations. GivingTuesday will kick off the generosity season this year by inspiring people to give back on Nov. 28, and throughout the year.

This year GivingTuesday is more important to your Western Mass community than ever before as there's been an ever-increasing demand for NAMI-WM's services. Therefore, we are asking the community to support us on this special day of global generosity.

Those who are interested in donating to NAMI Western Massachusetts' GivingTuesday initiative can visit [www.namiwm.org](http://www.namiwm.org).

NAMI-WM provides advocacy, education, support and public awareness so that all those affected by mental health conditions can build better lives.

## Annual tree lighting and parade of lights scheduled for Dec. 2

HOLYOKE – Join Mayor Joshua Garcia and the Holyoke Parks and Recreation Department as the City hosts its Annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Parade of Lights celebration on Saturday, Dec. 2. Enjoy unlimited free rides at the Holyoke Merry Go Round from 3 to 5 p.m.

The Children's Museum will also be

open and offering holiday crafts. From 5 to 6 p.m. at City Hall, warm up with hot chocolate, cookies and popcorn. Enjoy a performance by the Ambassador's Choir of First Lutheran Church and Holyoke High School Madrigal Choir. Garcia will light the Christmas Tree at 6 p.m. Watch the Parade of Lights depart from the Holyoke

High School parking lot at 5:45 p.m., traveling to Hampshire Street over to High Street arriving at City Hall. Wave to Santa as he arrives on the Fire Truck. Enjoy a performance by Bomba de Aquí. For more information, please contact the Holyoke Parks and Recreation Department at 413-322-5620 or visit [www.holyoke.org](http://www.holyoke.org).



Join us for  
**St. Peter's  
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# City's planning office offering help for small businesses

**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 summa-

ries 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](mailto:keittj@holyoke.org) or [vegaa@holyoke.org](mailto:vegaa@holyoke.org) (413) 322-5655.

## Community meal hosted on Dec. 8

**HOLYOKE** – A taste of Italy is coming to the United Congregational Church of Holyoke in December. Lasagna is on the menu at UCCH's monthly Community Meal on Friday, Dec. 8 at 5 p.m. 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. For individuals who would like to learn more about UCCH, please visit the website at [www.uccholyoke.org](http://www.uccholyoke.org), find us on Facebook or Instagram, or call the office at 413-532-1483, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## Library announces upcoming events

**HOLYOKE** – The elegant building at 159 Chestnut St. turns 155 years old in 2023. It was once the home of James Newton of the entrepreneurial Newton brothers and later the Holyoke Club. It is currently the Holyoke Day Nursery. Come learn about the biography and residents of one of Holyoke's oldest homes in this second annual "House through Time" presentation by local historian Robert Comeau on Thursday, Nov. 16 at 6 p.m. in the Community Room at Holyoke Public Library.

On Wednesday, Nov. 15, from 2

to 4 p.m. come try drop-in genealogy with Hillary Schau. Bring family history questions to our new drop-in sessions with professional genealogists. This week, experienced genealogist Hillary Schau will be at HPL in the afternoon. A born problem-solver with a past career in engineering and teaching, Schau will offer free consultations to anyone who drops in during this time. The History Room's books, maps, and historical collections will all be available. This event is free. Please sign in for a consult when first arriving.

## 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.

### 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  
[tcbaill@jud.state.ma.us](mailto:tcbaill@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

**SOCIAL SECURITY Matters**  
By Russell Gloor



## Can I voluntarily suspend my Social Security payments?

Dear Rusty

My wife retired in 2015 and is receiving Social Security. I am past my full retirement age and I still work. I recently filed for Social Security benefits and received my first payment earlier this month and my benefits are around three times my wife's. I now find that, due to other income, I am having some regrets about filing for Social Security, as the taxes will be complicated. So, my questions are:

If I do a "Voluntary Suspension", can my wife still apply to get up to 50% of my benefits, or do I have to be "actively" receiving Social Security benefits? In other words, does the "Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015" prevent this?

If I do a "Voluntary Suspension", how soon could I "restart" my benefits?

Signed: Having Second Thoughts

Dear Second Thoughts

The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 closed a loophole which previously allowed someone to file for their Social Security retirement benefit in order for their marital partner to claim a spousal benefit, after which the primary beneficiary could suspend their own benefit and allow it to grow to maximum at age 70. That "file and suspend" option went away in April of 2016; thus, your wife cannot claim her spousal benefit while your Social Security retirement benefits are suspended you must be "actively" receiving benefits for your wife to get benefits on your record.

Nevertheless, because you've already reached your full retirement age, you can voluntarily suspend your benefit payments at any time to allow it to continue growing by simply calling Social Security at your local office or at the national number 1-800-772-1213 and asking them to do so. Your wife will not receive her spousal benefits for any months your benefits are suspended, but she would continue to get her own SS retirement amount, only the spousal portion of her monthly amount would be suspended.

You will be able to restart your benefits at any time by calling Social Security again and asking that your benefits be resumed. You can suspend and restart your benefits as needed (no restriction on how many times), but they will only start/resume the suspension effective with the month following the month you call. And, as you likely already know, for each month your benefits are suspended you will earn Delayed Retirement Credits resulting in a higher payment amount later.

Just for clarity, voluntary suspension of benefits is only available to those who have reached full retirement age but is an excellent way to increase your monthly Social Security payment. Your benefit will grow by .667% for each month suspended and, if your benefit is still suspended when you turn 70 years old, Social Security will automatically resume payments at that time, at your higher maximum monthly amount.

