

City is forming a digital equity team

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – Holyoke is in the beginning stages of forming a team to improve the digital equity in the city.

The goal of this Core Planning Team will be to assist Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and the city in facilitating improved digital equity in the city.

This project will ensure that people in the city have improved access to the digital environment, a resource that is becoming increasingly essential in today's world.

"Access to the digital environment is very much like having a utility now," Director of Economic and Municipal Planning from PVPC Eric Weiss said. "People need it, it's part of life...it's a necessity, not a luxury in many ways to have access to the internet at this point."

The beginning steps for improving digital equity in the city were forming a team of volunteers who were willing to dedicate their time to this project.

Many citizens from Holyoke contacted Mayor Joshua Garcia to express their interest. Now Weiss said that he and his coworkers at the

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'A snapshot in time'

Holyoke closes time capsule created for its 150th anniversary

By Gregory A. Scibelli
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HOLYOKE – With the 150th Anniversary celebration of Holyoke's incorporation as a city coming to an end, the moment has been captured and now sits outside the auditorium on the upper floor of City Hall.

Last Thursday afternoon, the ceremonial closing of the Holyoke 150 time capsule took place with 150 Committee and Mayor Joshua Garcia gathering with other city officials to commemorate the occasion.

Co-150 Chair Aaron Vega said he was thrilled with how all of the events to celebrate the anniversary took place. He said many people work hard throughout 2023 in order to show Holyoke pride.

The closing of the time capsule was one of the final events to take place, and Vega said a lot of work went into the capsule during the last 18 months. The Holyoke 150 Committee worked with Cofab Designs, a Holyoke firm, to create the stainless time capsule that has a steel volleyball to top it for decoration. There is a plaque on the front of the capsule, which says the capsule will be re-opened in 50 years, in 2073.

Vega said he was told a time capsule was done in 1973 during the 100th Anniversary of the city, but there is no evidence that one exists.

"No one knows where it is or anything about it," Vega said.

Meanwhile, the 2023 time capsule will be sealed up permanently soon, and includes



The crew of Cofab Designs stands with the capsule they helped build. The plaque on the time capsule, which states it will be opened in 2073.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

two large steel boxes. Items in the capsule include a football helmet from Holyoke High School, a volleyball represented the Hall of Fame located in the city, 150 "swag," publications that were put out for the anniversary, including one contributed by The Holyoke Sun.

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'Ezekiel's Plan' does not pass full council vote

The council did vote to reconsider and it is back on the table

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke City Council had a vote 7-6 in favor of Mayor Joshua Garcia's proposed Ezekiel's Plan. As this plan needed at least two-thirds to pass, the plan was voted down.

Councilors Kevin Jourdain, Linda Vacon, Israel Rivera, Todd McGee, David Bartley and Will

Puello all voted against this plan.

The main reasoning for turning down the plan were financial concerns.

Jourdain in particular raised questions on the sustainability of the proposed plan. He stated that the current planned tax levy is more than \$63 million. With the addition of Ezekiel's Plan, it would be \$64 million.

This increase in the levy would cause a significant increase in residents' tax rates, adding an additional \$107 to the average taxpayer, according to Jourdain.

"The fact of the matter is this is not ready for prime time, this is not sustainable, this is not affordable, and I sure as heck in the midst of all that, not even knowing if we're going to need to spend all these monies, I'm not going to directly, dollar for dollar, ask every resident for at least another \$107 out of their pocket on top of the couple hundred other dollars we're going to need out of their pocket," Jourdain said.

Bartley also expressed his doubts about the planned revenues to ensure the sustainability

of the plan. Currently, Ezekiel's Plan is set to draw from ARPA funds. However, ARPA funds will soon end for the city and Bartley, amongst other councilors, do not feel there is a sustainable way to continue the plan without those funds.

The plan does include predicted funds to replace ARPA funds when they run out, including ARPA replacement, opioid settlement, and federal funds, but Bartley pointed out that several of those options were not a guarantee.

"It gets us only so far. These

predicted funding sources, they're amorphous and some of them don't exist," he said. "And yet we're going to vote in favor of this?"

Additionally, Jourdain and other councilors wanted the described plans to be fleshed out further.

Rivera specifically mentioned how in the policing section of the plan. In this portion the plan states that they would work to cut down on policing overtime, but fails to map out

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HCC opens Itsy Bitsy Closet for student-parents

HOLYOKE – First there was the Itsy Bitsy Zoomcast, a pandemic-inspired series of videos produced by the faculty from the Early Childhood Education department at Holyoke Community College that debuted online in 2020.

Next came the Itsy Bitsy Learning Lab, a suite of early education classrooms at HCC modeled after pre-school and kindergarten facilities. Then, in 2022, HCC opened the Itsy Bitsy Child Watch, a free service center for student-parents in need of short-term child care while they attend classes.

And now, making its debut in November, the college's latest offering is The Itsy Bitsy Closet.

During the fall semester, HCC students transformed a large storage room for surplus equipment into a family-friendly resource room stocked with donated children's clothes, jackets, shoes, books, and more.

And all the items are now available for free to student-parents.

"It's open to all HCC student-parents," said Emily Webber, who, as director of the Itsy Bitsy Child Watch, now also oversees the Itsy Bitsy Closet, which is conveniently located next door. "Student-parents can come and take whatever they need for their children - clothing, jackets, coats, shoes, and also books, to promote literacy at home."

The Itsy Bitsy Closet was Webber's idea. To bring it to life, however, she enlisted Psychology Professor Sheryl Civjan, whose Psychology of Women's class took on the assignment as a Service Learning project. The students organized clothing and book drives and collected donations both on and off campus.



HCC Psychology Professor Sheryl Civjan and students in her Psychology of Women class transformed a storage room full of surplus equipment into the Itsy Bitsy Closet. Submitted Photos



Nursing student Maddy Gray, of Colrain, and her 3-year-old son Orion were the first visitors to HCC's new Itsy Bitsy Closet, a free resource room for student-parents.

"Week after week, they sorted through the donated clothes, weeded out the rejects, then washed, folded, and organized everything to create the space," said Civjan.

Over the course of the semester, Civjan's students also conducted research on early childhood literacy and how it is impacted by child care. The result of that research is a Family Resource Guide that will be available in the Itsy Bitsy Child Watch center and the Itsy Bitsy Closet.

"The research focused on why child care is so important to working mothers, and to college student mothers," said Civjan. "We did a project last year that was focused specifically on child care. This is a little broader issue about early literacy."

Webber hosted a reception for Civjan's class on Nov. 28 to celebrate the opening. It wasn't long before nursing student Maddy Gray from Colrain wandered in after picking up her 3-year-old son Orion from the Itsy Bitsy Child Watch next door.

Gray grabbed some winter clothes; Orion picked out a book.

"We got some nice shirts and pants," Gray said. "And they're nice clothes too. This makes a huge difference for us. With inflation and one income, I cannot express my gratitude enough to everyone involved, the director of Itsy Bitsy Child Watch, the students, and Professor Civjan. I'm so thankful. My boy will be nice and cozy, and this left us more money in the bank to get him something a little extra for Christmas."

Gray said she'll be checking back weekly and plans to donate Orion's clothes after he outgrows them.

Should animals be given as gifts

EAST BROOKFIELD – In the heartwarming videos circulating every holiday season, the joy of receiving a surprise puppy or kitten is undeniable. The excitement is infectious, and you might be tempted to create a similar moment for a loved one this year. Second Chance Animal Services suggests a thoughtful alternative: consider a shelter visit as the gift of a lifetime.

While those viral videos capture the immediate happiness, Second Chance founder and CEO Sheryl Blancato emphasizes the unseen aftermath of pets surrendered to shelters shortly after festivities. "The decision to bring a pet into your family is immensely gratifying, but it's also a substantial commitment. Extensive research and careful consideration of your family's lifestyle are critical. Owning a pet is a considerable responsibility, both when they're young and as they age. Adopting a pet is a pledge for life."

Blancato advocates against surprising someone entirely with a pet. "Of course, we hope all our pets will spend the holidays in their new homes, but we want them to find homes with committed, loving families ready to take on the responsibility of caring for their new, furry family member. Being surrendered back to



a shelter takes a serious toll on animals. Witnessing them wait for their owner's return is truly heartbreaking."

To encourage responsible pet adoption, Second Chance recommends gifting a pet bed or bowls accompanied by a note expressing your intent to explore pet ownership responsibly. A handmade gift certificate for a local shelter visit, paired with an informative book on pet care, can be an excellent present for young children. This approach ensures that the decision to welcome a pet is well-informed and creates a memorable experience of the joy of going to the shelter together to choose the pet.

HG&E 10% holiday discount

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Gas & Electric's Commission recently approved an extra 10% Holiday discount for HG&E customers, to be applied to energy services billed during the December billing cycle.

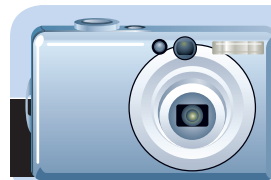
"Once again this holiday season, HG&E is delighted to offer customers an additional holiday discount," said HG&E's Commission Chairman Francis J. Hoey III. "We understand that this year has been challenging for many, and we hope that this discount will help ease the burden for you and your family."

