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## New councilor goes through legal troubles in 2022

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – The City Council saw one of its largest turnovers in recent memory with seven new councilors joining the city's legislative body.

One of those newcomers was Wilmer Puello-Mota, who was elected to the vacant Ward 2 seat after former councilor and acting mayor Terence Murphy retired.

Puello-Mota's first term as a councilor met major controversy after he ran into major trouble with the law, spent three months in jail, and was removed from, and then reinstated to the City Council.

In early October, a Hampden Superior Court judge has ordered that Puello-Mota be allowed to return to City Council.

Judge Michael Callan issued an injunction requested by the embattled councilor and he was allowed to return to voting on the council earlier this week.

The decision, issued last Friday by Callan, stated the city and its representatives had no legal basis to declare Puello-Mota's seat vacant.

His decision said the City of Holyoke failed to meet its obligation to prove Puello-Mota had been convicted of any crime.

Puello-Mota was informed by the city's law department on Sept. 1 his council seat was declared vacated based on a rule in Section 46 of the city charter that suggests a seat can be declared vacated if a councilor moves and/or is convicted of a crime.

According to Associate City Solicitor Katherine Degnan, the legal department "received information" that led the department to invoke the rule and vacate the council seat. She said due to the legal issues involved, she could not explain or expand any further her reasoning for the decision.

The lawsuit, filed on Sept. 19, stated the city was keeping Puello-Mota from occupying his seat and participating on the city council. It also contended the city did not have the power to do that.

Attorney Timothy Mara stated the law department requested Puello-Mota's resignation, and the embattled councilor

See COUNCILOR, page 10

## A look back at 2022



It was a major return to activity in the city as Holyoke finally shed its masks in 2022. The city is still in somewhat a state of turmoil with many challenges, vacancies in city hall, and clash between city councilors, the mayor's office, and the city is also still trying to figure out how to shed itself of receivership with the public schools. It was definitely an eventful year in the city. Fall sports returned in full force in early September. See more photos on pages 6 and 12.

File photo

## Uptick in murders raise concerns for safety

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
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HOLYOKE – With nearly all the pandemic restrictions now lifted, violence has ticked up in cities throughout Western Massachusetts.

Holyoke, in particular, saw a major uptick in murders starting in the summer and was one of top ongoing stories this year. In all, seven murders would take place between late July and December.

The violence was unprecedented in recent years, but came to a head in September following the fifth murder of the year.

Following two homicides within a few days of each other, the fourth and fifth of the year, Mayor Joshua Garcia and Hampden County District Attorney Anthony Gulluni addressed the uptick in violence at a press conference outside City Hall.

A Chicopee man was killed on Sept. 3 in the Highlands. Another man was



In addition to several murders happening in the city, a major raid resulted in the seizure of drugs and weapons in October. File photo

shot and killed in the area of Interstate 391 on Wednesday, Sept. 7, which led to the press conference being called.

Garcia and Gulluni were joined by Police Chief David Pratt and City Council President Todd McGee. All expressed concern with the violent incidents and wanted to assure residents public safety officials are doing everything they can to bring those responsible to justice, keep people safe, and prevent further violence.

"Our citizens can take pride in knowing these organizations take pride in working together and getting the job done for the greater good

of our public and your safety," Garcia said. "We do need justice. Justice is not only dispensed by courts and prosecutors. I'm talking about social justice, which is the business of the entire community."

Ironically, the two recent incidents came just as the city council voted against a \$50,000 U.S. Department of Justice grant to partially fund ShotSpotter, a technology used to find the location of a gunshot.

During the discussion of the grant, Councilor Jose Maldonado-Velez equated the police department with the

See SAFETY, page 10

## School issues dominate headlines this year

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – From beginning to end, the Holyoke Public Schools have been the primary driver of news during 2022.

The year began with Anthony Soto, in the midst of his first full year as the permanent receivership/superintendent, in the midst of executing an entry plan, developing a plan

to re-zone the elementary and middle schools, working with the school building committee, and finally, city councilors calling for the schools to be returned to city control.

Soto became the first Holyoke resident in years to lead the public schools after several years of leadership by Receiver Dr. Stephen Zrike. Zrike took

See SCHOOL, page 10



The Holyoke Public Schools announced Sullivan School will solely be a middle school next fall as re-zoning efforts continue at the elementary and middle school levels. The public schools were a central storyline for 2022.