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](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org). Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC. . NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website [amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org).



Guest Column

## Garland and wreaths a fun DIY project

*in the*  
**Garden**  
by Roberta McQuaid



I spent the morning wrapping garland around lampposts in preparation for Old Sturbridge Village's "Christmas by Candlelight" program.

Although I used to balk at decorating prior to Thanksgiving, it's a must at work, where so much needs to be ready for the first day of the program, next Friday, Nov. 24. The garland is beautiful- a mix of cedar and fir.

The smell of the cedar isn't at all familiar from my childhood Christmases, but I love it as an adult. What makes the garland so pretty is the variation in textures.

After the decorations are up at the Village, I turn to decorating at home. I love to sit on the floor of my living room with all types of greens strewn before me on an old bed sheet.

I make a wreath or two for our house and I always make one to give to a dear friend as an annual birthday present.

I encourage you to try your hand at

wreath and garland making. It's really the same principle, with one made on a circular frame and the other made on a cord of ribbon or rope the length you need for decorating.

As mentioned, the key to success in wreath and garland-making is having a variety of greens to choose from. From airy white pine to rigid spruce, wispy arborvitae to dense juniper, pointy-leaved holly to minute boxwood, all look great together.

Balsam and fir tips pruned from the Christmas tree are a logical addition. Then add some budded Pieris, gilded birch branches and voila! - you have a unique combination.

Top it off with pinecones, winterberries and even sumac for a stunning grouping.

It's not hard to find different types of greens. First, scour your neighborhood.

Many of the plants I mentioned make their homes in our landscapes. I regularly prune this time of year purposely to use the clippings in my decorating.

The key to a good cut is not to leave stubs- always snip next to a side branch.

Cemeteries and vacant lots are also great spots to get a variety of greens. But be sure to ask permission beforehand.

Regardless, kindly take only what you need and space your cuts out evenly around

See GARDEN, page 5

*in my*  
**BACKYARD**  
By Ellenor Downer




Song sparrow

I received an email from a Brimfield resident. He said he had a few song sparrows in his yard in late October along with white-throated sparrows.

The song sparrow is six inches long and has a whitish breast with brown streaks. A distinguishing mark is a black, central spot on its chest. The song sparrow's crown is reddish brown and it has gray eyebrows. Its tail is long and rounded. Song sparrows feed on the ground eating seeds, insects and some fruit.

This sparrow's song is a few repeated notes followed by a rich and varied warble. Its call includes a "tsp" and "tchump." The female lays three to five greenish, white eggs with dark marks in a cup like nest of grasses and occasionally leaves. She place the nest on the ground, in a shrub or weeds.

The male song sparrow defines his territory by singing from prominent perches in about 1/2 to 1 1/2 acres. The male chases the female away when she first arrives and reduces the amount of his singing. Courtship includes male diving at the female and her making a trill like call.

Song sparrows inhabit dense shrubs at the edge of open areas such as fields, yards and streams. They inhabit this area year round.

See BACKYARD, page 5

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## A Quote

OF NOTE

"Thanksgiving Day is a good day to recommit our energies to giving thanks and just giving."

Amy Grant

## 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](mailto:thesun@turley.com). Mailed letters can be sent to *The Sun*, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

**GARDEN**, from page 4

the plant.

Making a wreath is easy. Start with a wire coat hanger opened up into a circle.

Attach some pliable wire to it - 22 gauge is a good choice. Then, wrap little bunches of greens to the base one after another.

Be careful to lay them alongside, not on top of each other. You can make a wreath of just one type of green at a time, or make mixed "bouquets" for your bunches.

When you reach the end of the wreath, hide the last bunch under the first and secure the wire. You can easily make a loop for hanging, or use the hook that

came with the coat hanger.

You can attach a bow to the front and insert some berries or pinecones on wire picks to jazz it up a bit.

Garland making follows the same principle. Working on a taut cording or rope is important for success.

If you are going to be making a lot of garland I recommend "tying off" the ends of the cording or securing them somehow to your work surface. I've done it with duct tape or with the cord knotted to nails in my work bench.

For me, working in a left to right manner seems natural. I use the pliable wire to secure the bunches of greens one after the other to the cording.

Sometimes I wait to embellish the

garland with cones or berries until after it is set up around my doorway or wrapped around the lamp post. That way you'll be sure they aren't hidden or bending funny.

I hope that you will be encouraged to try your hand at wreath or garland making this year! It's quickly become one of my favorite Christmas traditions and it can be the same for you, too!

*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.*

**STATE AUDITOR'S UPDATE**

**Reforms sorely needed at the Sex Offender Registry Board**

**By Diana DiZoglio**  
Massachusetts State Auditor

Serving as Massachusetts State Auditor doesn't just mean reviewing finances.

A big part of my role, as I often speak about with folks across the state, is reviewing the performance and efficacy of the Commonwealth's agencies and entities. A great example of the responsibility to look beyond number crunching is our office's recently released audit of the Sex Offender Registry Board.

People are familiar with the concept that Massachusetts registers convicted sex offenders, maintaining a database of where such people live and work in an effort to maintain public safety. This system of public safety is maintained by SORB, a seven-member board appointed by the Governor and staffed by more than 70 individuals.

Our recent audit looked at SORB's operations from July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2021. Covering that two-year period, my team honed in on whether SORB classified sex offenders at least 10 days before they were released from custody, thus ensuring they were assigned an appropriate level.