For the average homeowner who heats with natural gas, the combined discounts (prompt payment and holiday discount) amount to savings of approximately \$75 on their bill. HG&E has implemented a holiday discount each year since 1992. This discount applies to commercial and residential gas and electricity customers who are

not already participating in an economic development discount program and is subject to the prompt payment discount terms.

While HG&E is proud to offer some of the lowest utility rates in the region, we understand that inflation and the rising cost of everyday expenses is having an impact on our customers and we are here to help. HG&E has a variety of resources that can assist customers who are facing financial hardship, including payment plans, energy efficiency programs, and connections to fuel assistance. For customers who are looking to save energy and money this winter, HG&E has a variety of resources that can assist customers, visit hged.com/save or contact customer service by calling (413) 536-9300.

"All of us here at HG&E offer our best wishes for a warm and bright holiday season," said Jim Lavelle, general manager.



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Wreaths Across America travels to Veterans Memorial Cemetery



AGAWAM – The public is invited to join the Town of Agawam in welcoming the Wreaths Across America delivery truck on its way to the Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Agawam to make the first delivery of wreaths of this season. A total of 9,528 will be delivered to the cemetery before National Wreaths Across America Day on Saturday, Dec. 16.

The Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Agawam is one of 4,000 locations that will honor the service of Veterans and those currently serving our nation on that day.

The "Rolling Welcome" is a first for

Agawam and is designed to express support for Veterans, as well as appreciation to the truck's driver, Chris Locke who donates his time, his truck and the fuel required to deliver the wreaths to cemeteries throughout New England. Locke's commitment to Wreaths Across America personifies this year's theme for Wreaths Across America which is Serve and Succeed.

The route will start at The Veterans Green, at the corner of Main Street and School Street and end at the entrance to the cemetery. It will include a police escort and a contingent from The Patriot Guard Riders.

STCC donates \$5,000 to Girls Inc.

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield Technical Community College donated \$5,000 to Girls Inc. of the Valley, a gift that will help support the youth development organization's teen center renovation as part of its Her Future, Our Future campaign.

The teen center is designed to get teens to think about their future by taking workshops in college and career readiness. STCC faculty and staff will also have an ongoing programmatic relationship with the Center. STCC's logo will be displayed on the Center's "Inspiration Wall" intended to remind participants about the pathways available to them through college and career.

In addition to having a Society of Women Engineers chapter, STCC has a strong female faculty presence which includes 12 full-time female faculty in the mathematics and engineering disciplines. Approximately 60% of STCC students are women.

"We are delighted to build a partnership with Springfield Technical Community College that supports the academic advancement and career exploration of our participants," said Suzanne Parker, executive director of Girls Inc. of the Valley. "This incredible financial investment coupled with volunteer opportunities and involvement from STCC faculty and staff will provide wonderful resources for scholars to plan for their future academic pursuits and career paths."

Administrators, faculty and staff from STCC, including President John B. Cook, in November toured the Girls Inc. of the Valley's new location in Holyoke. Dee Ward, associate executive director, walked them through the entire facility, including the teen center now under renovation.

"We are thrilled to invest in the future of Girls Inc. of the Valley," Cook said. "They have a beautiful new facility in Holyoke and are offering unique services that support goals STCC has specific to equity. When young people are considering their future, we want them to know STCC is a ready pathway."

The tour of Girls Inc.'s Holyoke



After a tour of the new Holyoke location for Girls Inc. of the Valley, STCC administrators, staff and faculty, including President John B. Cook, second from right, join representatives from Girls Inc. of the Valley, including Dee Ward and Ruth Roy, holding the ceremonial check.



Dee Ward, associate executive director for Girls Inc. of the Valley, speaks to administrators, faculty and staff from STCC who went on a tour of the organization's new facility in Holyoke.

Submitted Photos

headquarters included Dean of STEM Lara Sharp, Assistant STEM Dean Melishia Santiago, as well as faculty and staff from across the college.

"The number of women in STEM fields continues to improve, and STCC is committed to the continuation of increasing representation in all areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics," Sharp said. "At STCC, we are proud to have talented men and women teaching engineering and other STEM disciplines. It's important to have diversity in teaching as well as in the workforce to bring in more viewpoints and maximize innovation. We applaud the work Girls Inc. of the Valley is doing to help create access for girls."

Mont Marie Rehab supports animal shelters

HOLYOKE – Mont Marie Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center, where residents often benefit from animal-assisted therapy visits, launched Operation Santa Paws to collect pet supplies and donate them to a local animal shelter.

Through Dec. 22, the skilled nursing facility at 36 Lower Westfield Road, welcomes donated items such as blankets and towels, dog and cat beds, unopened pet food/treats, pet toys, grooming products, collars and leashes, and food/water bowls.

Therapy animals play a vital role in long-term care residents' lives, particularly those living with dementia and Alzheimer's. Benefits of animal therapy for seniors include emotional uplift, increased self-esteem, improved social skills, and reduced risk of depression and anxiety.

For more information, visit MontMarieRehab.com.

City makes plans for sheltering needs

HOLYOKE – The City's emergency response providers held a winter sheltering strategy session on Dec. 4 to map out action plans and take stock of resources.

Emergency Management Director Jeff Trask convened the meeting with Holyoke Mayor Joshua A. Garcia. Represented at the table were the Holyoke Police and Fire Departments, the City's Board of Health and Office of Community Development, the Community Emergency Response Team,

and Providence Ministries.

The group agreed that emergency housing for those in need would be provided when the temperature drops into the single digits or when the wind chill is below zero. They also put out a call for donations of jackets, gloves, hats, socks, blankets, hand-warmers, and monetary support. Donations of cold weather gear and money can be dropped off at the Holyoke Fire Department headquarters at 600 High St., on weekdays between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Holyoke Community College Foundation welcomes new board members, officers

HOLYOKE – HCC Foundation, Inc., the nonprofit fundraising arm of Holyoke Community College, has added nine new members to its Board of Directors, including six alumni, and also voted in a new slate of officers.

The new board members are: Jasarah Burgos of Springfield, program director of New North Citizens Council; Steven Clement '11, of West Springfield, a certified public accountant and former controller for ServiceNet; Kate Douglas, of South Hadley, president emerita of SUNY Corning Community College; Luindy Espinal '19, of Granby, senior accountant at Colony Hills Capital; Dean Gallagher, of Florence, retired; Johnnie McKnight '10, founder and president of Massachusetts Scholars With A Goal; Matt McMahon '06, of Franklin, senior technical advisor with Booz Allen; Ryan Rege '08, of Belchertown, director of vocational programs for Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School in Fitchburg; and Jim Shevlin '80, of Alpharetta, Georgia, division president of ESIS, a Chubb Company.

"When I first enrolled at HCC, I was not a very good student," said Rege, explaining his interest in the HCC Foundation. "It took me 10 years to earn my associate degree. By the time I did, HCC had instilled in me a passion for learning that I still carry with me today. I've made a career working in education. HCC helped me find my path and supported me when I needed it."

The Foundation board approved the appointment of the new directors at its annual meeting on Dec. 5 while also welcoming a new slate of officers.

Susan Goldsmith, of Longmeadow, president of Marcus Printing in Holyoke, will serve as chair; Lynn Starr '95, of Southampton, executive vice president and chief information officer at bankESB as vice chair; and Tiffany Madru, of West Hartford, Conn., founder of Analytics Labs in Holyoke, as secretary.

"We are thrilled to welcome such an impressive group of individuals to our board," said Amanda Sbriscia, HCC's vice president of Institutional Advancement and executive director of the HCC Foundation. "The diverse perspectives and professional experiences they bring will further elevate the work of the foundation, and their passion really is a gift to the HCC community."

The HCC Foundation has total net assets of \$28.3 million and an endowment of \$18 million, the largest of all 15 community colleges in Massachusetts, due in large part to nearly 200 endowed scholarships and other funds established by alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of the college.

In January, the HCC Foundation Board of Directors was recognized by the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges with the John W. Nason Award, a national honor that recognizes exceptional leadership and initiative.

Colleen applications being accepted

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: holyokestpatrickspatrade.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.

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<p>All Papers Will Deadline Thursday, Dec. 21 at Noon for Publication Dec. 25-29</p>	<p>All Papers Will Deadline Thursday, Dec. 28 at Noon for Publication Jan. 1-5</p>
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Guest Column



I'm returning to work; what should I do about Social Security?

Dear Rusty

I started collecting Social Security at age 62 earlier this year.

I had an opportunity to partner in a new business this year that will allow me to earn about \$200,000 in 2024. Because this is significantly above the allowed earnings when collecting early benefits, I need advice on how I handle this with the Social Security Administration.

Am I supposed to call them and advise them of my change in income for 2024? If so, am I going to be penalized in any way? I expect they will stop all payments in 2024 once I alert them to the change. Will I be eligible for Social Security payments when I retire again? This is planned to take place before I reach full retirement age of 67. For information, my 2023 income will not exceed the 2023 allowable income limit.

Signed: Un-retiring Temporarily

Dear Un-retiring

You have a couple of options, considering that you recently claimed early Social Security benefits but are returning to work with income significantly more than the 2024 earnings limit of \$22,320.

