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# HOLYOKE the Sun



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## City currently inspecting homes for DOR

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – The Board of Assessors is going through the valuation process in the city.

The board announced on the city's website that inspectors from Mayflower Valuation will be visiting residences throughout city to conduct those inspections over the next several months.

According to the letter issued by the board, "the purposes of these visits is to perform a cyclical inspection to verify that the information on our property record cards is accurate and up-to-date."

Mayflower Valuation data collectors are professionally trained and carry property identification on them and in their vehicles. They also keep a copy of their authorization letter with them as they go from house-to-house.

See HOMES, page 5

## COVID-19 data dashboard ending

Opportunity available to receive \$75 for getting COVID booster

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – As the city moves toward 2023, COVID-19 is being put in the rearview mirror, despite claims it is not.

According to a press release from Mayor Joshua Garcia's office, the city will no longer have a COVID-19 data dashboard on the city's website.

The dashboard was put in place to report public health numbers during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020 all the way through the availability of vaccines and the COVID-19 Delta and Omicron variant and subvariants.

According to the city, "Effective Friday Dec. 2, the Holyoke Board of Health will be removing the City of Holyoke's COVID-19 Data Dashboard from our City website. This move is a reflection not of the pandemic being over, but rather a reflection of

the ever changing needs of our community. At this point in the pandemic, our capacity is more efficiently utilized focusing on normal day-to-day operations that support promotion of wellness, protection of health, and prevention of disease in the City of Holyoke.

"We would like to recognize and thank our partners at MGH-Harvard Global Health that were instrumental in maintaining and creating this wonderful data visualization tool. In particular, the Dashboard would not have been possible without the dedicated work

of Doctor Isabel Fulcher and Doctor Sara Sauer. Thank you."

Holyoke was not at the epicenter of the pandemic as a city, but was the location of one of the worst outbreaks in the country at a facility. The Holyoke Soldiers' Home had an outbreak in April 2020 that resulted in the deaths of nearly 80 veterans, with the management of the facility blamed for how the outbreak was initially handled. It also resulted in the significant sickening of many

See COVID, page 5



Holyoke High School and Holyoke Catholic's alumni played an exhibition game last Saturday morning to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday. Staff photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

## Officials with passenger train service project seeks public feedback

By Marcelo Gusmao  
mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – A West-to-East passenger rail system from Pittsfield to Boston with a stop in Palmer has been discussed for decades, but a commission of state legislators gathering data about the project say it could be just a few more years away from becoming a reality.

The commission is chaired by Rep. William Straus and Sen. Brendan Crighton and is made up of Representatives Bud Williams, Lindsay Sabadosa, Natalie Blais and Todd Smola, who grew up in Palmer and recently shared his thoughts on the project and his role as his district's voice on the commission.

"I first got brought into it when I was on the Board of Selectmen here in Palmer,"



Rep. Todd Smola

Smola said of the decades-long project, adding that many of the other representatives on the commission have been involved with the project for a number of years.

"As time has gone on, and as more interest has picked up over a passenger rail service, a number of us in the legislature came together and said, 'How do we put this on the radar screen?' It's been talked about, now we want to get it into the center of the target."

After putting together an initial report on what would be needed to start the project, the committee was tasked with analyzing the data and determining how to proceed.

"The commission was basically formed to come up with

See TRAIN, page 10

## Garcia honors Kos for work

HOLYOKE – Joseph M. Kos of Holyoke, now in his 21st year as President of the Polish-American Congress of Western Massachusetts, was presented with a Mayoral Proclamation this week by Mayor Joshua A. Garcia.

The Proclamation was presented the day after Kos was honored by members of Polish National Alliance Lodge 525 at the group's 70th Anniversary Unitas Banquet.

Kos wears a number of hats, among them: long-time treasurer of Polish National Alliance Lodge 525, Manager of Pilsudski Park, treasurer of the Polish Miss Massachusetts competition and member of the Board of Directors of the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning in Chicopee.

The Mayoral Proclamation states, in part: "Be it resolved, that the citizens of the City of Holyoke and Western Massachusetts ... acknowledge and salute Mr. Kos for his extraordinary good will, stewardship and leadership of the Polish-American community."



Mayor Joshua A. Garcia presents Joseph M. Kos with a Mayoral Proclamation saluting his leadership of the Western Mass Polish-American community. Submitted photo



# College endowment launches this week

HOLYOKE – Earlier this week, the public phase of The Care Center’s \$4 million Moving Women Forward Campaign to endow Bard Microcollege Holyoke launched, the nation’s first college for young mothers and low-income women. The Care Center received a \$1 million gift from The Ceres Foundation to start the fund. “This is the largest gift The Ceres Foundation has ever made. We do so with the confidence that The Care Center will be able to create an endowment that will support Bard Microcollege Holyoke in perpetuity. The Microcollege is a proven and successful model and

we are happy to support it at this level,” says Ceres Foundation Executive Director Amanda Northrop. With The Ceres Foundation grant and major gifts from PeoplesBank, The Irene E. & George A. Davis Foundation and very generous individuals, the campaign has already surpassed the halfway point. Health New England, Highland Street Foundation, and the Massachusetts Bankers Association Charitable Foundation have also supported the initiative.

Since 2016, The Care Center has been home to Bard Microcollege Holyoke. This innovative model pairs a

tuition-free, high quality college education with built-in supports designed for young mothers: daycare, transportation, counseling, meals, and an onsite nurse practitioner. A mother with a college degree prepares her family for a better life. Her success will be felt by her children and generations to come. The effects are long-lasting and immediate. Studies show that a mother’s college attendance has a significant positive impact on her child’s vocabulary, reading and math scores, and college matriculation. The endowment will ensure that tuition-free services will be available in perpetuity

and that the ripple effect of educating young mothers will benefit generations to come.

Since its inception, Bard Microcollege Holyoke boasts a 72% graduation rate, culminating with an Associate’s Degree. Graduates continue on to local colleges and universities to complete a Bachelor’s Degree and attain exciting careers in the region. Bard Microcollege Holyoke currently serves 40-50 women each year and at scale will serve 75 students annually. Please visit our website for more detailed information –[www.carecenterholyoke.org](http://www.carecenterholyoke.org).



Moira McDermott, center, was crowned the grand colleen of the Holyoke St. Patrick’s Parade on Feb. 15. Standing with her are members of her court, from left, Haley Dusseault, Natalie Mayko, Patricia Haradon and Emily Couture. *File photo*

## Applications now open for 2023 Grand Colleen Pageant

HOLYOKE – The application for the 2023 Grand Colleen Pageant by the St. Patrick’s Committee of Holyoke is now open. Eligibility, requirement, and the application can all be found on the Committee’s website, [www.holyokestpatricksparade.com](http://www.holyokestpatricksparade.com). Applications will be accepted through Wednesday, Dec. 28.

The 2023 Grand Colleen Pageant will take place on Saturday, Jan. 6, 2023 at Holyoke High School, 300 Beech Street Holyoke, MA 01040. Five contestants will be selected to make-up the Grand Colleen’s Court. The Grand Colleen will be then selected from the five finalists at the Grand Colleen Ball on

Feb. 18, 2023.

Tickets for the Pageant are \$15 per person, \$10 for seniors and children under 12 are free, tickets are available for sale online at [grandcolleenpageant.eventbrite.com](http://grandcolleenpageant.eventbrite.com) or at with cash/check at the door.

For any questions please email [holyokecolleenpageant@gmail.com](mailto:holyokecolleenpageant@gmail.com).