See REFORMS, page 6

**BACKYARD**, from page 4



Cedar waxwings

**Other Brimfield birds**

The Brimfield resident said he had juncos and one golden crown and one ruby-crowned kinglet. He also saw four male Eastern bluebirds, a pair of house finches and juncos. He said, "The 'best' sighting was a male American kestrel. It was perched on a wire, flew to a tree and then down into the grass where it caught what looked like a mouse or vole."

**Cedar waxwings**

My daughter and family saw a flock of cedar waxwings eating berries in Granby near Horse Caves.

**Pond birds**

The Brimfield resident did a tour of some ponds in Brimfield, Sturbridge and Warren recently. He reported lots of Canada geese, but not a lot of ducks other than mallards. He saw two-ringed necked ducks in Warren and a robin eating fruit from a mountain ash tree.

He compiled a list of birds seen Nov.

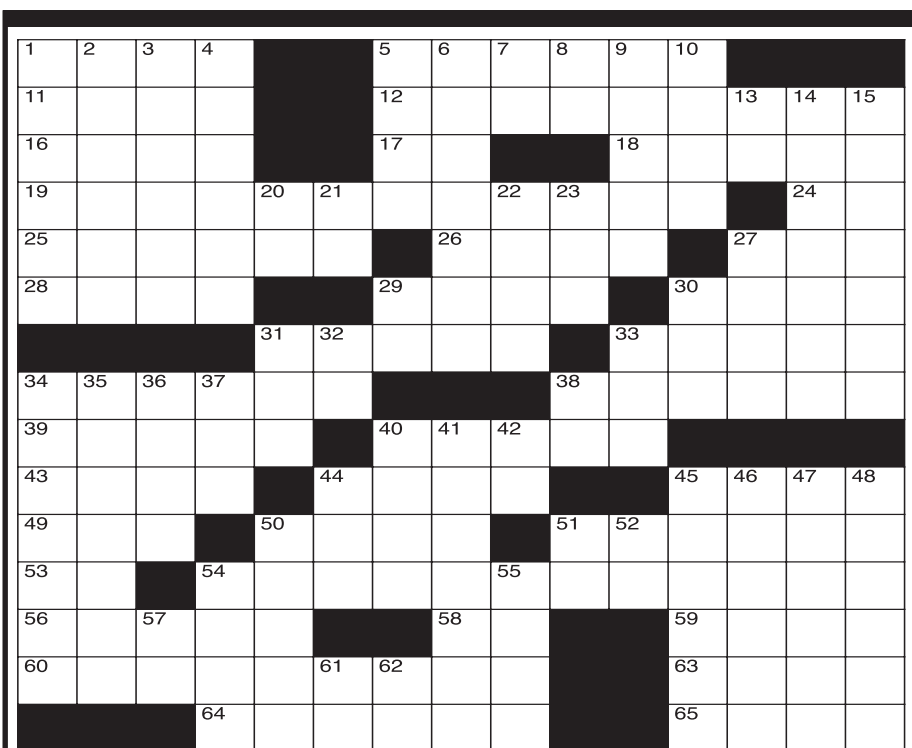
18 in Brimfield, Sturbridge and Warren. It included 33 mallards, 76 Canada geese, a pair of hooded mergansers (male and female), two great blue herons and two mourning doves.

**Feeders**

I still have not put out my suet feeder until I am sure the black bears are hibernating. I have lost too many suet feeders to black bears; they either destroy them or take off with them. There must be a pile of them in the woods somewhere.

I do put some bird seed out during the day, but I only put a small amount for the birds. I include shelled peanuts as the tufted titmice, woodpeckers and blue jays love them. Yes, the squirrels do as well.

*People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.*



**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Nocturnal S. American rodent
- 5. Requesting
- 11. Give temporarily
- 12. Happiness
- 16. Military branch
- 17. - \_ \_ denotes past
- 18. Middle Eastern city
- 19. Air hostesses
- 24. Partner to Pa
- 25. Percussion instrument
- 26. Popular computers
- 27. Decrease light
- 28. Valley in the Osh Region
- 29. "To \_ his own"
- 30. Absence of difficulty
- 31. Notice announcing intended marriage read out in church
- 33. Trims by cutting
- 34. Impact
- 38. Military member
- 39. A French river
- 40. Member of prehistoric people in Mexico

- 43. Messenger ribonucleic acid
- 44. Musician Clapton
- 45. Greek sophist
- 49. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
- 50. Narrow valley
- 51. A way to disentangle
- 53. Indicates not an issue (abbr.)
- 54. Recommending
- 56. Genus of legumes
- 58. Friend to Larry and Curly
- 59. Off-Broadway theater award
- 60. Fencers
- 63. Small Eurasian deer
- 64. Denoting passerine birds
- 65. Separate by category

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Colorless fluid part of blood
- 2. Of a main artery

- 3. Photographic equipment
- 4. Confirms a point
- 5. Developed over time
- 6. Not the leader
- 7. \_ \_ Lang (country singer)
- 8. Adults need one
- 9. Nests of pheasants
- 10. Antelopes
- 13. One quintillion bytes (abbr.)
- 14. Japanese three-stringed lute
- 15. Type of cat
- 20. Cools your home
- 21. The ancient Egyptian sun god
- 22. Pouches
- 23. Trigraph
- 27. Form of Persian spoken in Afghanistan
- 29. \_ route
- 30. Body part
- 31. Bridge building degree
- 32. Indicates position
- 33. Political action

- committee
- 34. Tasty snack
- 35. Part of a quadruped
- 36. Locate
- 37. Pitching statistic
- 38. Of I
- 40. City in Utah
- 41. Football players in the trenches
- 42. Hammer is one
- 44. A "nightmarish" street
- 45. Performers
- 46. Slang for cut or scrape
- 47. More breathable
- 48. Most slick
- 50. Provokes
- 51. Home to college's Flyers
- 52. Sodium
- 54. Large fish of mackerel family
- 55. Zero
- 57. \_ \_ and behold
- 61. The Palmetto State
- 62. Popular Tom Cruise movie franchise (abbr.)