The first is to simply contact Social Security and tell them you are returning to the work force and tell them your anticipated 2024 income. They will suspend your SS benefits for all of 2024 to avoid overpaying you and making you return those 2024 payments later. If you plan to continue in your new business beyond 2024, you can advise them of that as well and they will continue the suspension of your benefits, until such time as you either discontinue working or reach your Full Retirement Age, the earnings test no longer applies after you reach your FRA.

At that time, SS will resume your monthly Social Security payments and, at your FRA, will give you time credit for all months your benefits were suspended, providing you with a higher monthly payment after your full retirement age is attained with an adjustment for benefits already paid).

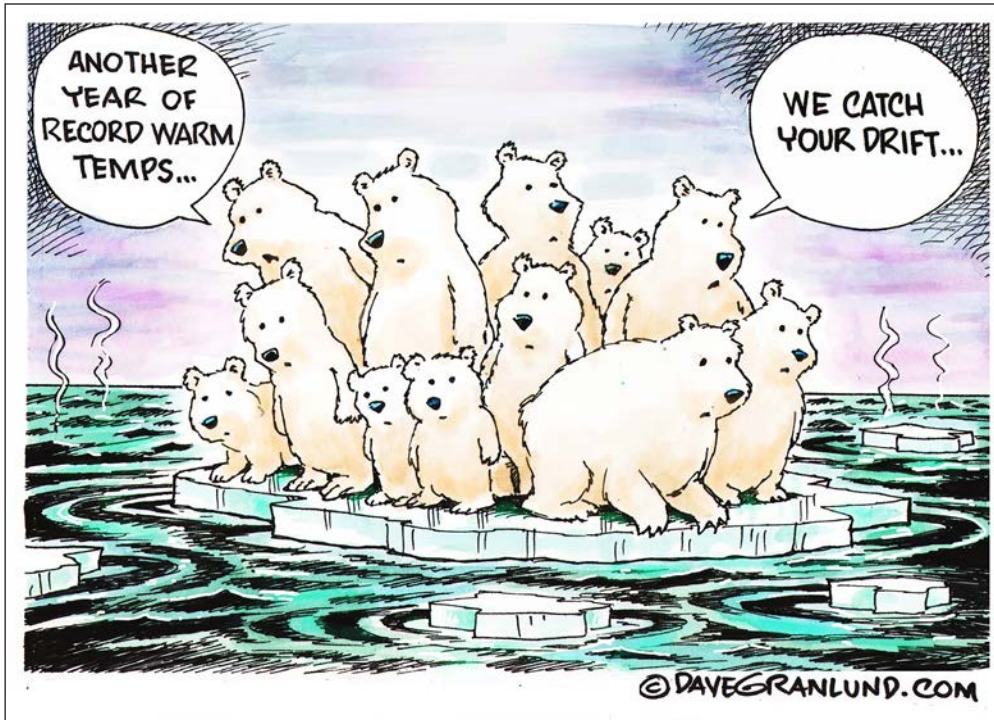
Your other option is to contact Social Security soon and request that your recent application for Social Security benefits submitted earlier this year be withdrawn. You have 12 months from the date of your application to do this, but you will need to repay Social Security all money which they paid to you or on your behalf (including your monthly payments, any income tax you had withheld from those payments, and any dependent benefits which might have been paid based on your record..

That will effectively "wipe the slate clean" with Social Security and will be as though you had never claimed, allowing you to simply wait until you stop working or until your FRA or even beyond your FRA, to re-apply for Social Security at a higher monthly amount. The advantage of this option is that when your benefit restarts there will be no adjustment (reduction) for past benefits paid.

What I suggest you not do is simply wait to see what happens. That would result in Social Security catching up after the IRS informs them of your 2024 earnings, resulting in you receiving an Overpayment Notice from the SSA demanding repayment of 2024 benefits paid.

In that case, you would need to quickly repay Social Security in a large lump-sum or have your SS benefits withheld until the debt for exceeding the earnings limit was repaid. In a nutshell, I suggest you call Social Security and tell them you are returning to work, what

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Guest Column



By Ellenor Downer

I received an email last month from a Brimfield resident who reported an acquaintance from Hardwick had a fox sparrow and pine siskin in his yard recently.

The fox sparrow is a large sparrow, seven inches. It has rufous sneaking on a gray head and back, whitish underparts and boldly streaked with brown or rufous. It has an irregular central dot on its breast and a reddish brown rump and tail.



Fox sparrow

These sparrows feed on the ground with seeds, fruits and insects making up its diet. They often jump forward and back to remove debris from the ground to uncover food. They come to feeders eating the seeds scattered on the ground by other birds.

The female lays four to six light blue, green eggs with darker marks in a cupcake nest if grasses, lichens and leaves lined with grasses, fur and rootlets. It is placed on the ground under a small tree or shrub. Their song is a series of clear melodious whistles and is more melodic than most sparrows.

Loon life span

In the Loon Preservation Committee newsletter, they discussed the loon life span.

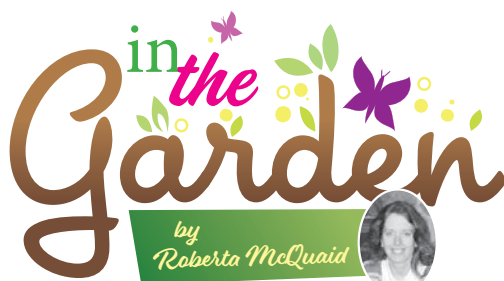
"How long do loons live?" is one of the most common questions that LPC biologists are asked.

The two oldest known loons in the world breed in Michigan, at the Seney Wildlife Refuge. They used to be a pair, however, in recent years they have gone their separate ways. The male's exact age is known because he was banded the year that he hatched. The female's exact age is unknown because she was banded as an adult, however, we know her minimum age. This summer, the female was at least 37 years old, while the male turned 36 years old.

New Hampshire has a male loon who was banded as an adult in 2000, making him at least 26 years old. In addition to his advanced age, he has another claim to fame: he is the only loon, so far, in New

See BACKYARD, page 5

Experiment with American Holly seeds



by Roberta McQuaid

I was taking a walk in my yard along the wood line and came across the tiniest holly plant I have ever seen.

I got so excited that I snapped a picture and sent it to my husband. When we bought this house, we inherited a twenty foot tall, pyramid shaped holly bush-tree.

It fruits almost every year. While this year's berry show is mediocre, the year prior was outstanding!

The birds must have dined on some of the red berries awhile back and planted them for me resulting in this photo opportunity. I got to thinking about what needed to happen for holly seeds to germinate in the first place.

Read on for a bit of a botany lesson on a beloved holiday plant.

American Holly (Ilex opaca) are native

plants and dioecious, meaning there are male plants and female plants. In the home landscape you need one of each nearby for berry production; in natural conditions this typically happens on its own.

One of my neighbors must have a male so that I end up with berries. The tiny white flowers on my holly bush-tree usually come in such abundance that you hear the buzzing a good distance from the plant.

I get excited about that, too!

It is said that less than 5% of the world's plants are dioecious. Others well-known and ironically, also holiday plants, include a cousin of the American Holly, Winterberry (Ilex verticillata) and Bayberry (Myrica pennsylvanica).

If you would like to try and get some holly seeds to germinate, first you need to pick the berries and squish them to get the seeds out. This becomes a little easier after the seeds have sat awhile; mixing them with water also helps.

Once the seeds are separated from the skin, they need to go through a pretreatment. Not an actual sowing, but a time of waiting whereby the seed coat can break down.

See GARDEN, page 5



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A Quote

OF NOTE

"Be persistent and never give up hope."

George Lucas

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Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

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

Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

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

PLAN, from page 1

their exact plans for doing so.

These councilors would like for the current proposal to be broken down. Therefore, rather than having the plan all voted on as a \$1 million line item, instead have it broken down into separate items that the council can debate individually.

"There are some very valuable pieces but then there are others that still need to be drawn out and mapped out," Rivera said. "They're not breaking down how they're going to use the money. If they could do that, that would be great."

Rivera also was hesitant to support an increase in policing, especially in the

lower wards. He feels that these areas are currently being over policed, and that funding an increase in police will not improve the situation.

"For me it's not about the money... it's about preventing the traumatic experience of kids who are being over policed on a regular basis," Rivera said. "It feels like we're just adding more police. That does not solve the issue, all it does is cause the next 13, 14-year-old kid to run into the same experience and have the same issues and possibly be incarcerated."

Other councilors argued that the investment in this plan and increased safety residents would receive from it would be worth the increased funds.

"Since when did money become more important than life?" Councilor Juan Anderson-Burgos asked.

Councilor Joseph McGiverin agreed that this plan was worth the costs.

"There's a time when you have to spend money to get results," he said. "If you believe in just three quarters of Ezekiel's Plan, the plus outweighs the negative. We need to spend some money to get Ezekiel's Plan going and to make our neighborhoods and our streets across the city safer. I'm willing to take that chance."

The other councilors disagreed. While the benefits of Ezekiel's Plan could be great, they also do not want to greatly increase citizen's task dollars or run the

chance of bankrupting the city.