File photo

## In The News

### City to host 'First Night Junior'

HOLYOKE – First Night Junior, a daytime New Year's Eve party for young people and their families, will be held Saturday, Dec. 31, at Holyoke Heritage State Park.

Hosted by The Holyoke Merry-Go-Round, the Children's Museum at Holyoke and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, with the support of the Holyoke Parks and Recreation

Department, the event runs from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

First Night Junior includes unlimited merry-go-round rides, admission to the Children's Museum and live entertainment. Festivities will conclude with a ball drop at 12:50 p.m.

Tickets for First Night Junior — \$10 each or \$35 for a family 4-pack — are available online only at [www.holyoke-merrygoround.org/tickets](http://www.holyoke-merrygoround.org/tickets).



### Schools strategic planning process gets high praise

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Public School's "community-centric" approach to strategic planning was featured in a recent article published by consulting firm Education Resources Strategies (ERS), shining a bright light on both the process and the outcomes.

"While many districts often struggle to execute a planning process that fosters widespread community buy-in, HPS leaders were able to design for equitable, long-lasting engagement," ERS wrote in the article. "They embedded the community directly and authentically in the work to create full alignment and a bold plan that will guide them over the next few years."

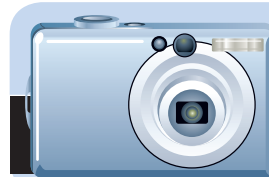
The district's Strategic Planning process began in September 2021 as Superintendent Anthony Soto launched his entry plan work and included an

inclusive planning process throughout spring and summer 2022.

Under the umbrella of the district's existing turnaround plan, Holyoke Public Schools released a new multi-year strategic plan in August. The plan reflects all the work that had been done under the turnaround plan over the last almost seven years and articulates focus for the next few years.

Throughout the process, more than 400 staff, family members, students, and community members provided input for the plan, in addition to the 1,150+ people who contributed to Superintendent Anthony Soto's entry plan process that concluded earlier this year.

More information about the district's strategic plan can be found on the HPS website.



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

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

It also announced its new partnership with 4RUN3 Racing who will be handling registration, timing, and a training group. 4RUN3 is based in East Longmeadow and serves the Western Mass running community with best-in-class service.

The committee said in its announcement that it was looking 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. Event information and registration is available by visiting <http://runsignup.com/Race/MA/Holyoke/HolyokStPatricksRoadRace>.

The committee also said there will

be two opportunities to take advantage of for those wanting to participate in the race.

A 10K Training Program: this is an opportunity to train 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 registration, runners will receive a referral link to share. Once that runner's referral code has been used by five friends to register for the 2023 Holyoke 10K Road Race or Walk that individual runner will receive an exclusive long-sleeve top for free.

The committee thanks everyone their support in year's past, hopes to see everyone in March, and looks forward to watching the runners cross the finish line.

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# HCC to debut healthy cooking series for 2023

HOLYOKE – Anyone resolved to eat healthier in the new year should consider enrolling in two new cooking series running next month at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute.

“Healthy Cooking for Heart Health,” a three-session series, begins Jan. 10 and runs on Tuesdays from 6-9 p.m.

“Healthy Cooking for Diabetes,” also a three-session series, begins Jan. 12 and runs on Thursdays from 6-9 p.m.

All classes for both series are taught by Marissa Chiapperino, a registered dietician and instructor in HCC’s Culinary Arts program.

“Certain foods can lower your risk of heart disease and diabetes or help to manage it,” Chiapperino said. “Making healthy adjustments to your daily meal plan does not have to be hard or boring. Oftentimes, adding in sources of healthy fats, whole grains, and high fiber fruits and vegetables can boost flavor and decrease the risk of chronic disease.”

Each session costs \$80 and includes cooking lessons and lectures focused on different themes.

Healthy Cooking for Heart Health: Jan. 10 (breakfast and carbohydrates); Jan. 17 (lunch and fats); Jan. 24 (dinner and proteins).

Healthy Cooking for Diabetes: Jan. 12 (meal prep / “Counting Those Cabs”); Jan. 19 (snacks/ “The Power of Protein”); Jan. 26 (diabetes friendly breakfast / “Fat is Fabulous”)

“Helping people in all types of settings understand accurate and evidence-based nutrition and how to individualize it best for them is key to long-term success and managing chronic disease,” Chiapperino said.