The 70th Holyoke St. Patrick’s Parade will be held on Sunday, March 19, 2023, and the 46th St. Patrick’s Road Race will be held on Saturday, March 18, 2023. For more information, please visit our website at [www.holyokestpatricksparade.com](http://www.holyokestpatricksparade.com).

## Library has tickets for UMass shows

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Public Library has partnered with University of Massachusetts Fine Arts Center (FAC) and other five libraries in providing complimentary community tickets for this season performances.

Community tickets available for performances in November 2022 through April 2023 to anyone who has a Public Library card in the Central/Western MA Automated Resource Sharing network (CWMARS). Vouchers are at the front desk at first come first serve basis. We have two (2) vouchers per performance and each voucher admits two (2) individuals. Once you get your voucher, contact

UMass Fine Arts Center to redeem and reserve your tickets.

The UMass Fine Arts Center Library Ticket Program was organized with help from Amy Fagin, a local artist who sits on the Fine Arts Center’s board of directors.

Click here for the list of events available with the University of Massachusetts Fine Arts Center’s (FAC) Library Ticket Program

For more information, contact the Holyoke Public Library at 413-420-8101.

A full list of this year’s performances at the Fine Art Center can be found at <https://fac.umass.edu/Online/default.asp>.

## YPS working SantaCon event

HOLYOKE – The Young Professional Society of Greater Springfield (YPS) will bring joy to the holiday season with its SantaCon networking event, on Thursday, December 15 at various locations in Downtown Springfield including BarKaya, Jackalope Restaurant, Dewey’s Lounge, and White Lion Brewing, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

YPS’ SantaCon will focus on building community through supporting and encouraging young professionals to become more involved in their local communities by spreading holiday cheer. The event encourages attendees to dress in Santa and holiday themed costumes, supporting camaraderie and connection this holiday season.

The SantaCon event is free for YPS members and \$10 for non-members. Attendees are encouraged to bring an unwrapped, unused toy to contribute to a toy drive hosted by Springfield’s The Gray House, which helps neighbors experiencing hardships by providing food, clothing, and educational services. The event will kick-off at BarKaya (278 Worthington Street) at 5:30 p.m.

Throughout the holiday sea-

son, YPS also encourages volunteerism through their partnership with the Springfield Rotary Club by supporting Springfield’s Friends of the Homeless (FOTH) chapter. Volunteers can sign up to assist in serving food at the FOTH Worthington Street shelter location in Springfield by registering here.

“YPS events help retain individuals who are enthusiastic about the future of the community and their personal endeavors,” said YPS president, Heather Clark. “YPS is here to exchange ideas, share common interests, and cultivate membership to serve as local leaders of tomorrow. We’re hopeful that our monthly events will make it easier to make meaningful connections that will help local young professionals thrive.”

Springfield YPS concentrates their efforts on business & career development, networking, social & cultural involvement, and community activism. Their diverse membership comes from a wide range of professions and backgrounds united by a commitment to make Springfield a better place to work, live, play, and stay. To register for YPS’ upcoming SantaCon, visit <https://www.springfielddyps.com/events>.

## Annual tree lighting set for Dec. 3

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. 3.

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. Mayor Joshua 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 the Parranda by Bomba de Aquí.

For more information, please contact the Holyoke Parks and Recreation Department at 322-5620 or visit [www.holyoke.org](http://www.holyoke.org).

## Open house at Wistariahurst Museum

HOLYOKE – Join us at Wistariahurst for a special weekend filled with holiday festivities and family-oriented activities. The open house event will take place Saturday, Dec. 3 and Sunday, Dec. 4 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The museum will be decorated for the season and open to the public for a weekend of live music, activities, and local vendors. Mayor Joshua Garcia will be here on Sunday at 1 p.m. for a children’s storytime. You can kickstart your holiday shopping by browsing selections of art, treats, and other goods from local vendors.

“The entire weekend is a family friendly, community event with a little something for everyone—music, story time, gift shopping, model trains, and gingerbread houses,” curator and city historian Penni Martorell said. “We welcome our neighbors, friends

and community to come and enjoy the beautiful space. You don’t want to miss out on this opportunity to see a magnificent house all dressed up in holiday flair”.

Please visit <https://wistariahurst.org/events-2/> to see more events at the museum.



There will be an open house at Wistariahurst Museum on Dec. 3 and 4. *Submitted photo*

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# Pioneer Valley Performing Arts visits local schools

SOUTH HADLEY – The Pioneer Valley Performing Arts (PVPA) Charter Public School Music Department’s “We Came to Play” tour recently visited four local schools over two days, performing their hour long concert before hundreds of school children in grades Pre-K to Gr 8 at JFK Middle school in Northampton, Lambert-Lavoie Elementary School in Chicopee, Mater Dolorosa Catholic School in Holyoke, and Stefanik Elementary School in Chicopee. The “We Came to Play” tour has been an integral part of PVPA’s mission to share the experience of Arts-focused education with the greater community of the Pioneer Valley for over 10 years.

This year’s show consisted of PVPA’s Gig Band, A Capella Group and Pop R & B Band. Students from PVPA’s Tech Department ran sound for the shows; a significant challenge when moving through two different concert venues each day. Students also acted as their own roadies, loading, setting up and breaking down their instruments

for each show.

Over the years, “We Came to Play” has performed at schools throughout the Pioneer Valley, and at the Majestic Theater, as well as a memorable trip to perform at Busch Gardens in 2018. The program has not been able to tour since 2019 because of the pandemic.

PVPA is a regional public charter school serving 400 students grades 7-12, from over 60 towns throughout Western Massachusetts. We seek to connect the creative process with critical thinking to inspire a love of learning. As a charter school, the work we do informs educational policy at local, state and national levels. Our mission is to offer our students an intensive exposure to the performing arts within the context of an excellent college preparatory curriculum. Applications are currently being accepted for the 2023/24 school year for students entering grades 7-11, as well as limited open seats for the current school year. For more information, or to apply, go to [www.pvpa.org/admissions](http://www.pvpa.org/admissions).



A school in Holyoke was one of the sites for a recent PVPA performance.

Submitted photo

## MAYOR’S OFFICE COLLECTING FOOD



The City of Holyoke is holding a food drive to benefit Kate’s Kitchen, one of the charitable services of Providence Ministries at 51 Hamilton Street. Collection boxes have been set up outside the Mayor’s Office in City Hall, in the lobby of the City Hall Annex, at the Holyoke Senior Center, and in the lobby of the Department of Public Works on North Canal Street. The food drive, which began this week, will continue through the holidays, and conclude on Jan. 6. The drive is for non-perishable food items such as canned meats, canned tuna and salmon, peanut butter, canned or dry soups, canned stew and chili, pasta noodles, canned pasta (Spaghetti O’s), canned vegetables and fruit, rice, canned beans, and Spam.

Submitted photo

## St. Peter’s Lutheran Church’s Annual Gingerbread Fair

HOLYOKE – The crafters, bakers, knitters, sewers, and cooks at St. Peter’s Lutheran Church in Holyoke (34 Jarvis Ave.) have been busy preparing for their Annual Gingerbread House Christmas Fair which will take place on Saturday, Dec. 3 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Christmas ornaments, decorations, gifts, wreaths and much more along with an assortment of delicious baked goods, candies, and deli items will be available to purchase. Knitted hats, scarves, and sweaters are among some of the additional choices for sale on that day.

A favorite activity for kids, and adults alike, is to purchase and decorate a small gingerbread house; creating their own edible masterpiece.