"How do you tank the whole system and spend money you don't have?" Jourdain said. "It's like the family that's living on credit cards and I'm watching this slow motion trainwreck right in front of me. And yet, all we talk about is 'we love people and we want to do this'. If you want to run a city on love, it doesn't pay the bills. You don't have this money, and yet you spend it anyway."

With this in mind, the councilors voted down Ezekiel's Plan. A motion was made by McGiverin and passed by the council to reconsider the vote. This motion was then laid on the table to discuss at a future meeting.

SECURITY, from page 4

your earnings are expected to be, and for how long.

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represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

GARDEN, from page 4

Mix the seed with sand and compost and let it sit outside for the summer and through the following winter, totaling about eighteen months. It's a good idea to protect this mixture from mice who would find the seeds delectable.

As the seed coat breaks down, water can be absorbed, and the germination process begins.

Take a look at the seeds and if you see a root emerging, it's time to plant them in pots. Young holly seedlings do not like to be disturbed, so for that reason the seeds are planted individually, one per 3-4-inch pot.

Keep the pots outside and water as needed.

During the growing season the plants could put on up to seven inches of growth, and by fall, could use a new,

bigger pot. Transplant carefully, allowing the plant to grow for another season before finally planting in its permanent location.

American Holly can thrive in varying exposures from sun to shade. It is tolerant of heat and cold, but prefers somewhat acid soil and most soils other than clay.

This is a fun experiment that may encourage you to try your hand at germinating the seeds of other native trees or shrubs. Similar instructions apply!

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.

BACKYARD, from page 4

Hampshire that has produced chicks after surviving lead poisoning.

The oldest known loon in New Hampshire is a female, who occupies a territory on Lake Umbagog. She was originally banded as an adult in 1993. Because she was banded as an adult, we don't know her exact age. We only know for sure that she was at least three years old in 1993. However, loons don't hatch chicks, on average, until they are 6 years old, and this loon hatched chicks the year she was banded. That means she was likely 6 years old or older in 1993. She is at minimum 33 years old, but more likely 36 or older.

Decrease in bird activity

I received an email from a man who said this year he has a very noticeable decrease in bird population.

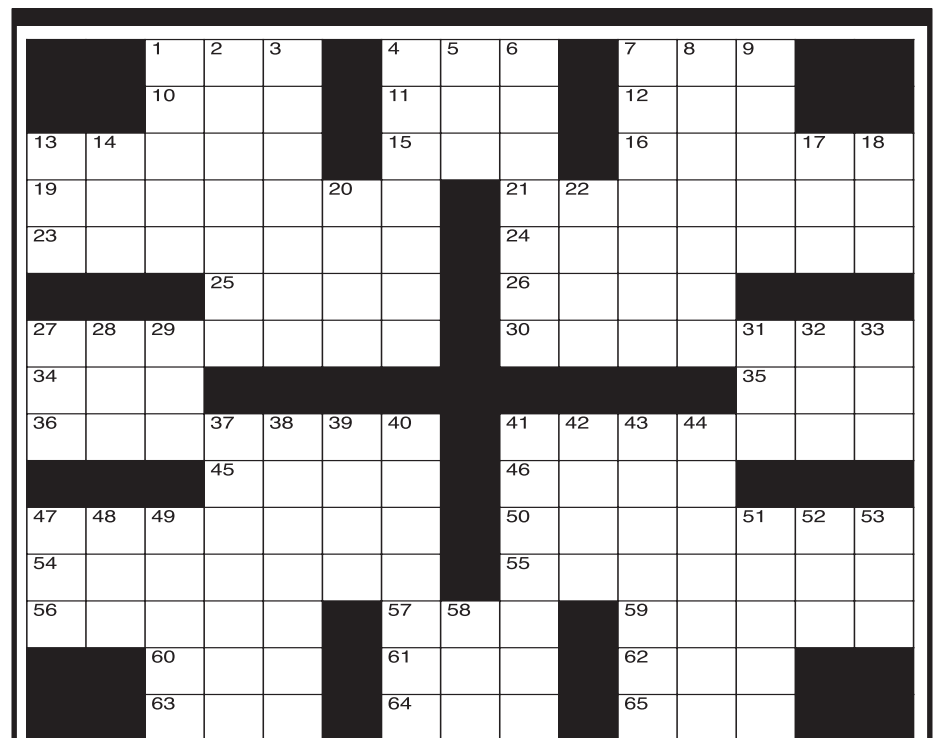
He reports he has a male and female bobcat and squirrels, rabbits and chipmunks have disappeared. He said "maybe that's part of it." He said he started to leave one feeder out overnight testing to see if there are still bears about. Here's hoping they have all gone into hibernation.

Bird club

A Brimfield resident emailed, "On Nov. 30 I took part in a project for the bird club and afterwards we

went to Forest Park in Springfield and saw a black duck, a chilly looking great blue heron, a hermit thrush and several golden-crowned kinglets.

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. Mimic
- 4. Payroll firm
- 7. Perform in a play
- 10. Opine: ___ philosophical
- 11. Crony
- 12. Political action committee
- 13. 1991 Wimbledon winner
- 15. Affirmative
- 16. Exclamation of disgust
- 19. Action of connecting
- 21. A way to calm
- 23. Especially fine or decorative clothing
- 24. Walked proudly
- 25. Group of people related through male heir
- 26. Supplemented with difficulty
- 27. Soft touch
- 30. Erases

CLUES DOWN

- 34. Spanish river
- 35. A princess can detect it
- 36. Clouds of gas
- 41. A way to get through
- 45. Part of a book
- 46. Southwestern US state
- 47. Fields where rice is grown
- 50. Area in Ghana
- 54. Sayings
- 55. Involve deeply
- 56. Compels to act
- 57. "Ignore all rules"
- 59. Indoor entertainment space
- 60. Born of
- 61. Back muscle
- 62. Sea dweller
- 63. Tools that resemble an axe
- 64. Prefix denoting class or kind
- 65. Tooth caregiver

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Inspiring
- 2. Put into a box
- 3. Breathes out
- 4. Pacify
- 5. Patriotic society for women
- 6. Fell down
- 7. Clothing
- 8. Dishwasher detergent brand
- 9. Former French republic
- 13. Single lens reflex
- 14. Men's fashion accessory
- 17. Consumed
- 18. Marry
- 20. ___ up: intensifies
- 22. Body of water
- 27. People of southern Benin
- 28. Decorate a cake with frosting
- 29. Snag
- 31. Yearly tonnage
- (abbr.)
- 32. Records brain activity (abbr.)
- 33. Car mechanics group
- 37. Brought up to snuff
- 38. ___ faire: Economic approach
- 39. Phil ___, former CIA
- 40. Affixed
- 41. Period of adolescence
- 42. Substance
- 43. Danced
- 44. Baked without its shell
- 47. Parts per billion (abbr.)
- 48. Satisfaction
- 49. Balkans river
- 51. Christmas carols
- 52. Partner to tonic
- 53. "The Godfather" character Johnny
- 58. Swiss river

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 8

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In The News



The capsule storage area is tested to make sure the boxes fit.



Aaron Vega leads the closing ceremony.



Mayor Joshua Garcia delivers his remarks.



Olivia Mausel speaks about the capsule.



Mayor Joshua Garcia and Chamber of Commerce Director Jordan Hart place the second box in the time capsule.



The time capsule is bolted closed. *Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli*

CAPSULE, from page 1

Apparel from Holyoke High and Dean Technical is also in the time capsule as well as works from local authors.

Garcia said he hopes the future generation that opens the time capsule in 2073 will see that the generations in 2023 loved the city.

"I hope they will see and feel the generations before them and continue to grow the community," Garcia said.

In addition to the two steel boxes, Garcia also placed a letter from himself to whoever the mayor of the city is in 2023.

Vega represented the great work of Cofab and said he was proud that 90 percent of the capsule was created and fabricated within four blocks of City Hall.

"We really hope it will stand the test of time," Vega said.