Chiapperino holds a bachelor of science degree in dietetics from the State University of New York at Oneonta and a masters of public health from the University of Massachusetts

Amherst. She specialized in medical nutrition therapy for critical care and oncology at Westchester Medical Center in New York and was the first bariatric dietician at Holyoke Medical Center, where she helped build their nutrition program.

For the past two years she has been president of the Western Massachusetts Dietetic Association.

To register for classes, please go to [hcc.edu/healthy-cooking](http://hcc.edu/healthy-cooking)

For more information, please contact Lanre Ajayi, HCC’s executive director of Education & Corporate Learning, at [lajayi@hcc.edu](mailto:lajayi@hcc.edu).

## Special Registration Express days

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College will host two special “Registration Express” days for the spring 2023 semester, one on Sat., Jan. 7, and another on Mon., Jan. 9, when prospective students can apply for admission, take the college placement test, meet with an academic adviser, register for classes, and set up financial aid – all in one day.

HCC’s Saturday Registration Express event will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the Monday Registration Express event will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Registration Express takes place on the first floor of the Campus Center on the main campus at 303 Homestead Ave. and virtually over Zoom.

The Spring 2023 semester begins Tues., Jan 17. HCC also has Flex Start dates on Feb. 6 (Spring Start II) and March 20 (Spring Start III). Full-term spring classes run for 14 weeks. Spring Start II classes run for 12 weeks. Spring Start III classes run for seven.

“The new year brings the opportunity to make changes and to do new things,” said Mark Hudgik, HCC director of Admissions. “We’re here to help students determine the right options for them and hope that by bringing all of the resources together in one place on these

two days, students planning to come to college can make the most of their precious time. We have multiple options, so students can choose whatever works best for them.”

Those who can’t make it in person on Jan. 7 or Jan. 9 can still participate on those days virtually through a Zoom link with HCC Admissions counselors or take advantage of two weeks of regular in-person Registration Express from Jan. 3-13.

The Registration Express Zoom link can be accessed through a link on the Registration Express page on the HCC website: [hcc.edu/regexpress](http://hcc.edu/regexpress)

The HCC Admissions and Advising offices on the first floor of the Campus Center are open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 6 p.m. (4:30 p.m. on Fridays).

Students must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 to attend classes on campus.

Students who plan to register only for online or remote classes do not have to submit proof of COVID-19 vaccination.

For more information, please contact HCC Admissions at 413-552-2321 / [admissions@hcc.edu](mailto:admissions@hcc.edu), visit HCC online at [hcc.edu](http://hcc.edu), or take the next step at [hcc.edu/sign-up-for-classes](http://hcc.edu/sign-up-for-classes).

## STCC to offer free HiSET test prep

SPRINGFIELD – Are you ready to get the high school equivalency certificate?

Springfield Technical Community College will offer a free four-week HiSET preparation fast track class from Jan. 9 to Feb. 3. HiSET is the high school equivalency test, which is an alternative to a high school diploma.

The HiSET prep class is administered through the Springfield Adult Learning Center Hampden Prep Program, which is part of the Workforce Development Center at STCC.

The 76-hour program is offered Mondays (on campus and online), Tuesdays-Thursdays (virtual face to face)

and Fridays (virtual asynchronous).

The program offers the following to students:

- Targeted HiSET prep content instruction
- Test-taking strategies
- Second language support
- Basic to intermediate computer and digital literacy skills training
- College and career readiness advising
- Opportunities to obtain additional certificates through workforce training

To register, visit [stcc.io/hisetfast-track](http://stcc.io/hisetfast-track). For questions, call (413) 755-4300 or email [salc@stcc.edu](mailto:salc@stcc.edu).

## Air show tickets now available

WESTFIELD – Tickets for the 2023 Westfield International Air Show are now on sale for the May 13 and 14, 2023, event at Barnes Air National Guard Base, Massachusetts.

Standard parking passes start at \$20 per vehicle, and VIP parking passes are on sale for \$50. One parking pass is needed per vehicle, per day. There is no cost for general admission to the show.