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page ????????

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**Marcus Kosnicki**  
June 5, 2022  
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- Sentinel
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- Ware River News
- The Wilbraham-Hampden Times

**Deadline for photos and forms is Friday, December 6, 2023**

# Firefighters graduate from Mass. Firefighting Academy

SPRINGFIELD – State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine and Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Director Jeffrey P. Winn announced the graduation of 25 firefighters from the 50-day Career Recruit Firefighting Training Program.

Local graduates are Collin Stevenson of the Northampton Fire Department and Jacklyn O'Brien of the Westfield Fire Department.

"Massachusetts firefighters are on the frontlines protecting their communities every day, and today's graduates are needed now more than ever," said State Fire Marshal Davine. "The hundreds of hours of foundational training they've received will provide them with the physical, mental, and technical skills to perform their jobs effectively and safely."

"Massachusetts Firefighting Academy instructors draw on decades of experience in the fire service to train new recruits," said Director Winn. "Through consistent classroom instruction and practical exercises, today's graduates have developed the tools they'll need to work seamlessly with



Graduates of Class #S34 represent 14 Massachusetts Fire Departments.

Submitted photo

veteran firefighters in their home departments and in neighboring communities as mutual aid." The graduating firefighters of

Class #S34 represent the fire departments of Attleboro, Charlton, Chicopee, Douglas, East Longmeadow, Falmouth, Longmeadow, Lowell, Northampton, Uxbridge, Ware, West Springfield, Westfield, and Westminster.

Students receive classroom training in all basic firefighter skills. They practice first under non-fire conditions and then during controlled fire conditions. To graduate, students must demonstrate proficiency in life safety, search and rescue, ladder operations, water supply, pump operation, and fire attack. Fire attack operations range from mailbox fires to multiple-floor or multiple-room structural fires. Upon successful completion of the Career Recruit Program, all students have met the national standards of NFPA 1001, Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications, and are certified to the levels of Firefighter I/II and Hazardous Materials First Responder Operations by the Massachusetts Fire Training Council, which is accredited by the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications.

## REFORMS, from page 5

Further, we looked at whether SORB used all the resources at their disposal to accurately identify sex offenders who were in violation of maintaining their registration.

I was disappointed to find that SORB underperformed in a way that could have a negative impact upon the public.

While incarcerated sex offenders are supposed to be assigned a classification at least 10 days prior to their release, per state law, SORB failed to do so with approximately 1/3 of those released during our two-year review window. More concerning, 77 offenders didn't receive their classification until after they were released.

This lax approach to the law meant those sex offenders' names, addresses,

offenses, and registration statuses were not appropriately posted to SORB's website for level 2 and 3 sex offenders and were not otherwise available to the public.

Our audit team also identified other vulnerabilities regarding how SORB tracked offenders who have been released from incarceration. Namely, SORB's database was not kept up to date in all situations, with approximately one out of five offenders showing incorrect addresses when compared against records maintained by other state departments (such as the addresses the Department of Transitional Assistance records).

Part of the benefit of SORB is that it tracks the location of high level offenders. By not ensuring that it has the current addresses of sex offenders considered in violation, SORB is not able to consistently communicate information about sex

offenders' whereabouts, their offenses, and their classifications to local law enforcement agencies and the general public.

What's disturbing is that some of these issues were identified the last time my predecessor audited SORB. These issues must be immediately addressed.

Our office has recommended that SORB increase their collaboration with correctional facilities to establish more reliable procedures for providing anticipated release dates for incarcerated offenders. We've also recommended the implementation of a tracking process that identifies any delays or issues that may arise, to ensure that all sex offenders are assigned final classifications prior to each offender's release.

For ensuring residential address accuracy, SORB needs to not only work more closely with other state agencies to verify

addresses – SORB must also make a point of updating those addresses in their system when they are found.

We will continue to work with SORB and encourage their adoption of practices that maximize public safety.

As always, please feel free to contact my office at any time for more information at auditor@sao.state.ma.us and 617-727-2075.

The Office of State Auditor Diana DiZoglio conducts audits, investigations, and studies to promote accountability and transparency, improve performance, and make government work better. DiZoglio is the 26th Auditor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, sworn into her first term on Jan. 18, 2023. She is committed to help move Massachusetts forward by working to increase transparency and accountability in state government.

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## College

### Owls win conference title

WESTFIELD – Westfield State junior Delaney Parker (Orange, Mass.) delivered the game-winning goal with 24 minutes left in regulation to lift the Owls to a 2-1, come from behind win over top-seeded Bridgewater State in the 2023 Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference championship game at Mazzaferro Field in Bridgewater earlier this month.

Westfield earns the league's automatic bid to the NCAA Division III Tournament with the win.

For Westfield, it's the Owls third straight, and 10th overall MASCAC tournament title, all coming in the last 16 years under current Owls head coach Todd Ditmar.