The boxes were placed into the capsule and the front cover was screwed on. The covering was ceremonial and it is possible a few more items will be added before the end of the year. After that, the capsule will remain closed for 50 years.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

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- USDA INSP. FRESH STORE MADE HOLIDAY ROAST BONELESS PORK LOIN STUFFED WITH HAM, CHEESE, PEPPERS, OLIVES, SPICES **\$4⁴⁹** lb
- USDA INSP. FROZEN PORK SHOULDER PICNIC **\$1⁴⁴** lb
- USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN RIBEYE FOR STANDING ROAST CUT FREE **\$8⁸⁸** lb WHOLE OR HALF
- USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TENDERLOIN CUT FREE **\$9⁸⁹** lb
- USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF SIRLOIN SPOON ROAST **\$5⁹⁹** lb
- USDA INSP. FRESH AMERICAN LAMB LEGS **\$3⁹⁹** lb
- USDA INSP. FRESH IMPORTED LAMB RACKS **\$15⁹⁹** lb
- USDA INSP. FRESH HOTEL TURKEY BREAST..... **\$1⁹⁹** lb
- USDA INSP. FROZEN WHOLE TURKEYS **99¢** lb
- USDA INSP. FROZEN CAPONS..... **\$5⁹⁹** lb

HOLIDAY APPETIZERS

- USDA INSP. CHICOPEE PROVISIONS BLUE SEAL KIELBASA **\$4⁹⁹** lb
- USDA INSP. STORE MADE ALL VARIETIES FAMILY PAK ITALIAN SAUSAGE..... **\$1⁹⁹** lb
- USDA INSP. FULLY COOKED MEATBALLS 5 LB..... **\$12⁹⁹** ea
- USDA INSP. ASSORTED VARIETIES ALI MAGS SPRING ROLLS.. **\$4⁹⁹** ea
- USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN U PICK COOKED SHRIMP **\$11⁹⁹** ea

HOLIDAY HAMS

- USDA INSP. KAYEM BUDDA BALL BONELESS SMOKED PIT HAM **\$3⁴⁹** lb
- USDA INSP. FROZEN SKINLESS & SHANKLESS HATFIELD OLDTIME HARDWOOD SMOKED WHOLE HAM **\$2⁴⁴** lb
- USDA INSP. FROZEN 1/2 SPIRAL HAM..... **\$1²⁹** lb
- USDA INSP. FROZEN HAM PORTIONS..... **99¢** lb

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Pitch Night

Wednesday Night
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Boys get win in opening game

FISKDALE – Last Friday night, Holyoke boys basketball traveled to Central Mass. to face Tantasqua in an independent matchup. The Knights led early and came away with a 57-47 win. Tantasqua challenged the lead on a few occasions, but were never able to get any sustained momentum throughout the matchup. The Warriors were led by Sam Pieczynski with 13 points. Colm McGrath had 11 points for the Warriors as well.



Shawn Rivera looks to make an inside pass.



Dylan Rohan makes his way down the court.



Davian Diaz is pressured near the sideline.



Aden Cabrera considers a different approach to the hoop as he runs into the opposing defense.



Tryanna Ayala looks to shoot.



Genesis Rivera takes a shot.

Warriors too much for ladies in opener

HOLYOKE – Last Friday night, Holyoke girls basketball hosted Tantasqua in its season opener and fell 57-35.

Amilyan Treadwell-Mercedes was Holyoke's top scorer with 15 points. She had seven free throws in the contest. Kiara Perez had nine points in the defeat.



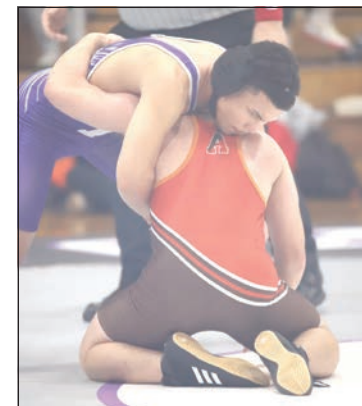
Amilyan Treadwell-Mercedes eyes the hoop with an off-balance shot.



Kiara Perez starts a play as she crosses midcourt.



Jaelyn Colon gets the open shot on the basket.



Antoine Navarro wrestles at 144 pounds.



Jack Perez goes for the win at 190 pounds.



Abinadab Garay Cintron tries to keep hold of his opponent's leg in the 175-pound match.



Derek Conception grapples in the 157-pound match.

Knights open with multiple meets

GRANBY – Last Saturday morning, Holyoke wrestling got its season started with multiple meets hosted by nearby Granby High School.

Holyoke visited along

with Agawam, Southwick, and Chicopee. The Knights will now have its weekend to host an event with the Knight-Hawk tournament set for Saturday, Dec. 16 beginning at 9 a.m.

Winter Showdown to feature SK Type Open Modified programs

WINTER HAVEN, FL – As tradition has it, motorsports fans from coast to coast will soon be flocking to the Sunshine State, ready to elude the abrasive winter chill in exchange for a full month of racing at a variety of ovals across the peninsula. Auburndale Speedway in Winter Haven, Florida, centrally located between Tampa and Orlando, will join in on the winter action, ready to host its highly-anticipated Winter Showdown on February 6-10.

In total, seven different asphalt divisions will be taking to the Auburndale shorttrack, all of which anchored with

the 602 Tour Type Modifieds, and the Tour/SK Type Open Modifieds, that will headline the week-long Winter Showdown agenda on Thursday through Saturday. The 602 Modifieds, battling for \$500-to-win in each of their respective programs, will compete on all three of the aforementioned evenings with the Tour/SK Type Open Modifieds competing for \$2,000-to-win paydays on Friday and Saturday, only.

A true must-see for any short track enthusiast, the Tour Type Modifieds have never competed at Auburndale Speedway giving fans the opportunity to witness a new piece of Florida history.

Competitors should note, Modifieds will utilize the F45 Hoosier; additional rules will be posted in the coming days.

In addition to the aforementioned Modified divisions, Legends/Bandoleros (highlighted with double programs on Wednesday and Thursday), Mighty TQ Midgets (chasing a \$5,000 total purse), USAC Eastern Midgets, the National Compact Tour, and the infamous Crown Vics, will also join in on the Winter Showdown, activating officially with open practice and track rental sessions beginning Tuesday, February 6.

Registration for Auburndale Speedway's Winter Showdown is offi-

cially open. Competitors seeking to pre-register can do so by clicking the link below. Online registration will close on February 1 with additional registration opportunities available at-track during each day's respective program.

Speed Sport TV, home to the widest variety of motorsports events, award-winning shows and exclusive features with live and on-demand capabilities, is the official broadcast partner of the annual Winter Showdown and is set to broadcast each evening live. Race coverage packages and pricing will be available soon. Learn more at www.speedsport.tv.

Thunderbirds stuff Islanders on annual Teddy Bear Night

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (12-8-2-0) thoroughly controlled the game and came away with a defiant 5-1 win over the Bridgeport Islanders (6-15-1-0) on Saturday night before a sold-out crowd of 6,793 for the annual Teddy Bear Toss.

Fans did not have to wait long to chuck their stuffed animals onto the ice, as Mathias Laferriere cleaned up a loose puck rebound in front of Jakub Skarek and tucked it home on the backhand just 1:40 into the game, bringing about thousands of bears raining onto the ice sheet.

After a delay in picking up all the stuffed donations, the T-Birds picked right up where they left off, and just 6:10 after the Laferriere goal, the top line generated another marker. Adam Gaudette connected on a pass to the right side to Nathan Walker. Dylan Coghlan quickly raced up into the play as a trailer and perfectly placed a wrist shot over Skarek's blocker arm to make it a 2-0 game at 7:50.

Vadim Zherenko was mostly untested in the T-Birds' net, as the offense for both teams went dry for well over the next 30 minutes of game action.

The game's temperature then rose at the 3:18 mark of the third as Sam Bitten and Travis Mitchell dropped the mitts in an old-school style scrap, bringing up the noise on both benches and inside the building. When the game

moved to 4-on-4 following matching minors three minutes later, the T-Birds put the game out of reach with two goals in short order.

First, Calle Rosen drifted back toward his blue line and stunned the Islanders with a perfect diagonal pass to a streaking Walker, who beat Skarek with a backhander to make it 3-0 at 7:18 of the third. Just 22 seconds later, Walker was the distributor off the rush, setting up Wyatt Kalynuk for a snapper through Skarek's five-hole, and in a matter of a half minute, the lead had ballooned to 4-0 for the T-Birds.

Matt Maggio broke up Zherenko's shutout bid with a shot that caromed off a defender and through Zherenko's legs at 10:27 to make it a 4-1 game, but that would be all the Isles could muster on this night.

Coghlan would add his second of the night on Walker's fourth point of the evening, blasting a one-time power play slapper through Skarek's legs at 13:59, rounding out the scoring with his seventh goal of the year and his second multi-goal game.

For the first time this season, the T-Birds went the full 60 minutes without having to play shorthanded, and Springfield scored on their lone power play chance to make it a perfect night in special teams. Zherenko got his fourth straight win with 34 saves. In his last four outings, the second-year netminder has stopped 126 out of 132 shots.

Railers suffer loss to Thunder

WORCESTER – The Railers dropped a 3-2 shootout to the Adirondack Thunder here Saturday before a loud Teddy Bear Toss crowd of 5,029. While Worcester did not dominate play in this one as much as it did in Friday's 4-2 triumph, the Railers had more and better chances than the Thunder.

However, Adirondack was 1 for 2 on its power plays, Worcester 0 for 1. This marked the ninth time in 21 games this season the Railers were outscored by the opposition on special teams. Worcester is 2-4-3 in those games.

The Railers did not get a power play until overtime. At 3:08 of the fourth period, something happened that typified the night. A Worcester shot rang off the post, rolled into the back of Thunder goaltender Vinnie Purpura, then bounced back towards the net.

It stopped on the goal line.

Worcester outshot the visitors, 38-28. That included a 21-6 edge in the first period, which ended 1-1 but could have been 5-1.

"Stay the course," was coach Jordan Smotherman's advice to his team in the dressing room. "That's two really good games out of us. We have 80 shots in two nights and we should win both those games. Obviously, we'll take the three-point weekend but prefer the four.

"There's a lot to build on."

The seven-minute overtime was exactly what hockey's honchos had in mind when they thought up the idea.

It was non-stop offense with great goaltending from Worcester's Tristan Lennox and Purpura, both of whom stopped five shots.