Kathy Wegman and Carol Boylan discuss decorating ideas for wreaths that they were making to sale at the church’s Gingerbread Fair.

Submitted photo

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<p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">All Papers Will Deadline Thursday, Dec. 22 at Noon for Publication Dec. 26-30</p>	<p>⋮ ⋮ ⋮ ⋮ ⋮ ⋮ ⋮ ⋮ ⋮ ⋮</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">All Papers Will Deadline Friday, Dec. 30 at Noon for Publication Jan. 3-7</p>
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Guest Column

# in the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid

## Oh Christmas tree, Oh Christmas tree

I chuckle when I think of the words to that song. The next line would be “how lovely are your branches.”

The reason I chuckle is because shortly after decorating our tree tonight my older daughter showed me a video she took last year on her phone. It was in slow motion, her fingers touching the limbs of our Christmas tree and the needles falling to the ground.

I am not exaggerating when I tell you that 90% of the needles were gone when we took the tree out of the house a few days after Christmas.

Now this isn't my first Christmas, mind you and both my husband and I are sticklers for keeping the tree stand full of water.

I think what happened was that rusty water from the old tree stand clogged up the trunk, making it unable to drink. Just a theory mind you.

We have a new stand and hopes for an intact tree through to the Epiphany.

Here are additional tips for buying a healthy tree and keeping it that way.

If you make your tree purchase at a nearby Christmas tree farm, congratulations, you are supporting local agriculture!

More likely than not, the tree of your choice will be cut right before your eyes; you may even get the joy of cutting it yourself. Therefore, it is guaranteed to be fresh.

If it takes you more than a few minutes to get it home, make a new, straight cut across the trunk about one inch up from the bottom just before setting it up indoors. The new cut will remove the seal the tree has formed and once again allow it to take up water...and will it ever!

A fresh tree can drink several pints to a gallon every day. Fill the stand even before you start decorating, and check the reservoir often, refilling it before it runs out.

A more hands-on approach is needed in order to find a fresh tree from a parking lot operation or chain store.

While some of these trees are grown locally, most are likely shipped to the lot from growers hundreds of miles away. They may have been cut a few weeks or more ago.

To ensure freshness, run your hand up and down a branch. Did the tree lose a substantial amount of needles?

Try bending a branch. Did it snap and break?

If you answered yes to either of these freshness tests, it's probably a good idea to pass on this tree and try another.

Trees that have dried out that much before they even make it indoors will leave you a huge mess to clean up (I know all about that) and more importantly, pose a fire hazard.

It is even more important to make a fresh cut on these types of trees. If you cut an inch and the trunk doesn't feel at all wet or sticky, cut a bit more, so that the tree will be able to get a good drink.

Use common sense when placing the tree indoors- keep it away from the fireplace, radiator or heat register. Shut the tree lights off when you go to bed or leave the house.

This advice will keep your tree good and fresh and your family nice and safe.

Good friends of ours have their own tradition regarding the Christmas tree. They don't buy one at all!

Instead, they decorate a tall Norfolk Island pine that they got as a houseplant decades ago.

This time of year, they are readily available for sale, indoors, alongside poinsettias and other holiday plants.

See GARDEN, page 5



Guest Column

# in my BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer

An immature red-headed woodpecker showed up at a private feeder in Barnstable over the weekend.

At Race Point in Provincetown, sightings this week included a Pacific loon, 430 long-tailed ducks, 650 razorbills, 425 black-legged Kittiwakes, two parasitic jaegers, 40 Cory's shearwaters, 225 great shearwater, 7 Manx shearwaters, a barn swallow, eight red crossbills and 150 snow buntings.



Adult Franklin gull

The Massachusetts Audubon Society listed the sighting of a Franklin's gull at Quaboag Pond in Brookfield.

The Franklin gull is 14 inches long, summers on the norther prairie lakes and is mostly seen on the coast in winter.

It has white crescents above and below the eye, which usually meet behind the eye.

The gull has a black hood, dark, short tail and a straight red bill. It has black legs, white breast, belly, neck and nape.

The back and part of the wings are gray. Wing tips are white and the tail is white with black markings.

These gulls eat aerial insects and worms in agricultural fields.

They breed on the prairies in summer. The female lays two to three greenish, brown eggs with markings in a nest of grasses either placed on the ground or floated in shallow water.

They make a “weea, weea, weea” call.

### Other Audubon society sightings

Other Massachusetts Audubon Society sightings for Worcester County were five black vultures in Hardwick, two golden eagles at the Mt. Wachusett Reservation in Princeton and a Bohemian waxwing at Mt. Watatic in Ashburnham.

On Friday, Nov. 11, there was an interesting variety of unusual birds in Commonwealth, which included a Bullock's oriole in Concord, cave swallows at Manomet and Westport, a greater white-fronted goose in Plymouth and two tufted ducks at Nantucket.

On Nov. 15, a Hammond's flycatcher, Cape Cod's first record of this western species, continued at Peterson's Farm in Falmouth since Saturday. Other species reported there included a black vulture and a red-eyed vireo.



Red-winged blackbird

I had a lone, male, red-winged blackbird eating seeds under my feeder on Tuesday, Nov. 15.

An Oakham resident, who lives near the center of town, recently saw a large flock of blackbirds in the trees near her home.

### Birds at feeder

I put out a small amount of seed in my tray feeder and on the ground every morning.

Once December arrives, I will start filling the feeders and putting out suet cakes as hopefully, the black bears will be in hibernation.



Blue Jay

I have up to eight blue jays at my feeder each day and about half their number in gray squirrels. The shelled peanuts are both the bluejay and squirrel favorites.

I also have white-breasted nuthatches, tufted titmice, black-capped chickadees, a pair of cardinals, a mourning dove or two, dark-eyed juncos, downy woodpecker and a few white-throated sparrows.

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.

# the Sun

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

“December’s wintry breath is already clouding the pond, frosting the pane, obscuring summer’s memory.”

John Geddes

## 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.



# St. Patrick's Day Road Race registration now open

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke St. Patrick's Committee is pleased to announce that registration for the 2023 Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Road Race is now open.

We are also excited to announce our new partnership with 4RUN3 Racing who will be handling our registration, timing, and a training group. 4RUN3 is based in East Longmeadow and serves the Western Mass running community

with best-in-class service. We look forward to working together to bring many improvements to the race for years to come.

As is expected with any change, registration will look slightly different for 2023. You can find more event information and registration at <http://runsignup.com/Race/MA/Holyoke/HolyokStPatricksRoadRace>. Thank you for working with us as we make

this transition.

We have two opportunities for you to take advantage of this year that are made possible by our partnership with 4RUN3.

10K Training Program: Train together with local runners to stay motivated, make your 2023 10K your best it can be, and enjoy exclusive perks.

- Custom neck gaiters and gloves
- Exclusive group packet pickup
- First Beer Free after the race

Referral Program: After you register, you will receive a referral link to share. Once your referral code has been used by five friends to register for the 2023 Holyoke 10K Road Race or Walk you will receive an exclusive long sleeve top for free.

Thank you for your support in year's past. We hope to see you in March and look forward to watching you cross that finish line.

## COVID, from page 1

other veterans at the facility and several staff members.

The city at large often found itself in a high-risk category for COVID-19 cases, which resulted in more restrictions than some of the surrounding communities. City Hall had a mask mandate in place for several months installed by

Acting Mayor Terence Murphy.

Mask and face covering mandates were also in place longer than in recent communities. The mask mandates and restrictions in the Holyoke Public Schools remained in place for almost the entire 2021-2022 school year, despite the mandate being lifted by the state at the end of February.