"It shows how old I am," joked Ditmar. "I think we have talented players, they all have good attitudes and it makes it easy to coach them. Players just want the opportunity to get on the field and show how good they are."

Westfield fell behind on a fluky first goal from the Bears just 6:38 into the match. Granted a free kick from near midfield, Bridgewater's Sydney Dewhurst launched a long ball into the penalty area which appeared to

See OWLS, page 8



Ilan Rivera Soler ranges toward the right sideline.



Martin Phillips drops back.



Zephaniah Williams returns the ball.



Asa Allen heads through the middle on a carry.

### Offense brings it in football win

HOLYOKE – After a season of many struggles, Holyoke High School football won its second game of the season. The Knights defeated Commerce in Week 10 on Thursday, Nov. 9 at home.

Holyoke's offense, which struggled to put up points all season, was able to score six times in the 42-0 shutout. The defense was outstanding, keeping Commerce off the board.

Holyoke faces South Hadley in its annual Thanksgiving holiday game.



Avantaey navigates through traffic on a run. Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Manny Rivera lets go of a shot.



Trent Leary makes his way down the court.

### Knights cap off unified season with jamboree

HOLYOKE – The Unified basketball team was able to have a couple more games as they participated in a jamboree event

hosted by the Special Olympics last Thursday at Holyoke High School.

Holyoke has had unified

basketball for the several years and many participants will now look forward to the upcoming track season in the spring.



The team gets a pep talk at halftime.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

# Basketball Hall of Fame creates new award with Ice Cube

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame and ground-breaking rap star, renowned blockbuster film producer and actor, entrepreneur, and co-founder of the BIG3 basketball league, Ice Cube, are thrilled to announce a pioneering partnership culminating in the creation of the inaugural Ice Cube Impact Award.

This unique collaboration is set to honor Ice Cube's extraordinary contributions to the world of basketball, his unparalleled passion for the game, and his unwavering commitment to encouraging crucial dialogues surrounding inclusivity, equal opportunity, and racial and social justice while contributing to initiatives focused on education and community development.

"The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame Award named in my honor is truly remarkable, and words alone can't express my gratitude for this recogni-

tion from such a prestigious organization," said Ice Cube, a lifelong Lakers fan who grew up playing basketball at the Inglewood YMCA. "Having an award bearing my name only intensifies my commitment to advancing inclusivity and equal opportunity in sports, alongside my unwavering dedication to community activism."

The Naismith Hall of Fame will permanently house and amplify the Ice Cube Impact Award in its museum and honor subsequent award winners each year through a dedicated exhibit and in-depth storytelling about honorees who use basketball as a platform for good works in their own communities.



"Ice Cube's unquestionable passion for the game and his desire to see it utilized as a catalyst for positive impact on communities are unwavering," said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. "His sphere of influence in both the entertainment industry and in the professional sports arena brings remarkable authenticity and value to this award. We are delighted to join hands with Ice Cube as he leverages his love of the game to inspire others. The Ice Cube Impact Award will stand as a testament to the power of basketball and the profound impact it can have on communities worldwide."

Ice Cube's remarkable journey through the world of basketball has had

a profoundly transforming effect. As the visionary founder of the BIG3, he created a professional league built on the game's proven bests--Hall of Famers, World Champions, and All-Stars. The BIG3 has launched and revitalized careers and opened doors for all players and coaches who wish to continue to positively contribute to the game in a format that captures the hearts and imagination of fans nationwide. His unique and innovative approach to the game, which incorporates elements of streetball and professional basketball, also showcases the immense power of sports in uniting communities, as exemplified by the Young3 program focusing on youth in underserved areas.

The Ice Cube Impact Award will be presented to Ice Cube at the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame on Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Monday, January 15, 2024) in Springfield, Massachusetts.

## Worcester Railers pick up win over Newfoundland Growlers

ST JOHNS, NL – The Worcester Railers HC (4-5-1-1, 10pts) toppled the Newfoundland Growlers (5-5-2-0, 12pts) on Nov. 12 in overtime by the final score of 2-1 in front of a crowd of 4,284 at the Mary Brown's Centre.

Trevor Cosgrove (1-1-2) broke open the scoring for Worcester in the first, putting Worcester ahead 1-0 after one. Zach O'Brien (1-0-1) scored for Newfoundland in his return to the Growlers lineup for the first time this season. Ashton Calder scored his second game-winner in three games for Worcester in overtime as the Railers came out on top to wrap up the weekend, 2-1.

The Railers scored the game's first goal for the third time this season, as Trevor Cosgrove (1st) danced through the defense to beat Luke Cavallin in net for Newfoundland glove side. Zach White would drop the gloves with former Railer Josh Victor twenty seconds later. Worcester was outshot in the first period 13-10, but led at the end of twenty minutes, 1-0.

Zach O'Brien (1st) returned to the Growlers lineup for the first time this season after playing in Slovakia to start the season and potted his first goal since returning in the second. He grabbed the rebound off the post on the power play and patted it past Lennox to tie the game heading into the third at 1-1.

Worcester suffocated Newfoundland in the third, taking the period's first fifteen shots while preventing the growlers from getting their first until there was just seven minutes left in regulation. Zach White was awarded a penalty shot in the third but failed to capitalize as the game remained 1-1. Grant Cruikshank committed a tripping penalty late in the third period which sent Worcester to the power play to end regulation.