The shootout was the kind of thing hockey's honchos are trying to avoid. The teams traded slow-motion approaches to the net. Adirondack's Patrick Grasso had the only goal in eight tries, a 12-foot wrist shot along the ice.

Keeghan Howdeshell and Anthony Repaci had the Railers goals. Worcester never led. Jack Jeffers and Mike Gillespie scored for Adirondack.

Howdeshell's goal came at 19:07 of the first period. It was set up by a physical play by Riley Piercey along the right boards. Repaci redirected a long pass from the right point by Todd Goehring at 13:33 of the second period.

In the last four games the Railers have outshot the opposition by 160-108 but have been outscored — goalie in the net — by 11-8. Worcester's shots have not been time-to-change lines softballs, either. The Railers are pummeling opposing goalies.

"It's the old adage in hockey," Smotherman said. "If you keep getting the chances they're gonna go in at some point. I'd rather be getting them than not."

Saturday night's game marked the 16th time the Railers and Thunder have met in the last 30 games going back to the end of last season. That ridiculous overload is almost over. The teams play just three more times this year, one of those games next week.

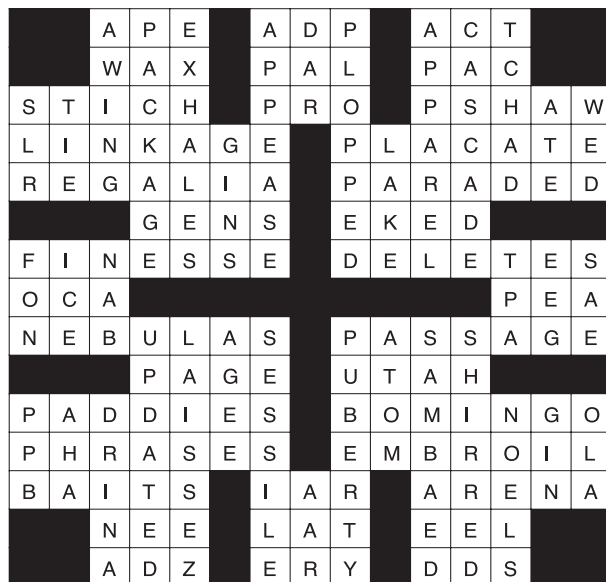
The Holyoke Sun
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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



Early Deadlines
 for all LEGAL NOTICES...

All Papers Will Deadline Thursday, Dec. 21 at Noon for Publication Dec. 25-29

Happy Holidays!

Happy New Year!

All Papers Will Deadline Thursday, Dec. 28 at Noon for Publication Jan. 1-5

This paper publishes birth, engagement, wedding and significant anniversary announcements free of charge.
 Simply log on to our web site, choose the paper you want the announcement to appear in, then use our SUBMISSION link to email your information.

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**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD23P2162GD**
**In the interests of
Abdiel Luis Nadal
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 10/19/2023 by **Alina Madera of Holyoke, MA** will be held **01/11/2024 08:30 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing**. Located: **Probate & Family Court, 4th Floor, 50 State Street, Springfield, MA 01102**

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: December 7, 2023
Rosemary Saccomani
Register of Probate
12/15/2023

William Dean Vocational Technical High School Boiler Replacement & Repair Project
The City of Holyoke seeks General sealed bids from a Prime HVAC Contractor for the William Dean Vocational Technical High School Boiler Replacement Project. In addition, the Project seeks DCAMM Filed Sub Bid (FSB) subcontractors for the following categories of work: Plumbing and Electrical. The bid packet will be available on Dec. 13, 2023 electronically at www.biddocs.com after 10am. Filed Sub-bids must be received before 2:00 PM, Wed. Jan. 3, 2024 and DCAMM certified Prime Boiler General Contractors Bids must be received before 2:00 PM, Wed. Jan. 10, 2024 electronically at www.biddocs.com. A Pre-bid will be held on 12:00 PM, Tues. Dec 19, 2023 at the William Dean Vocational Technical High School, 1045 Main Street, Holyoke, MA 01040. The City reserves the right to reject any and all proposals or to accept that which is

deemed in the best interest of the City of Holyoke, MA. The City shall not be responsible for proposals arriving late for any reason.
12/15/2023

**LEGAL NOTICE
CITY OF HOLYOKE
GAS & ELECTRIC
DEPARTMENT
ELECTRICAL
PREVENTATIVE
MAINTENANCE
TESTING SERVICES**

Sealed bids for the above-named contract will be received by Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept. until **2:00 p.m. January 23, 2024**, at the office of the Manager, 99 Suffolk St., Holyoke, MA 01040, at which time proposals will be opened.

Additional information may be obtained from:

Chi Wong
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept.
99 Suffolk St.
Holyoke, MA 01040
cwong@hged.com
(413) 335-0148

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

Please mark sealed envelopes "**Bid for Electrical Preventative Maintenance Testing Services**" and address them to:

James M. Lavelle, Manager
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept.
99 Suffolk St.
Holyoke, MA 01040
12/15/2023

**RFP # 10660 LEGAL
NOTICE REQUEST FOR
PROPOSALS (RFP)**

The Girls Inc. of the Valley is seeking Requests for Proposals from qualified firms to complete toilet room renovations described in this RFP. Project 480 Hampden Street, Holyoke, Massachusetts.

Requests for proposals may be obtained thru DropBox <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/zengn749chmiprllr78ak/h?rlkey=19hdqh-n88iw77nl9svxdn77w5&dl=0>

The deadline for submission is **Wednesday, January 05, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.** to OPM Franklin Quigley @ fquigley@fdquig.com and Project Architect Andrew Bagge abagge@kuhnridde.com

The Girls Inc. reserves the right to cancel any request for proposals, and to reject in whole or in part any and all proposals, when it is deemed in the best interests of Girls Inc. to do so.

All questions pertaining to this RFP must be submitted in writing to the Project Manager Franklin Quigley @ fquigley@fdquig.com for assistance if needed.
12/15/2023

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD23P2161GD**
**In the interests of
Jaliany Estrada Figueroa
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 **10/19/2023** by **Alina Madera of Holyoke, MA** will be held **01/11/2024 08:30 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing**. Located: **Probate & Family Court, 50 State Street, 4th Floor, Springfield, MA 01102**

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Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

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Date: December 7, 2023
Rosemary Saccomani
Register of Probate
12/15/2023

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
HAMPDEN, Div.
Probate & Family Court
Dept. HD23E0057PP**

To Richard F Kmon of Holyoke, in the County of Hampden, and to all other persons interested.

A petition has been presented to said Court by Elizabeth M. Kmon, of Yarmouth Port, in the County of Barnstable, representing that they hold as joint tenants in an undivided part or share of land lying in Holyoke, in the County of Hampden, setting forth that they desire that all of said land may be sold at a private sale or public auction for not less than Two Hundred Ninety Thousand (\$290,000.00) Dollars, and praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any part of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided either at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute the net proceeds thereof after full adjudication of the equitable claims contained in said petition and supplemental memorandum filed with the Court.

If you desire to object thereto, you or your attorney, should file a written appearance in said Court at Springfield before ten o'clock in the morning on the **twenty-second day of January 2024**, the return day of this citation.

Witness, **BARBARA M. HYLAND**, Esquire, First Justice of said Court, this

20th day of November 2023.
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register
12/01, 12/08, 12/15/2023

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD23P2160GD**
**In the interests of
Layla Lee Figueroa
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 10/19/2023 by **Alina Madera of Holyoke, MA** will be held **01/11/2024 08:30 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing**. Located: **Probate & Family Court, 50 State Street, 4th Floor, Springfield, MA 01102**

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: December 7, 2023
Rosemary Saccomani
Register of Probate
12/15/2023

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
HAMPDEN, ss.
SUPERIOR COURT
DEPARTMENT OF
THE TRIAL COURT
CIVIL ACTION NO.
2279CV00631**

HEATHER LEMRISE
Plaintiff
v.
**JILL G. DONOVAN,
PAMELA M. HUNTER,
PAULA M. McDONOUGH**
and the heirs or legal representatives of
**JOSEPH S. TENCZAR,
PAULA A.
McDONOUGH and
DONALD J. TENCZAR** and persons claiming under Joseph S. Tenczar, Paul A. McDonough and Donald J. Tenczar who may claim an interest in certain land in Holyoke, Hampden County, Massachusetts by purchase, descent or otherwise

Defendants
ORDER OF NOTICE
TO: the Defendants, the heirs or legal representatives of Joseph S. Tenczar, Paul A. McDonough and Donald J. Tenczar and persons claiming under Joseph S. Tenczar, Paul A. McDonough and Donald J. Tenczar who may claim an interest in 78 Belvidere Avenue, Holyoke, Hampden County, Massachusetts (the "Premises") by purchase, descent or otherwise.

HEATHER LEMRISE claiming to have an interest in the Premises by virtue of that certain Warranty Deed dated June 30, 2022 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 24622, page 438 has filed with this Court a Complaint and First Amended Complaint to Quiet Title pursuant to M.G.L. C. 240, §§ 6 to 10 due to the fact that Defendants have an adverse claim clouding the Plaintiffs' record title to said Premises arising out of and related to that certain deed with warranty covenants dated October 28, 1999 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 10980, page 91, which deed had an improper granting clause, the Attorney in Fact did not execute it correctly and the notary acknowledgement of the signature of the Attorney in Fact was not made correctly.