COVID-19 cases were reported every day by the Commonwealth's

Department of Public Health. That has since been moved to once a week, each Thursday. Cases are still happening, but deaths are minimized with the vaccines and boosters available.

The DPH announced Tuesday it would be offering residents a \$75 for receiving any COVID-19 shot, whether it be an original dose or a booster. It's part of an initiative from the state to get more people vaccinated and boosted.

Various communities are holding vaccine clinics during the next month where this will be available. The \$75 gift card will come from a local grocery store or other area retailers.

Holyoke is hosting one of these clinics at the Holyoke Mall from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. There are also clinics scheduled to be held in nearby Chicopee and West Springfield. Go to the state's website for a full list of clinics.

## GARDEN, from page 4

The Norfolk Island pine is easy to grow, simply providing it with good quality light and average household temperatures.

It is important that the Norfolk Island pine be kept from temperatures below 50 degrees for any length of time or injury may occur.

For this reason, be sure to cover it when leaving the store, and whatever you do, don't leave it in the car and continue to shop!

Keep its soil moist but not soaking wet. Fertilize in the spring, once active growth resumes.

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 30 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](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.*

## HOMES, from page 1


The board said the focus of the inspections will be on the exterior of houses, unless there are significant interior alterations that need to be reviewed.

The process takes anywhere from 10 to 30 minutes and the exterior of the home will be photographed. If you decline to allow a data collect to come on your property, the collector will photograph your home from the street and will estimate data to the best of their ability.

If you are present when the data col-

lector comes through, the assessors say the individual will knock on your door and introduce themselves, ask some questions to verify information on the property card, offer to review interior changes, use laser devices to make measurements, update the property sketch, and take photos.

Home inspections are used as part of the valuation process and help to determine home values, which are used in the process to estimate potential revenues for the property tax levy. The tax rate should be determined sometime during the next month.



**baby's first Christmas**

**Turley Publications, Inc.**

**Kensie Michele Distler**

February 15, 2021

Parents: Danny & Lisa Distler, Coventry, RI  
Grandparents: Chris & Michele Mues, Warren  
Carole Distler and the late Bruce Distler, Rocky Point, LI, NY

**Turley Publications would like to help you show off the newest member of your family this Christmas, FOR FREE!**

Mail to:  
Turley Publications  
24 Water Street  
Palmer, MA 01069  
Attn: Jamie Joslyn  
Include a self addressed/stamped envelope if you would like the picture returned or email photo to: [jamie@turley.com](mailto:jamie@turley.com) with subject line: **BABY'S FIRST.**  
This offer is available to all babies born in 2022.  
Pictures will be published the week of December 19-23, 2022.

Baby's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Town of Residence: \_\_\_\_\_

Grandparents' Names & Town of Residence: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone #: (not to be printed - for office use only) \_\_\_\_\_

*Please check the newspaper you would like your announcement to appear.*

<input type="checkbox"/> Agawam Advertiser	<input type="checkbox"/> Quaboag Current
<input type="checkbox"/> Barre Gazette	<input type="checkbox"/> The Register
<input type="checkbox"/> Chicopee Register	<input type="checkbox"/> Sentinel
<input type="checkbox"/> Country Journal	<input type="checkbox"/> Town Reminder
<input type="checkbox"/> The Holyoke Sun	<input type="checkbox"/> Ware River News
<input type="checkbox"/> Journal Register	<input type="checkbox"/> The Wilbraham-Hampden Times

**Deadline for photos and forms is Friday, December 2, 2022**

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**CLUES ACROSS**

- Single Lens Reflex
- People of southern Benin
- One who is learned (abbr.)
- Neckwear
- Solid water
- A way to work the soil
- Inspiring
- Pick up
- It wakes you up
- Parcel
- Popular dog breed
- Lets out a sigh
- Embedded into the surface
- Hard liquors
- One from Scotland
- Satisfy
- Used to introduce a contrasting statement
- Antidepressant drug type (abbr.)
- Similar

- Winged horse
- Soft drink maker
- One who doesn't live up to expectations
- Nursemaid
- Inheritor
- Hot, often dusty wind
- Serves as an introduction
- Earned top billing
- Mansion
- A partner to a carrot
- War-horse
- Midway between northeast and east
- It checks the heartbeat
- Aquatic salamander
- CNN's founder
- Being precisely suitable and right
- Strongly alkaline solution

**CLUES DOWN**

- Pinochle trick
- A system of connections
- Emblems of royalty
- Work with a soft hand
- Plant cultivated in Peru
- A timid man
- Lacking intellectual depth
- A way to order
- Intoxicating
- Mimic
- Surfers use it
- Small Eurasian deer
- Popular Miller beer
- Finds out about
- Unusual
- Small European viper
- Indicates before

- Birth swine
- Useful keyboard key
- Letter of the Greek alphabet
- Edible mollusk
- Stitched up
- Utilized
- \_\_\_ in tradition
- A way to get through
- Let off
- Fashionable source of shade
- In due time
- Printing speed
- A major division of geological time
- Nocturnal, cat-like mammal
- \_\_\_ de la \_\_\_
- After B
- Unusual
- Former money of the EU

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 9



# Majestic Theater hosting holiday show in December

WEST SPRINGFIELD – West Springfield’s Majestic Theater will present its annual seasonal variety show, “Home for The Holidays,” Dec. 8 to 22.

The family-friendly show, featuring Pioneer Valley-based performers, has become a tradition at the theater for more than a dozen years. Similar in style to nostalgic holiday specials of years past headlined by Andy Williams and Perry Como, “Home for The Holidays 2019” will be co-hosted by singer Ray Guillemette, Jr., who has headlined countless “A Ray of Elvis”

music director/arranger. Tickets are \$28 and \$26 for adults, and \$10 for children 10 and under, and are available by visiting or calling the Majestic Theater Box Office at (413) 747-7797 during its hours of operation (Monday – Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

Other upcoming Majestic holiday-themed shows include: “Holiday Stress Relief,” a night of improv comedy with The Majesters on Monday, Dec. 12 at 7:30 p.m. General admission seating is \$15 at the door the night of the show.

“Home for the Holidays” is the December show at Majestic Theater. It runs from Dec. 8 to 22.

music director/arranger.

Joining Ray and Ben onstage will be veteran Majestic performers including Myka Plunkett, Kait Rankins, Tully Russell, Vivienne Damon, Caelie Scott Flanagan, Michael Graham Morales, Alexandra O’Halloran, plus guest appearances from The Grinch and Santa Claus.

The show will be directed by Stephen Petit, and Mitch Chakour is the



Submitted photo



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Only \$3 With a Coupon to Upgrade to a Gold Wash!

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## Christmas Fair this set for Saturday

LONGMEADOW – Continuing its popular annual tradition, First Church of Christ in Longmeadow will welcome holiday shoppers Saturday, Dec. 3 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

First Church is a vibrant and busy place, but nothing is bigger than the Annual Christmas Fair. This year it will include two floors of booths and shops spread throughout the First Church of Christ complex. Featured items include live wreaths, children’s toys and games, jewelry, boutique clothing, attic treasures, gifts from afar, books, art, high quality crafts made by church members, home-

made cookies, and more.

In addition to the shopping experience, visitors can sit down to a delicious lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. And, Santa will be available for photos in a beautifully recreated North Pole cozy living room scene. All proceeds go to local charities to support our community.