Ashton Calder (6th) found the puck along the near side just 13 seconds into overtime and ended up slapping the puck top-shelf past Cavallin to give Worcester their second win on the weekend, and four out of a possible six points against Newfoundland.

## Thunderbirds fall in 'School Day' game

HARTFORD, Conn. – The Springfield Thunderbirds (7-6-1-0) the Hartford Wolf Pack (7-3-2-0) on Wednesday morning inside the XL Center.



The Wolf Pack took a page out of Springfield's school day playbook and came out with an offensive flourish in the opening 20 minutes. Just 5:05 into the festivities, and just under 15 seconds after beginning their first power play, the Pack man-advantage took a 1-0 lead on a tap-in goal on the near post by Hartford captain Jonny Brodzinski.

Just under six minutes later, Brodzinski became the passer, as he filtered a perfect pass to the slot area from the trapezoid, and Alex Belzile cashed in to make it 2-0 at 10:59.

Hartford's offensive blitz did not end there, and Adam Sykora got his first goal of the season, cruising down the slot to beat Vadim Zherenko over the shoulder at 18:53 to give the Wolf Pack a 3-0 lead at intermission.

The T-Birds could not find any puck luck in the second period, as a

Hugh McGing chance on a 2-on-1 caught the crossbar early in the period. Later on, Nikolas Brouillard found his way to the crease area to jam a rebound through Zherenko on the backhand at 12:58 of the period, extending the lead to 4-0.

At the other end, Louis Domingue had been perfect until an innocent-looking wrist shot from the right circle off the stick of Mathias Laferriere slipped through the veteran's legs at 15:20 of the period, finally getting Springfield on the board and narrowing the lead to 4-1 heading into the third. It was Laferriere's first goal of the season, with Zach Dean and MacKenzie MacEachern picking up the helpers.

Unfortunately for the T-Birds, the goal would only be a footnote, as Hartford extended back to a four-goal lead on a deflection tally from Adam Edstrom at 5:44 of the third to round out the scoring. Zherenko battled throughout and finished with 32 saves. Domingue needed to make just 23 saves for Hartford.

## OWLS, from page 7

be misjudged by Owls GK Julia Robak (Chicopee, Mass./Comp), who slipped a bit while changing direction to come off her line, and the ball skipped into the right side of the goal on one hop.

"We wanted to start strong and play good possession, and I was worried we could take a step back after the early goal," said Ditmar. "Bridgewater is an intimidating team, Dewhurst is a force, and we were like 'oh no!'"

Westfield had several good chances to level the match before the half, but a long shot from Parker was saved by Bears' keeper Logan Levesque in the 22nd minute, then in the 24th minute Emily Ottomaniello's (Agawam, Mass.) header off of a free kick was saved.

Dewhurst had another good attack up middle of the Owls' defense before the break, but her shot from top of box was saved by Robak to keep the defi-

cit at one.

"We put some good pressure on, but were attacking straight on, needed to attack from the wings and try to move their goalkeeper," said Ditmar. "At the half we talked about changing formation, but the players wanted to keep with it and said it was working."

Tournament MVP Kiana Maratsuka (Mililani, Hawaii) got the Owls on the board, and leveled the game at 1-1 with a free kick blast from 31 yards out, well-placed over the wall and into top left corner of the goal off the hands of goalkeeper Levesque, 7:18 into the second half.

"After Kiana got the goal, you could see that they were more anxious and we were more relaxed, that was huge momentum change," said Ditmar. "I think it really helped to see we could get one past their goalie, who is really good, and our players stepped up and believed in themselves, and our bench was supportive and positive throughout."

Parker's game winner came with 24:19 left to play, as Muratsuka deflected a Bears' attempt to clear the ball, and the high arching deflection wound up on the right side of the penalty area. Muratsuka beat a Bears defender to the ball and slipped it left to Parker, who dribbled through traffic from the right side across the top of the goalkeeper's box and whistled it to the left upper 90 for the goal and the 2-1 Owls' lead.

Westfield's best chance for an insurance goal came when Tia Tollis (East Longmeadow, Mass.) juke a defender but fired a shot just over the top of the crossbar with just under 14 minutes left. Westfield kept the offensive pressure on the Bears for the entirety of the second half.

Bridgewater's best chance to level the game late came when Dewhurst ripped a shot from the top of the penalty area, but her blast was blocked point blank by Owls' defender Jaida Cochran (Middleboro, Mass.) with 3.5 minutes

left in the game.

Westfield outshot the Bears 13-3 overall in the second half, and the Owls didn't allow any shots on goal in the half.

Westfield is now 13-6-1. The Owls will learn their destination and opponent in the NCAA tournament on Monday, when the selection show is streamed at NCAA.com at 1:30 p.m.

Bridgewater's season comes to an end at 11-6-1.

Westfield entered the game as the number two seed. The Owls' lone loss of the conference season came two weeks ago at the feet of the Bears, by a 2-1 final in a game where Westfield had out-shot Bridgewater 23-11.

Today, Westfield out-shot the Bears 23-8 overall and 11-3 in shots on goal. The Owls also recorded four corner kicks to none for Bridgewater.

Levesque finished with nine saves for the Bears, while Robak made three saves for Westfield.



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The City of Holyoke invites written proposals from qualified individuals with DCAMM certification for the removal of existing fire alarm components and furnishing and installing a new fire alarm system meeting all regulations and building codes.