Guests also have the option of purchasing VIP tickets, granting access to The Eagle’s Nest Chalet, which caters to guests looking for an upgraded air show experience. With an exclusive lounge and private seating, fans can relax and have front-

row access to view the staging area.

Press pass applications are now available on the air show website. Applicants are asked to submit their

employer’s name, company website, and type of coverage they will be getting.

Tickets to the photo pit, a designated for photographers not associated with a media outlet, are scheduled to be available at a later date.

The Westfield International Airshow returns to Barnes ANGB on May 13 and 14, 2023, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Parking opens at 7 a.m. Performers for the event include an F-35A Lightning II demo team, the U.S. Army Golden Knights, an F-18 demo team, and more.



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Poetry Corner

## New - Year - Better - No Fret

By Thomas J. Kennedy

*Don't fret over  
What you wanted did not get;  
Don't fret what your got  
You did not get.*

*Things are only thing  
They are inanimate —  
No life objects  
Are they worth more than  
Your child at Christmas . . .*

*Jesus said: "Bring all the  
Children to me."  
Try Christmas — A time of giving  
Love and time for forgiveness,  
Now try to make the New Year  
Better than the last —  
No grudges or those will  
Hurt you more than them.*

*Each day, "Be the best you can be."  
And stress and anxiety will be  
A thing of the past.  
Happy Holy New Year to all —  
His Peace, Love and Joy.*

*2023 — love and respect for you.  
All . . . Whatever Religion or person,  
May God's blessings be with you.*

HAPPY NEW YEAR — 2023

Guest Column

## Sustainable in the New Year



I was paid a nice compliment recently when my mother called my family and I "sustainable."

While a little chuckle slipped out of my mouth at first because I thought the word usage was a little funny, the more it sunk in, the happier I was.

She chose that particular word mostly because of how crafty we are. We made a number of our own gifts to compliment store-bought this Christmas.

Mom also knows how important it is to me to grow a lot of our own vegetables each summer.

As the seed catalogs start to pour in, I have to keep my New Year's "less is more" mantra going while not sacrificing the importance of some self-sufficiency.

As you plan your own vegetable gardens these next few winter weeks, consider the following questions.

Which vegetables do I really appreciate fresh?

To me, there is nothing like a salad composed of home-grown vegetables. I had

success with lettuce last year, grown from transplants, not seeds.

Of the two dozen or so plants, I trimmed leaves for hearty salads for a good six weeks before the plants began to bolt in the heat.

It was definitely worth the effort. For that reason, I'll grow lettuce again, and I'll try to extend my harvest by buying a seed packet of mixed varieties that do well as temperatures climb.

Nothing beats a home-grown tomato, still warm from the sun.

I will always devote space to cherry tomatoes in particular. The last few years I have not had a much success with paste types, so those I'll probably nix, but cherries, no way.

Orange, yellow, red, they all look so pretty and taste great in a salad.

Which vegetables store well or are easy to process for later use?

I will always feel highly accomplished when I'm able to harvest and store winter squash.

Today we used some of our own in our celebratory Christmas butternut lasagna. Kind of neat.

When choosing winter squash varieties, I like to keep it simple.

The "moschatas" seem to withstand bugs and disease better than other types. This includes butternuts, cheese, neck pumpkins and sweet potato squashes.

See GARDEN, page 5



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Guest Column

## State House News Service Weekly Roundup

The turning of the calendar is always a time for reflection, and that's especially the case after a year that brought so much change.

Eight years of the Baker administration -- for a handful of us in the press corps, the only administration we've ever covered professionally -- drew to a close in 2022. All that's left is the holiday interlude week, a few days of preparation for the pomp and circumstance of Gov. Charlie Baker's farewell and Governor-elect Maura Healey's inauguration, and of course, any unfinished business in between.

It wasn't just the politics or the personnel that crossed the horizon this past year, though. The much-maligned MBTA managed to find a new low; a tax law reemerged in a big way for the first time since the Reagan administration; and the COVID-19 pandemic shifted from a bruising daily focus to a latent risk we might always need to manage.

And that doesn't even cover some of the topics that did not win enough votes from State House reporters to land on this year-end list, like the near-sweep of statewide offices by women candidates, a return to in-person public events under the Golden Dome, or the unexpected arrival on Martha's Vineyard of dozens of migrants flown there by Florida Gov. Ron

DeSantis.