First Church is located on the corner of Williams and Longmeadow Streets in Longmeadow. For questions, or more information, call 413-567-6287, email office@firstchurchlongmeadow.org, or visit the website www.firstchurchlongmeadow.org.

## Join Us - in A Food Drive!

The Hibernians of Hampden/Hampshire Counties and the Polish National Credit Union invite the public to participate in a **FOOD DRIVE** for Kate’s Kitchen of Holyoke.

Non-perishable items such as soup, tuna, pasta, Chef Boyardee, baked beans other canned goods etc. would be appreciated.

You are requested to drop-off your food donations to:

The Polish National Credit Union  
270 Westfield Road, Holyoke  
by December 18, 2022

Those who make a food donation will be entered to win a raffle prize!!



The Polish National Credit Union

**LOWER PRICES TO BOOST YOUR BUDGET!** **INFLATION** **PRICE BUSTERS** **PRICES IN RED ARE AT OR BELOW LAST YEAR'S PRICES!**

USDA INSP. FRESH PORK SHOULDER PICNIC.....	\$1.69 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF SHORT RIBS	\$7.77 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TENDERLOIN CUT FREE.....	\$8.88 lb
USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN ASSORTED PORK CHOPS.....	\$1.88 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TOP ROUND LONDON BROIL or ROAST	\$4.49 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN TENDERLOIN 10 LB BAG	\$1.35 lb
USDA INSP. FRESH PORK SIRLOIN CUTLETS....	\$2.22 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH 90% DIET LEAN GROUND BEEF	\$4.59 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN CHICKEN THIGH TRAY PAK.....	69¢ lb
USDA INSP. ROAST BEEF.....	\$8.99 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN HILLSHIRE FARMS POLSKA KIELBASA 42 OZ FAMILY PAK.....	\$5.99 ea	USDA INSP. FROZEN COOKED SALMON FILLETS.....	\$6.99 lb
<b>TAILGATE SPECIALS</b>					
USDA INSP STORE MADE CAROLINA GOLD MARINATED BONELESS SKINLESS CHICKEN THIGHS .	\$2.99 lb				
USDA INSP STORE MADE KOREAN BBQ MARINATED BONELESS PORK BUTT STRIPS ...	\$3.35 lb				
USDA INSP FRESH BONELESS BEEF BRISKET .....	\$4.19 lb				

SALE DATES: 12/1/22 - 12/7/22 BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE

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**Tuesday Night 6:30pm**  
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**Friday Night 5-7pm**  
**SPAGHETTI NIGHT**

**Friday Night 7:30pm**  
**TRIVIA NIGHT**  
Groups of 1 to 6 people  
\$5 per person - winner takes all

**Wednesday, Dec. 28th**  
**THUNDERBIRD HOCKEY**  
**TICKETS AVAILABLE**  
\$20.00 per ticket on the blue line  
15 tickets available

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# SPORTS

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## Tigers offense too much for Knights

**SOUTH HADLEY** – Last Thursday, the South Hadley High School football team finished off the 2022 season with a huge offensive performance, defeating Holyoke 60-36. The Tigers exploded for four touchdowns in the second quarter to go up 38-14 at halftime. South Hadley did not let up, grabbing three more scores in the second half. Owen Dawson capped his season with 300 yards on the ground and five touchdowns for the Tigers. Noah Marion had a big game with 148 yards. Holyoke's season finished at 2-9 while South Hadley went 4-7.



Zeph Williams jukes on a run for the Knights.



Gavier Fernandez scrambles to the right.



Asa Allen squeezes the ball on a carry.  
Staff photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Jaden Diaz and Davonte Westbrooks attempt to make a tackle.



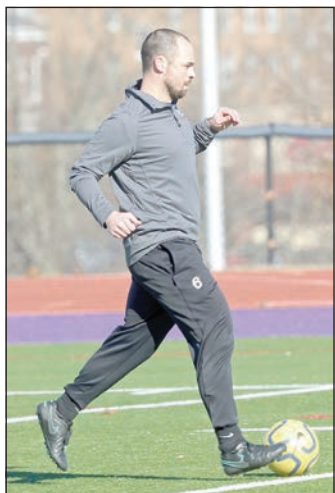
David Sicard makes a great catch on a long pass.

## Catholic and Holyoke lock up for fun exhibition

**HOLYOKE** – Last Saturday morning, the Holyoke Catholic name came back as alumni from Holyoke High School matched up with alumni from the former

Holyoke Catholic High School. Holyoke Catholic folded several years ago when it was absorbed by Cathedral, now named Pope Francis in

Springfield. Holyoke Catholic was based in Holyoke, but also had homes in Chicopee and Granby during different points of its existence.



Corey Bladley makes his way up the field.



Rob Lubold makes a free kick.  
Staff photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Pat Beaudry chases down a loose ball.



Isiah Fraser points to a teammate as he gets ready to pass.



John Tisdell plays the ball off his knee.



# Trainer requirement gets mixed reviews from MIAA

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

With a look at a future law, the Sports Medicine subcommittee of the MIAA is proposing a requirement for every high school offering interscholastic sports to employ a licensed athletic trainer.

The rule change was submitted by Robert Colandreo, a trainer and member of the committee.

While many member schools in the MIAA either employ an athletic trainer or regularly have an EMT or other trained medical professional at most athletic contests, a number of smaller schools do not have any type of trainer preference at contests.

At the beginning of the fall season, a new rule went into affect for football,

requiring that both teams have a trainer present at all games. This required many schools to send their trainer on road games, and either not hold soccer and other sport contests on Friday evenings, or employ a second trainer or EMT in those cases.

Colandreo's rationale was not to require schools to have trainers in full-time employment, but to ensure a trainer is present for practices and games.

He is proposing a July 1, 2024 implementation date for this requirement, allowing schools time to plan for funding.

"The intent of this rule change is to ensure schools employ, in some capacity appropriate for their needs, an athletic trainer, Colandreo's rationale states. "The intent of this rule change is not to require a school or district to create a

new full-time position, but to ensure that while games and practices are going on students have access to an athletic trainer. It is recognized that every high school in Massachusetts has a varying need for athletic trainer services. Some larger schools currently have more than one athletic trainer on staff. Other smaller high schools may only have a need for a part-time contracted athletic trainer. Time to plan for this expense is recognized and a one-year delayed implementation would be welcomed."

He notes that the state is also looking at having an athletic trainer the law.

"There is currently legislation pending that would require all secondary schools to hire an athletic trainer. If this legislation passes this legislative session, or next, it will immediately require a school system to hire an athletic trainer

within 90 days," Colandreo said. "As was the process with the AED rule (rule requiring schools to have automatic external defibrillators) a few years ago. Passage of this rule change would give schools and districts a greater than one year time frame to evaluate their needs and set a future budget to hire or contract athletic training services."

Only handful of other subcommittees have recommended the rule, including football, game officials, lacrosse, soccer, and volleyball. The Tournament Management Committee has also recommended it. Several committees denied it, including hockey, baseball, basketball, cross country, field hockey, gymnastics, and golf.

The MIAA Board of Directors is supposed to vote on the proposal prior to the beginning of 2023.

## Springfield Thunderbirds earn point against Penguins

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (7-7-0-4) fought valiantly but were bested in a shootout, 3-2, by the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins (10-5-1-1) on Saturday night at the MassMutual Center in a game that saw the T-Birds debut their alternate, blue third jerseys.

Two of the league's top eight defensive units showed off their prowess in the opening 19 minutes, as both teams' penalty-killing units fended off an opposition chance, while goalies Joel Hofer of Springfield and Filip Lindberg of Wilkes-Barre/Scranton traded saves in a period that had 27 shots find the target.