A pre-bid walk through will be held on 12/06/2023 at 10AM in the city hall Annex. Full specs will be available on 11/19/2023 at 12PM EST. They can be requested electronically from [morrowj@holyoke.org](mailto:morrowj@holyoke.org) or [sweeneye@holyoke.org](mailto:sweeneye@holyoke.org). Bid will be received until 11/28/2023 @ 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. 11/24/2023

**Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and  
Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
Docket No. HD23P2328GD**  
**In the matter of:  
Frank Boutin  
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 **MissionCare at Holyoke of Holyoke, MA** in the above captioned matter alleging that **Frank Boutin** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Nancy C. Godbout of Granby, MA** (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** 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 **12/12/2023**. 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: November 14, 2023  
**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
11/24/2023

**Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Probate and  
Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
Docket No. HD23P2316GD**  
**In the matter of:  
Miguel Rodriguez  
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 **Miguel Rodriguez** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that

**Marlene Bedell of Granby, MA**  
**Jennifer Gazda of Holyoke, MA**  
(or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** 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 **12/08/2023**. 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: November 10, 2023  
**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
11/24/2023

**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. HD23A0050AD**  
**In the matter of:  
Keiralyz Liabet Ortiz  
Martinez  
CITATION  
G.L. c. 210, §6**

TO:  
**Daniel Ortiz**  
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:  
**Kiara Maris Martinez Melendez of Holyoke, MA**  
**Jose Fernando Rebollar Maldonado of Holyoke, MA**

requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to **Keiralyz Rebollar Martinez**  
**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: ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON: 12/22/2023.**

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: November 14, 2023

**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
11/24, 12/01, 12/08/2023

**Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and  
Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD23C0338CA**  
**In the matter of:  
Samantha Marie Peters  
CITATION ON PETITION  
TO CHANGE NAME**

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

**Samantha Marie Mckoy**  
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/07/2023.**

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: November 10, 2023

**Rosemary A Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
11/24/2023

Commonwealth of

**Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
Docket No. HD15P0830GD**  
**In the interests of  
Miguel Rodriguez  
Of: Holyoke, MA  
RESPONDENT  
Incapacitated Person/  
Protected Person  
CITATION GIVING  
NOTICE OF  
PETITION FOR  
TERMINATION OF A  
GUARDIAN OF AN  
INCAPACITATED  
PERSON**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF Springfield, MA** in the above captioned matter requesting that the court:

Terminate the Guardianship of the Respondent.

The petition asks the court to make a determination that the Guardian and/or Conservator should be allowed to resign; or should be removed for good cause; or that the Guardianship and/or Conservatorship is no longer necessary and therefore should be terminated. The original petition is on file with the court.

**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 **12/08/2023**. 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 expenses.**

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court  
Date: November 10, 2023

**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
11/24/2023

**City of Holyoke  
Notice of Public Hearing**  
The Holyoke License Board will be holding a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at 5:15 p.m.** You can join via Zoom.com; ID **86978756060**; CALL IN: **\*67 646 558 8656** or in person at **City Hall Annex 20 Korean Veterans Plaza Room 403**, regarding the application for a **Change of Location, Change of License Type and Transfer of an All Annual All Alcohol Liquor License (On-Premises) from A & A Fernandez Inc. DBA Fernandez Family Restaurant, at 161 High Street, to Acemar Leasing Inc. DBA Deja-Vu NightSpot at 414 High Street** pursuant to M.G.L. Ch.138.

Applicant:  
**Jazmin Acevedo Martinez**  
License Board:  
**Anthony Luciano,**  
Chairman  
11/24, 12/01/2023

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

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*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.

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

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

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HILLTOWNS MONDAY AT NOON

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24	Base Price \$28.00	25	Base Price \$28.50	26	Base Price \$29.00
27	Base Price \$29.50	28	Base Price \$30.00	29	Base Price \$30.50
30	Base Price \$31.00	31	Base Price \$31.50	32	Base Price \$32.00
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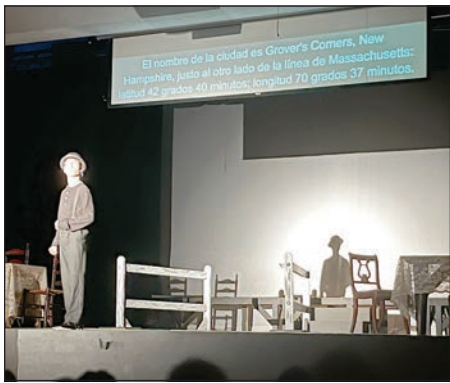
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Mrs. Gibbs (played by Qua'Nae Golston-Thomas) and Mrs. Webb (played by Kelcy Brunelle) chat in Mrs. Webb's garden.



Emily and George (played by Alaina Vargas and Davier Diaz) talk to one another from the window in their rooms.



Aidan Fontanez-Couchesne (Stage Manager) opened the performance of the multilingual version of Our Town.



Michael Rivera-Pagan (Dr. Gibbs) made his first appearance in the performance.



Fynn Maldonado, as Joe Crowell, speaks with Michael Rivera-Pagan (Dr. Gibbs).



Qua'Nae Golston-Thomas and Michael Rivera-Pagan perform as Mrs. and Dr. Gibbs.



The Webb family (played by Alaina Vargas, Kelcy Brunelle and Miguel Daily) make their first appearance on stage.



Mrs. Gibbs (played by Qua'Nae Golston-Thomas) and her children (played by Davier Diaz and Aniya Gomez) begin their morning routine.



The town choir, led by Simon Stimson (played by Fynn Maldonado) goes through their rehearsals.