If you object to the Plaintiffs' Complaint, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer or other responsive pleading with this court at 50 State Street, Springfield, MA 01103 on or before December 31, 2023 (the "Return Date"), or you may be forever barred from objecting to the Plaintiffs' claims.

Witness: (Callan, J.) Justice of the Superior Court.
Attest: Laura S. Gentile, Clerk, Hampden County Superior Court.
12/08, 12/15, 12/22/2023

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD23P2287EA**
**Estate of:
Michael D Mulligan
Date of Death: 10/11/2023**
**CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
FORMAL
ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Susann J Woodbury of Holyoke, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Susann J Woodbury of Holyoke, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/05/2024.
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by

which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 08, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
12/15/2023

**City of Holyoke
Office of Purchasing
536 Dwight Street,
Room 3
Holyoke, MA 01040
Invitation to Bid 2024-35
Filed Sub bids
Peck Middle School
**PRE QUALIFIED SUB
BIDDERS ONLY**
DCAMM GENERAL
BUILDING
CONSTRUCTION**

The City of Holyoke is accepting bids in accordance with MGL CH.149 for pre-qualified trade contractors only for the GC & FSB prequalifications from 2024-16 for the New Peck Middle School. Only Pre Qualified Bidders may submit bids. A Pre Bid Conference will be held at the Peck Middle School located at 1916 Northampton Street, Holyoke, MA 01040; Date and Time to be determined and will be issued via Addendum. This project is being managed by our OPM Anser Advisory all documents are available through biddocs.com Documents will be available on 11/30/2023. The bidding deadline is on 12/28/2023 at 4PM where results will be available on biddocs.com. Estimated cost for construction is \$61,200,000.00. The city reserves the right to reject any and all bids.
12/01, 12/08, 12/15/2023

See **PUBLIC NOTICES,**
page 10

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

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

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Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES, from page 9

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD23P2494EA
Estate of:
Timothy George Perry
Also known as:
Timothy G Perry
Date of Death: 10/09/2023
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by James P Perry of Holyoke, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that: James P Perry of Holyoke, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at


the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/04/2024.
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Barbara

M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 07, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
12/15/2023
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
County of Hampden
The Superior Court
CIVIL DOCKET
#2379CV00045
RE: Polish National Credit Union vs Heirs Devises and Legal Representatives of the Estate of Virginia R. McGinty, Kathryn Peterson, as an Heir, Devisee or Legal Representative of the Estate of Virginia R. McGinty and Kathryn Peterson, individually
ORDER OF NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
TO: The Heirs Devises and Legal Representatives of the Estate of Virginia R. McGinty, who upon information and belief, was a Massachusetts resident, and to the best of the Plaintiff's knowledge with a last and usual place of residence at 196 Walnut Street, Holyoke, and Kathryn Peterson, individually, and as a Heir, Devisee, and Legal Representative of the Estate of Virginia R. McGinty, a Massachusetts resident, and to the best of the Plaintiff's knowledge, with a last and usual place of residence at 36

Clinton Avenue, Holyoke, in the County of Hampden; all in said Commonwealth;
AND TO ALL PERSONS ENTITLED TO THE BENEFIT OF THE SERVICE MEMBERS' CIVIL RELIEF ACT OF 1940 AS AMENDED 2003 as amended:
Polish National Credit Union, a duly incorporated financial institution with a place of business at 46 Main Street, Chicopee, Hampden County, Massachusetts claiming to be the holder of mortgage covering property known as 196 Walnut Street, Holyoke, Hampden County, Massachusetts given by, Virginia R. McGinty to Polish National Credit Union dated December 7, 2020 recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds in, Book 23593, Page 347, has filed with said court a Complaint for authority to foreclose said mortgage in the manner following: by entry on and possession of the premises therein described and by exercise of the power of sale contained in said mortgage.
If you are entitled to the benefits of the Service Members' Civil Relief Act of 1940 as amended, and you object to such foreclosure you or your attorney should file a written appearance

and answer in said court at Springfield in said County on or before 1/16/24 or you may be forever barred from claiming that such foreclosure is invalid under said Act.
Witness, Heidi E. Brieger, Esquire, Chief Justice of the Superior Court, at Springfield, Massachusetts, this 5th day of December, 2023.
Laura S. Gentile
Clerk of the Courts
By:
Stephanie Roscoe
Assistant Clerk
12/15/2023
Lawrence/McMahon/Donahue Schools
(3) Window & Door Replacement & Repair Projects
The City of Holyoke seeks sealed bids from a Prime, DCAMM Certified, Window/Door contractor for the Lawrence School Window & Door Replacement & Repair Project, the McMahon School Window & Door Replacement & Repair Project, and the Donahue School Window & Door Replacement & Repair Project. DCAMM trade subcontractors are sought for the following categories of work for each project: Waterproofing, Dampproofing & Caulking and Painting. The bid packets for each project will be available on Dec. 13, 2023 electronically at www.biddocsonline.com. Filed Sub-bids must be received before 2:00 PM, Wed. Jan. 3, 2024 and DCAMM certified Prime Window and Door General Contractors Bids must be received before 2:00 PM, Wed. Jan. 10, 2024 electronically at www.biddocsonline.com. A Pre-bid meeting will be held at 1:00 PM on Tues. Dec 19, 2023 The Pre-Bid Meeting will be "rolling" and begin at the Maurice A Donahue School, 210 Whiting Farms Road, Holyoke, MA 01040; then will move onto the Lt. Elmer J. McMahon School, 75 Kane Road, Holyoke, MA 01040; and lastly the H.B. Lawrence School, 156 Cabot


St, Holyoke, MA, 01040. The City reserves the right to reject any and all proposals or to accept that which is deemed in the best interest of the City of Holyoke, MA. The City shall not be responsible for proposals arriving late for any reason.
12/15/2023
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No. HD23P2407EA
Estate of:
Mary E Wynne
Also known as:
Mary E McElroy
Date of Death: 03/27/2023
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Janet Glenn of Holyoke, MA
A Will has been admitted to informal probate.
Janet Glenn of Holyoke, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.
The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
12/15/2023




CAREER

and Education

Great opportunity to advertise job openings you have available!





Turley Publications, Inc. is offering a great resource for the communities it serves by showcasing the career & education opportunities available locally.

This special section is circulated into all 12 of our papers, those papers include. The Sentinel, The Chicopee Register, The Sun, The Register, The Wilbraham-Hampden Times, Agawam Advertiser, Country Journal, Town Reminder, Quaboag Current, Journal Register, Ware River News and Barre Gazette.

The 2024 Career & Education edition publishes **the week of January 10th-12th**
Space reservation deadline is January 3rd.

PRICES AND SPECS:	
All ads are black and white.	
1/8 page (4 3/4" across x 4" down)	\$295 total
1/4 page (vertical- 4 3/4" across x 8" down) or (horizontal 9 3/4" across x 4" down)	\$595 total
1/2 page (horizontal- 9 3/4" across x 8" down) or (vertical- 4 3/4" across x 16" down)	\$975 total
Full page (9 3/4" across x 16" down)	\$1,800 total

CALL TODAY TO ADVERTISE
413.283.8393

JOB OPENING

STAFF WRITER

Turley Publications, based in Palmer, is seeking a storyteller who is curious about everything, and who understands how town government works to join our team of weekly reporters.

Experience in covering town government is a huge plus, and any experience in community journalism is as well. Staff writers cover all aspects of communities from features to municipal meetings to crimes and fires. Successful candidates must have people skills, plenty of curiosity and able to tell a story.

If you're a self-starter who enjoys community journalism and who can envision themselves connecting with our communities, we encourage you to apply for this position. Not a remote position.

Qualifications should include:

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience
- A determination to get the story, whatever it might be
- Equally comfortable writing hard news, features and event coverage
- Ability to write clean copy in a fast-paced, deadline-driven environment
- Proficiency in Associated Press style

Please tell us in a cover letter why you would be a good fit for this position and send it along with a resume and three writing samples to
Eileen Kennedy, Executive Editor
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
or email directly to
ekennedy@turley.com



Turley Publications, Inc.
www.turley.com

Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

FOR SALE

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

FIREWOOD

FIREWOOD

Fresh cut & split \$200.00
Seasoned cut & split \$300.00
All hardwood.
Tree length available

*Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap). Quality & volume **guaranteed!** New England Forest Products **(413)477-0083**

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

WANTED

WANTED TO BUY

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

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

**QUABBIN & SUBURBAN
FRIDAY AT NOON
HILLTOWNS
MONDAY AT NOON**

WANTED

SERVICES WANTED

NEED SNOW REMOVAL (PLOWING)

Need snow removal service for our 150 ft. long by 12 ft. across driveway, located off Ball Rd., Goshen. Must be reliable. Pays well, Call or text: **413-341-0502**.