Lindberg finally blinked first

with just 37.7 seconds left in the period. Hugh McGing scooped up a loose puck below the goal line and circled his way to the top of the left circle before turning to his forehand and beating Lindberg on the glove side to make it 1-0. It was McGing's fourth goal of the season, but just his second in the last 12 games.

Hofer would stay perfect until the 13:31 mark of the middle period. After a Penguin face-off win in the offensive zone, Ty Smith hit Jon Lizotte for a one-timer from the center point position. Sam Poulin cut through the shooting lane and got a piece of the initial attempt to guide it past Hofer, tying the game, 1-1.

The T-Birds' final-minute magic came to the forefront once again in period two. With a man advantage in the dying seconds, Martin Frk set up Jake Neighbours for a one-timer from the right circle. Will Bitten did the work from there, taking away Lindberg's eyes and deflecting the shot through the netminder with 2.7 seconds to play, giving Springfield the 2-1 advantage into the third on his seventh goal of the year.

Springfield had multiple chances to extend their one-goal advantage, but Lindberg did not blink on a pair of chances off a Frk slap shot that was labeled for the top corner, as well as a Bitten one-touch shot from point-blank

range.

The T-Birds defense could not quite take the lead across the finish line, as Valtteri Puustinen raced into the Springfield zone ahead of a defender and then outwaited Hofer, slipping a forehand shot through the five-hole to tie the game, 2-2, with just 3:05 to play.

Hofer did keep his team alive after making five stellar stops in the 3-on-3 overtime period, forcing the game into a shootout. While Dmitri Samorukov beat Lindberg on the first shot of the affair, the Penguins bounced back on tallies from Alex Nylander and Poulin, while Lindberg came up with glove saves on both Brady Lyle and Bitten.

## Fall sports season concludes

With the exception of the state finals for football set for this weekend, fall sports have finished up from around the state. State finals were held for field hockey and soccer during the weekend of Nov. 18 to 20, and the MIAA shared some statistics about this year's tournament.

Fall Tournament Tidbits

- A total of 321 member schools (out of 385, or 83.4%) participated in at least one of the MIAA's five power seeded fall tournaments – Field Hockey, Football, Boys or Girls Soccer, and Girls Volleyball.

- Of those 321 schools, a total of 245 hosted at least one event (76.3%).

- A total of 22 schools had a team participating in postseason tournaments in all five power-seeded sports.

- Two schools – Oliver Ames and South Hadley – earned No. 1 seeds in two different sports (both in Boys and Girls Soccer).

- A total of 13 schools reached at least the state semi-final round in two different sports. Four of those schools – Cohasset, Dover-Sherborn, Newburyport, and Stoneham – advanced to the state semi-final round in three different sports.

The new state tournament is in its second year of existence now. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the majority of the membership of the MIAA voted to do a state tournament instead of having a sectional tournament with sectional winners making up a short state tournament like in past years. The new state tournament will enter its second season for winter sports early next year.

## Wrestling committee makes options

The MIAA Wrestling Committee recently met and discussed a variety of topics, including alignments, postseason tournaments and the upcoming regular season. The wrestling committee unanimously supported a recommendation that female wrestlers are permitted to participate in the Sectional and Divisional State Tournaments (if they qualify) before having to make a

decision on whether to enter the traditional MIAA All-State Tournament or the MIAA Girls All-State Tournament. Currently, wrestlers must choose which "tournament path" to enter prior to the Sectional Tournament. This recommendation requires approval from the MIAA Blue Ribbon Committee and MIAA Tournament Management Committee.

## UMass hosting Pioneer Valley Tip-Off

The Pioneer Valley Tip-Off is a student-run high school basketball showcase featuring some of the best talent in Central and Western Massachusetts. The PVTO was started in 2011 by Scott Moses and Pat Salle, both students at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and it continues to be entirely student-run by the McCormack Student Leaders Club today. The PVTO is held

each December on the University of Massachusetts Amherst campus, where we strive to create a professional environment for fans and players alike. This year's event will be held on Dec. 10 and 11 and will feature teams from throughout the region. A schedule is online at [www.pioneervalleytip-off.com](http://www.pioneervalleytip-off.com). All games will be held at the Mullins Center on the UMass-Amherst campus.

## Whitley captures Welterweight title

SPRINGFIELD – Western Mass. was in the house last weekend for the "Springfield Championship Boxing" Pro-Am card, presented by Granite Chin Promotions, at MassMutual Center in Springfield.

Holyoke welterweight Denzel "Double Impact" Whitley (10-0, 6 KOs) and Pittsfield light heavyweight Steve Sumpter (7-0, 6 KOs) captured the vacant Massachusetts State titles in front of a sold-out venue.

"I remember where Granite Chin was 5 years ago and where it is today," Granite Chin Promotions president Chris Traietti commented. "This was unquestionably our greatest show to date. I'd like to thank

our staff, Boston Boxing, sponsors, fans and, of course, all the fighters."

A notoriously slow starter, Whitley evaluated his opponent, Fall River's Kris Jacobs (5-2-1, 2 KOs), in the opening round and then took a methodical approach for the first few rounds, using his gloves-high defensive stance, effectively counter-punching in spurts.

In the eighth and final round, Whitley decked Jacobs with a right hook, but Denzel chased Jacobs from one side of the ring to the other, going for the knockout. It didn't come but Whitley won a workmanlike 8-round split decision, surprising because one judge somehow scored, 75-75, despite the knockdown.

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**Notice of Public Hearing**

The Ordinance Committee of the Holyoke City Council and the Planning Board will hold a joint public hearing on **Tuesday, December 13, 2022 at 6:30pm** to add a section for Battery Storage Facilities to the Zoning Ordinance (TBD) to reflect technology advancements and future need for such installation; new facilities will be reviewed through Section 10.0, Major Site Plan Review. Meeting will take place at Holyoke City Hall 536 Dwight St and can be accessed remotely via [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) Meeting ID 850 0565 7365 Meeting Passcode 308228 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 with same Meeting ID and Passcode. Written public comment can be submitted to [publiccomment@holyoke.org](mailto:publiccomment@holyoke.org). For more information on this hearing please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at [Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org](mailto:Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org) or by phone 413-322-5525. Ordinance Chair, Linda Vacon Planning Chair, Mimi Panitch 11/25, 12/02/2022

**Notice of Public Hearing**

The Ordinance Committee of the Holyoke City Council will hold public hearings on **Tuesday, December 13, 2022 at 6:30pm** to hear 2 special permit applications of Blossom Flower LLC at 1 Cabot St (048-01-010) to operate a marijuana manufacturing establishment and a marijuana delivery business. Meeting will take place at Holyoke City Hall 536 Dwight St and can be accessed remotely via [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) Meeting ID 850 0565 7365 Meeting Passcode 308228 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 with same Meeting ID and Passcode. Written public comment can be submitted to [publiccomment@holyoke.org](mailto:publiccomment@holyoke.org). For more information on these hearings or for an electronic copy of the applications please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at [Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org](mailto:Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org) or by phone 413-322-5525. Ordinance Chair Linda Vacon 11/25, 12/02/2022

**City of Holyoke**

**Notice of Public Hearing**  
The Holyoke License Board will be holding a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, December 7, 2022, at 5:15 pm** in person at 20 Korean Veterans Plaza room 401 and via Zoom.com; ID: 84325425823; CALL IN: +1 646 558 8656 regarding an application for an Annual All Alcohol license for **Damavero, LLC DBA Fame** located at 386 Dwight Street under the HRA Center City Liquor License Program pursuant to M.G.L. Ch. 138. Applicant: David Blood License Board: Anthony L. Luciano, Chairman 11/25, 12/02/2022