Professor Willard (played by Qua'Nae Golston-Thomas) speaks about the town, as asked by the Stage Manager (played by Aidan Fontanez-Couchesne).



The Stage Manager (played by Aidan Fontanez-Couchesne) asked Editor Webb (played by Miguel Daily) to add more context to the history of the town.



Emily and George (played by Alaina Vargas and Davier Diaz) interact in the garden, beginning the love story which will continue through the rest of the play.



Dr. Gibbs and Mrs. Gibbs (played by Michael Rivera-Pagan and Qua'Nae Golston-Thomas) have an evening chat.



Dr. Gibbs (played by Michael Rivera-Pagan) speaks to his son, George (played by Davier Diaz) about his recent behavior.

Turley photos by Quinn Suomala

**THEATER**, from page 1

"A lot of people hadn't known that this play was going on...but it still drew a larger audience and that was pretty amazing," Senior Michael Rivera-Pagan—who played Dr. Gibbs—said.

"I think the community has been responding great to all of the hard work that we put in and all of the special little details that we've integrated into the play," Ninth Grader Alaina Vargas—who played Emily Webb—said.

The cast and crew greatly enjoyed the experience of the play as well. Not only were they appreciative of the community support and the multilingual aspect of the play, but they also enjoyed the time they spent with their fellow cast and crew members.

"It's been fun to see all of the new people

come in and see the way they grew as performers and as people," Golston-Thomas said.

For many of those involved in the play it was their first time doing any kind of acting or theater work or it was their first performance at the high school. Brunelle said that the variety of skills did make it a challenge, but she was proud of how well everything came together.

"It's been a really incredible process, we have a lot of really new students in the production, we have students who have been in the theater company for quite a few years, so the experience levels definitely vary and that makes it challenging but also exciting," she said. "We get to see new students coming into the club and kind of rising up."

All involved were proud of the performance that they put on, and they hope to continue doing more multilingual projects in the future.

**WRAP PARTY**



All members of the cast and crew came together for a final cheer before they began their last performance of *Our Town*.  
*Turley photo by Quinn Suomala*



The cast for *Our Town* gathered around to receive their paper plate awards – fun awards created by the cast to give to fellow cast members based on moments that happened throughout the rehearsal process.



The cast gathered around for a warm-up and celebration of the seniors on the cast before their final performance.

**RESOURCES, from page 1**

at the heart of everything that is done at DoorDash, which has been able to partner with more than 200 local, state and national organizations to help enhance programs.

Davis said recipients have informed DoorDash that the gift cards help promote youth development, entrepreneurship, workforce development programs and even vaccinations. He said that year after year, DoorDash has seen the program continue to grow in terms of the number of partners it unites with and supports, as well as understanding the needs of communities.

“We’re trying to fine tune different

ways to keep our Community Credits Program top of mind for organizations, but we’re really proud to be supporting organizations across the commonwealth, including Roca, because it just means so much to the participants of their programs,” Davis said.

Judd said that if she was being honest, she wishes DoorDash could offer more credits, but expressed great appreciation for the donation Roca will receive. She knows it will be significant.

“We’ll be able to give young men and women these credits and say, ‘Here you go. Set yourself up,’” she said. “For a nonprofit that is working with a population that is hard to engage, this is a valuable partnership.”

**ACTIVATION, from page 1**

ilies currently seeking shelter in MA. He worked directly in the hotels that these families were staying in and got to hear their stories for himself.

“It was actually incredibly helpful at a time when we’re having this raging debate about immigration, both here in Massachusetts and beyond,” Velis said. “It gave me a first-hand look about it so I actually think it really, really helped.”

He hopes to use the knowledge he gained throughout this activation to help him lead on this immigration topic in Massachusetts.

Throughout his time service, Velis attended around 20 hotels where people were sheltered. During this time, Velis claims he made a point to really sit down and talk with them about their lives and what their goals were.

“I couldn’t even finish my sentence before they even started answering me or

raising their hand and saying ‘we want to work,’” Velis said. “And that was every single hotel.”

Velis’s goal is to continue moving MA in a direction where the state can support the immigrants coming in so they can become self-sufficient.

“Every decision that we should be making should be guided by one principal and one principal only: is what we are doing making the population more or less self-sufficient,” Velis said.

Velis wants to ensure the state is enacting policies that will allow and encourage the immigrating people to work.

“The sooner they’re self-sufficient, the sooner they can get out and work, the sooner they can afford a place to live and to provide for themselves,” Velis said.

However, one of the biggest difficulties Velis claims the state is encountering with the issue of immigration is the lack of federal support.



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CELEBRATE THE SEASON WITHOUT WORRY

Leave your concerns out in the cold and spend time doing the things you enjoy. No more shoveling or managing heating costs. Day Brook Village Senior Living offers a continuum of care all on one campus. Whether you are looking for a vibrant social community or peace of mind as your health needs change, rest assured Day Brook Village offers it all in one place.

**CALL 413-561-7958 FOR MORE INFORMATION OR SCAN THE CODE TO THE RIGHT TO SCHEDULE A TOUR TODAY!**



**DAY BROOK VILLAGE SENIOR LIVING**  
AN AFFILIATE OF INTEGRITUS HEALTHCARE

298 Jarvis Avenue  
Holyoke, MA 01040  
www.daybrookvillage.org



**INDEPENDENT LIVING • ASSISTANCE IN LIVING • SKILLED NURSING**