SERVICES

JUNK REMOVAL

**A Call We Haul
FAST REMOVAL**
Junk, Appliance, Cleanouts.
We load it & take it.
413-531-1936
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED



**A B Hauling and
Removal Service**

2*****A & B HOUSEHOLD REMOVAL SERVICE*****

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

A DUMP TRUCK

Cleaning out attics, cellars, garages, estate cleanouts, scrap metal removal. **413-569-1611 or 413-374-5377**.

BILODEAU AND SON ROOFING.

Established 1976. New re-roofs and repairs. Gutter cleanings and repairs. Licensed/ insured. Call **(413)967-6679**

SERVICES

CHAIR SEAT WEAVING & refinishing - cane, fiber rush & splint - Classroom instructor, 20+ years experience. Call Walt at **(413)289-6670** for estimate.

DRYWALL AND CEILINGS, plaster repair. Drywall hanging. Taping & complete finishing. All ceiling textures. Fully insured. Jason at Great Walls. **(413)563-0487**

HOME IMPROVEMENT

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

HOME REPAIR & REMODELING for all your interior & exterior needs. Carpentry, woodworking, porches, patios, windows, doors, painting, drywall, siding, landscaping, clean-outs. Competitive pricing. References. Please call Brendan **(413)687-5552**

MASONRY

STOP WET BASEMENTS

ABC MASONRY & BASEMENT WATERPROOFING

All brick, block, stone, concrete. Hatchway doors, basement windows, chimneys rebuilt & repaired, foundations repaired, basement waterproofing systems, sump pumps. BBB+ rating. Free estimates. Lic #14790. Call **(413)569-1611, (413)374-5377**

SERVICES

PAINTING

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

FORBES & SONS PAINTING & STAINING Interior, residential, commercial and new construction, wallpaper removal, sheetrock and plaster repairs. Quality products. Since 1985. Free estimates. Fully insured. Call Brad Forbes at **413-887-1987**.

PLUMBING

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

RUBBISH REMOVAL

BOB ROBILLARD'S RUBBISH REMOVAL Attics, Cellars, Garages cleaned, Pools/Hot Tubs Removed. Family owned/operated since 1950 **(413)537-5090**

TREE WORK

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

SERVICES

TUNE-UPS

**SNOWBLOWER & LAWNMOWER
TUNE UP & REPAIR**
A&M TUNE-UPS
Push Lawnmowers, Riding Mowers
and Small Engine Repair.
Work done at your home.
Call Mike **(413) 348-7967**

STUMP GRINDING

DL & G STUMP GRINDING Grinding stumps of all sizes, insured & certified. Senior discounts. Call Dave **413-478-4212**



SAW Stump Grinding
Call for a Free Estimate,
Veteran Owned, Fully Insured
413-213-5470

HELP WANTED

SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS WANTED Prefer local person. Will train. Lizak Bus' Warren, MA **(413)436-5262**

Read your local newspaper online at www.newspapers.turley.com

HELP WANTED

TOWN OF WORTHINGTON HIGHWAY POSITION OPENING

The Town of Worthington is soliciting letters of interest from qualified candidates for the full-time position of **Equipment Operator/General Laborer** in the Town Highway Department. Valid MA CDL operator, Hydraulic Hoister's licenses and OSHA-10 certification is preferred. Further information can be found on the Town's website: www.worthington-ma.us

Questions will be answered by the Highway Superintendent at 64 Huntington Road, Monday - Friday, 7 AM to 3 PM; the telephone number is 413-238-5830.

Send letter of interest, resume and three (3) references with relevant contact information to: worthington-highway@gmail.com or to Worthington Highway Department, P.O. Box 643, Worthington, MA. This posting will remain pertinent until the position is filled.

The Town of Worthington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

AUTO

CASH FOR JUNK AND REPAIRABLE CARS

**FREE TOWING
FAST SERVICE
CASH PAID AS IS
CALL OR TEXT
413-219-6839**

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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

FOR RENT



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

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

Post your job openings in our classifieds.

WE GET RESULTS!

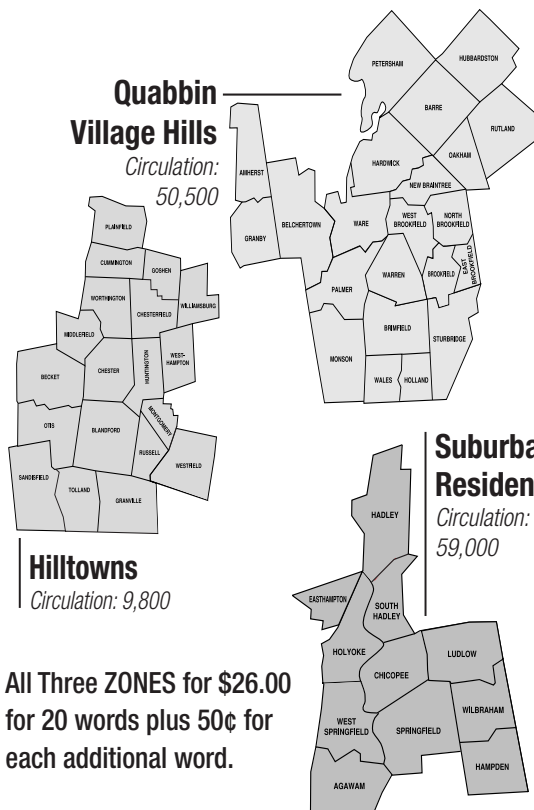
FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

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

DEADLINES: **MONDAY AT NOON**

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

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____
Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Number of Weeks: _____ X per week rate = \$ _____
Credit Card: MasterCard VISA Discover Cash Check# _____
Card #: _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____
Amount of charge: _____ Date: _____



All Three ZONES for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word.

GREAT VALUE!
ALL 3 ZONES NOW FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

In The News

DIGITAL, from page 1

PVPC are working to contact those volunteers.

"We've met with the mayor and his team and we have a good list of people that we're reaching out to bring together," Weiss said.

These volunteers come from a variety of places from around Holyoke. While some digital experience was encouraged, Weiss said it was not necessary to volunteer for this project.

"For some they are more savvy about digital experiences, use, know-how, and access," Weiss said. "But they don't have to be amazing, I am not when it comes to computers, but they could be representing a community group and wanting to make sure there's fair representation there. It could be that they want to expand something they're already working on...I think there's a lot of opportunity here for a lot of people to get involved."

Once the team is formed, they will

begin to reach out to the community and set up a variety of meetings to keep them updated on this process.

There will be two types of these meetings, both of which will be available in different locations for community members to attend.

"We'll have them in different parts of the city, the flats, the islands, etc.," Weiss said.

The first type of meeting will be an open meeting. In this, the team will work to run through the basics of what this project will be focused on and those in attendance will be able to give their thoughts and feedback on what they would like to see improved in the city.

The second type of meeting will be a charrette.

"The second type in which we get really interactive, we really have people target and talk to us about what they want to do," Weiss explained.

Both of these meetings will be open to the community, as Weiss and his team truly want as many people from Holyoke as possible to be

involved with this process.

"It is not our report or our plan, this is their plan and their report so they can achieve what they want to achieve," Weiss said. "This is meant for Holyoke to move forward. We certainly have information, resources and support, but it's not up to us to tell them what to do. It's up to us to make suggestions and work with everybody."

Throughout this series of meetings, the team will develop a plan to target different deficiencies in Holyoke's digital equity. Weiss said they are unsure so far about what will wind up being their main priority, as they want to hear the community's thoughts first.

Their main goal throughout the process will be to ensure the plans they do put in place will be affordable and accessible.

Following the community meetings, PVPC and the Core Planning Team will work to lay out their short term and long-term goals for the project, as well as their plans for funding.

This plan is structured by the

Massachusetts Broadband Institute, which gave Holyoke the grant to begin this process.

"We have to develop a report with the city that will strategically plan ahead our short-term and long-term goals and define which programs we're going to try to get access to to improve the services that are available," Weiss said.

They want to ensure that this plan will cover the goals of the city and secure funding for the different steps that will be needed throughout the process. According to Weiss, the federal government has provided a lot of funding for improving digital equity, and Holyoke hopes to capitalize on it.

This process will be ongoing for the next several months, and more information on specifics of community dates will be released soon.

For now, those who wish for further information on this process are invited to go to the PVPC website or call to contact Eric Weiss. They are also welcome to ask any questions to the Mayor's Office.

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Polish food sale to be held on Dec. 16

HOLYOKE – On Saturday, Dec. 16, Our Lady of the Cross Parish in Holyoke will be selling frozen pierogi, golumbki and kapusta. The food sale will take place in the vestibule of the church from 2 to 4 p.m. Cabbage, apple and potato/

cheese pierogi will be on sale for \$10.00 a dozen. Quarts of kapusta will be available for \$5.00 and golumbki will be sold for \$3.50 each.

Please call the parish office at 413-532-5661 for more information.

Scholarship applications being accepted

HOLYOKE – The Polish Junior League of Massachusetts welcomes area college students of Polish heritage to apply for one of the annual academic scholarships. Students must have a permanent address in one of the four Western Massachusetts coun-

ties: Hampshire, Hampden, Franklin or Berkshire.

Application forms with related information are available at www.polishjuniorleaguema.org/applications. The deadline for all applications and related materials is May 1, 2024.

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