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEETING**

Notice is hereby given of a community outreach meeting for Escarcha Verde Inc.

a proposed cannabis retailer for 382 (aka 380R) Dwight St., Holyoke, MA 01040 on **December 19, 2022 at 5:15 p.m.** The meeting will be held on site on the north canal side of the building at the entrance, which faces City Hall. The public will be allowed to ask questions regarding parking, security, etc. 12/02/2022

**Notice of Public Hearing**

The Public Safety Committee of the Holyoke City Council, through citizens petition, will hold a General Meeting of Citizens, on, per Section 8 of the City Charter, to "discuss the conditions of our rental units and the increased rents impacting us as a community." Meeting will take place on **Monday, December 12, 2022 at 6:30 pm** at Holyoke City Hall 536 Dwight St and can be accessed remotely via [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) Meeting ID 823 9330 2295 Meeting Passcode 146017 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 with same Meeting ID and Passcode. Written public comment can be submitted to [publiccomment@holyoke.org](mailto:publiccomment@holyoke.org). For more information on this hearing or for an electronic copy of the petition please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at [Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org](mailto:Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org) or by phone 413-322-5525. Public Safety Chair Israel Rivera 11/25, 12/02/2022

**City of Holyoke**

**Notice of Public Hearing**  
The Holyoke License Board will be holding a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, December 7, 2022, at 5:15 pm** in person at 20 Korean Veterans Plaza room 401 and via Zoom.com; ID: 84325425823; CALL IN: +1 646 558 8656 regarding an application for an Alteration of Premises for **Raindog LLC DBA Pickles Pub & Pizzeria** located at 906 Hampden Street. M.G.L. Ch. 138. Sec. 15 Applicant: Jodi Dulude License Board: Anthony L. Luciano, Chairman 11/25, 12/02/2022

**Sale of Motor Vehicles Under G.L.c. 159B Sec 6B as Amended by Senate 466 of 1989**

Notice is hereby given by Reardon's Garage, Inc., 1537 Northampton St., Holyoke, MA pursuant to the provisions of G.L.c 255, p39 that on **December 9, 2022 at 12 p.m.** at 1537 Northampton St., Holyoke, MA the following motor vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien. 2006 Honda Civic VIN: 2HGFA16566H504560 LKO: U.S.A.A. 2 Going Rd Shirley, MA 10464 2002 Subaru Outback VIN: 4S3BH665X27617309 LKO: Maureen Burt 1669 Northampton St. Holyoke, MA 01040

2004 Jeep Cherokee VIN: 1J4GW48S34C42846 LKO: Carol A. Sparks 21 Kopernick St. Indian Orchard, MA 01151

2006 BMW X5 VIN: 5UXFA13546LY40308 LKO: Cynthia Ferguson 495 Bay St. Springfield, MA 01109

2006 Nissan Frontier VIN: 1N6AD07W36C404224 Hermanus J Lensley and Patricia Lynn Pete 138 Jim Ash Rd. Palmer, MA 01069

2005 Saturn Vue VIN: 5GZCZ23D25S813055 LKO: Austin J Renaud 401 Liberty St. Springfield, MA 01104

2010 Ford Fusion VIN: 3FAHP0HA8AR104254 LKO: Cristian Castro PO Box 551 Monterey TN 38574

2016 BMW 228 VIN: WBA1L9C55GV325745 LKO: Justin Eilert 8 Harding St., Apt. #2A Worcester, MA 01604

11/25, 12/02, 12/09/2022

**Notice of Public Hearing**

The Ordinance Committee of the Holyoke City Council will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, December 13, 2022 at 6:30pm** to hear a special permit application of Small Wonder LLC at 109 Lyman St (023-01-014) for a marijuana manufacturing establishment. Meeting will take place at Holyoke City Hall 536 Dwight St and can be accessed remotely via [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) Meeting ID 850 0565 7365 Meeting Passcode 308228 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 with same Meeting ID and Passcode. Written public comment can be submitted to [publiccomment@holyoke.org](mailto:publiccomment@holyoke.org). For more information on this hearing or for an electronic copy of the application please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at [Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org](mailto:Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org) or by phone 413-322-5525. Ordinance Chair Linda Vacon 11/25, 12/02/2022

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD22P2519GD Docket No. HD22P2521GD**

In the interests of: **Sahari Nicole White & Samari Sai White of Holyoke, MA Minor**

**NOTICE AND ORDER: PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN OF A MINOR NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES**

**1. Hearing Date/Time:** A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on **11/22/2022** by **Brenda Tejada** of Holyoke, MA will be held **01/09/2023 08:30 AM Guardianship of**

**Minor Hearing.** Located: **50 State Street 4th Floor, Springfield, MA 01103.**

**2. Response to Petition:** You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to: File the original with the Court; and Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

**3. Counsel for the Minor:** The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

**4. Counsel for Parents:** If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.

**5. Presence of the Minor at Hearing:** A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests. Date: November 28, 2022 **Rosemary A. Saccomani** Register of Probate 12/02/2022

**NEWSPAPER EDITOR**

Turley Publications is seeking an energetic candidate who loves telling stories to be the editor for its weekly publication: the Country Journal. This full-time position is based in our Palmer office at 24 Water St. The successful candidate will have strong community journalism skills. They must also be able to manage a staff writer, copy edit submitted items and staff stories, and guide coverage. The editor is also expected to gather news and write stories for the two papers as well as for other occasional companywide publications.

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- Proficiency in Associated Press style
- Management experience and/or experience managing content for a print publication.

Please send resume and writing examples to Cliff Clark, Executive Editor at [cclark@turley.com](mailto:cclark@turley.com).

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**All Papers Will Deadline Thursday, Dec. 29 at Noon for Publication Jan. 3-6**

*The Sun*  
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**TRAIN, from page 1**

everything else that's related to the recommendations of the report: How do you come up with the funding? How do you create the entity to run the railroad? How do you maintain it? How do you keep it going? It's infrastructure."

These are the questions the commission hopes to answer through conversations with the public. The committee met for the first time last week, during which they discussed ground rules for getting the project started.

"We want to have a minimum of six meetings (with the public)," said Smola, "and they don't necessarily have to be in person. There's a virtual component as well so people can participate if they can't actually make the hearing," he said.

Also, "If we feel we need to go beyond six hearings, we're going to do that," Smola added.

The commission has been adamant about holding these meetings all over the state and getting feedback from residents in all of the areas that would be affected by the construction, with locations in Palmer and Chester mentioned specifically. Dates have not been set for the meetings, though Smola expects the first one to happen in early- to mid-December.

"I've submitted a Palmer location," Smola said.

"I've spoken to the superintendent over at Pathfinder (Tech), and they've agreed to submit the school in the mix. It doesn't mean there's going to be a hearing at Pathfinder, but we're offering it to the commission."

Pathfinder Superintendent Eric Duda said the school is "very appreciative that (Smola) considered us as a possible meeting site. We are always happy to consider being a meeting site for important community events such as the passenger rail commission meeting."

Though residents of Palmer will certainly be involved, there was also a sense that smaller towns in the Berkshires did not want to be left out of the decision-making process, Smola said. The intention is to schedule the hearings and choose locations that will allow the greatest number of community members to offer their input and concerns over the project, with discussions about holding meetings in the daytime and the evening so as to accommodate a variety of work schedules.

Even for people who can't attend any of the meetings, Smola wanted to make sure they had an opportunity to offer input.

"You can put a written testimony together, if you want to submit it to the commission, and we can help facilitate that testimony," Smola said.

"If you can't participate specifically in one of the hearings that we have scheduled, your voice will be heard, no matter what."

Smola continued, "They can submit it to either their local designee that might be on the commission – as an example for Palmer people, if they want to submit it to me, they could do that, or either of the chairs of the commission, Senator Crighton and Representative Straus."

"Essentially," said Smola, "what's going to happen at those hearings is, we're going to invite anybody and everybody who wants to participate to share their views, whether it's concerns about infrastructure, what they'd like and wouldn't like to see, and then we have to come up with a report by the end of March."

Smola admitted that he anticipates delays in submitting this report, simply due to the size and scope of the project, but that the commission is looking at the end of March as a "hardcore goal."

Smola described some of the obstacles that he's seen in front of this project over the 22 years he's been involved with it.

"Some people thought it couldn't be done, because if you use the existing infrastructure that's right there – where the freight train goes, as an example – how do you use an existing freight train infrastructure and share that line with a passenger service that runs with a certain level of frequency and a high level of efficiency?"

Previous commissions suggested building state-of-the-art magnetic levitation trains as an alternative.

"Boy, this is great, it's gonna get you someplace so quick," Smola remembered.

However, "They didn't realize – ouch, big price tag. And where do you put it? Because now you're not talking about existing infrastructure. There's a big difference between utilizing existing infrastructure and creating brand new infrastructure."

Once these obstacles were presented against the Maglev technology, the commission settled on using the existing rails after all.

"Now, I think, we've accepted that you can have some intermingling here, but what that intermingling looks like is more challenging."

Previous studies, including an exhaustive assessment by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation that cost the state \$1 million that was presented about a year ago, estimated the cost of the project will be at least in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

A lot of money by any standard, but officials, including out-going Gov. Charlie Baker, who did not fully embrace the project until the final months of his term, said the timing couldn't be better. Baker, U.S. Rep. Richard Neal and others held a joint press conference at Union Station in Springfield last spring to rally for the West-East Rail and said much of the cost could be paid for from the state's share of \$1 trillion in federal funding for infrastructure passed by the outgoing Congress and signed into law by President Joe Biden.

Smola mentioned that as much as this project is being pushed by state legislators, the construction and operation of rails is largely up to the federal government, since it's so often used to cross state lines.

This project has had overwhelming support from legislators outside of its main commission. Smola described Senator-elect Jake Oliveira as a "passionate advocate of the West/East rail," and mentioned Baker, Neal, and outgoing state Sen. Eric Lesser as supportive of the project.

"Congressman Neal has come through with a tremendous amount of federal funding," said newly-elected state Rep. Aaron Saunders, shortly after his win last week.

"The state will need to come through with operational money to get the rail authority up and running," Saunders said.

In his campaign, Saunders expressed his support for the rail project. Though not a member of the committee, Smola said he has "no doubt that Aaron will be involved."

"My job is going to be making sure that when we have the money committed (and) it's Western Mass workers and companies doing the work."

**Economic impact**

Smola talked about how a rail stop would benefit local small businesses by delivering foot traffic. He also said that, though it's far too early to solicit contracts for the construction of the rail, he agrees with Saunders that it would be ideal for them to go to regional companies.

"It's the political will to get this transformational transit project done for Western Mass," Saunders said.

"Not only a tremendous opportunity from a transport perspective, but generational opportunity from the perspective of economic development."

Smola mentioned that other parts of the commonwealth, like Boston or Springfield, might not realize the struggles people in rural parts of Western Massachusetts have to access public transportation.

"It's still tougher to do that stuff out here," he said.

"We don't have the option of just picking up a bus that runs on a regular schedule. The quick bus connector and the PVRTA systems are great, but they don't necessarily provide the level of access to get from point A to point B as robustly as other places in the commonwealth do."

Smola was able to list a number of ways in which the town would benefit from being a stop for the rail:

"Palmer is the 'Town of Seven Railroads,'" he said.

"In its heyday, it was the place to be in rail. I think, given the aggressive push that government entities are trying to make towards cleaner, more efficient modes of transportation – trying to get more cars off the road, trying to expand access to options for transportation in more rural parts of the state, like Palmer, as an example – I think that's a good thing."

Because of its place at the center of a number of roads that connect the region, Smola describes Palmer as "sitting on a transportation hub," with an exit to the Massachusetts Turnpike and Routes 20, 32, 67 and 181 all running through the town and connecting it to different parts of the state.

"If you're coming through this part of the commonwealth, you're coming through Palmer one way or another," Smola said.

"I think the West/East rail is going to be one of these transportation components that will help bring people to and from our part of the state."

**Preaching Patience**

Even though the project is closer than ever from coming to fruition, "I would beg people for patience on this," Smola said.

"We've stuck it out this long; If the legislature was not interested in doing anything, we wouldn't have spent the time creating this commission and going through all these steps. There's a real commitment to making this happen."

Before the project could even come close to breaking ground, the funding will need to be in place and a governing authority established.

"And there's going to be more legislation needed at some point," Smola said.

"As much as things in these early stages are moving at quite a clip, just to make all this stuff happen, it's gonna take time."

**Want to be heard?**

To be alerted about the commission's schedule for upcoming meetings or to send a written testament to Smola, email him at [Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov](mailto:Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov).

Read or Subscribe to The Holyoke Sun online at [www.sun.turley.com](http://www.sun.turley.com)



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### Sunday, Dec. 4

Santa invites children of all ages and abilities to celebrate Santa in an inclusive atmosphere.

Families are invited to attend Sensory Santa on Sunday, December 4, from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in Café Square to ensure children with autism and other special needs can enjoy the time-honored tradition of a visit with Santa in a more subdued and calmer environment.

Autism Speaks is thrilled to partner with Cheery Hill Programs during the holidays season to provide their annual sensory-friendly Santa Experiences for families across the country. Sensory-friendly Santa events are free and keepsake photo packages will be available for purchase.

Reservations are required for this private photo experience.

### Thursday, Dec. 8

Come out and hear some outrageous, funny and heartwarming true stories told in five minutes by your friends and neighbors from around the valley at Gateway Arts beginning at 7:30 p.m. The audience picks the winner, and a storytelling star is born. Grab a beer and get ready for a night of great entertainment. The winners of each slam will go on to compete in our "Best of Valley Voices" event.

This event is participating in the Card to Culture Program. They will be offering 10 seats at a discounted price of \$10 to any patrons with a valid EBT, WIC, or ConnectorCare card. To purchase these tickets, please visit or call the box office Tuesday through Friday between 3 and 6 p.m. Limit 4 tickets per cardholder per show. Tickets are sold on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Find out more at: <https://massculturalcouncil.org/>

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### Friday, Dec. 9

At Gateway City arts, come for a night of music and entertainment beginning at 8 p.m. Greenclub – "Live by the sword, die by the sword." For Western Mass rock icons, greenclub, the sword is a 59 Stratocaster cranked through a Marshall stack.

Lives of Crime – Lives of Crime delivers a unique blend of rock influenced song writing, delivered in a clean, straight-ahead package.

Mike Frank Band – Hartford County based live musician, Mike Frank, is making his debut as a singer/songwriter with his upcoming solo EP titled: Relativity, which is set to be released in early 2023.

Collisions – Presents a modern mix of sounds from the past and present.

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