Many members of the press corps struggled to meet the original deadline to get in their ballots for the top 10 news stories of 2022, but don't hold that against them. Here's the breakdown:

### Number 1: Healey Cruises To Corner Office

There was a lot of commentary about how this was a quiet gubernatorial campaign, and the Democratic primary race was effectively over months before Democrats officially picked Maura Healey as their standard-bearer. But Healey's landslide victory in November made the history books twice over, and several reporters cited these historic "firsts" as they voted Healey's win as the top story of the year. It's the first time Bay Staters chose a woman as governor (Gov. Jane Swift inherited the role after Gov. Paul Cellucci's resignation), and the first time Massachusetts voters chose an openly gay person as the state's chief executive.

Look back just a couple decades, and gay rights were a major battleground on Beacon Hill. After eight years of Republican leadership, this fall was also the first-time voters picked a Democrat for the corner office since 2010, and Healey will be just the second

Democrat to hold the job since 1991. Gov. Charlie Baker's intention to step aside made last year's Top 10 list (was his announcement really over a year ago?), and observers in 2022 have parsed Healey's words for clues about how much she will hew to Baker's moderate mantra or inject progressive policies into the administration.

Healey also broke the so-called "curse" of attorneys general who run for governor. The last former AG to win election as governor was Paul Dever in 1948, and the last sitting AG to win the governorship was John Clifford in 1852. Many have tried since -- Coakley, Reilly, Harshbarger, Bellotti, Quinn. Healey's ascension also played into one of the runner-up top stories that made it onto a few reporters' ballots -- what a big election cycle it was for women in general. Massachusetts voters chose women to fill five of the six constitutional offices, another first. - Sam Doran

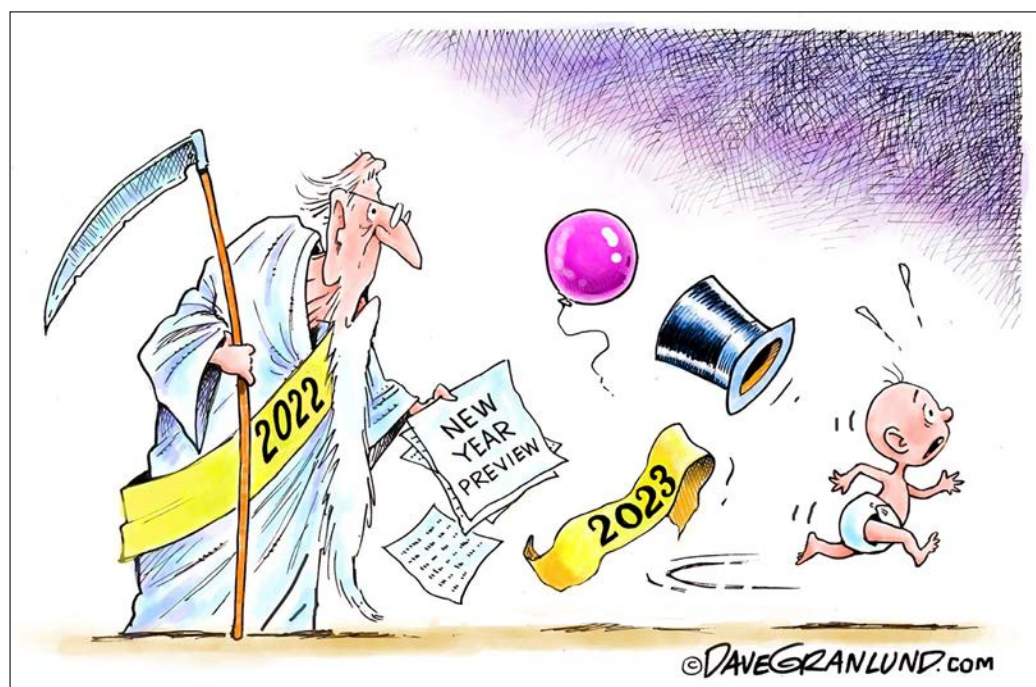
### Number 2: MBTA in Disarray

Riders have spent years if not decades complaining about the MBTA, and the frustrations devolved into an outright crisis that ranks among the most pressing issues Gov.-elect Maura Healey will need to address.

A string of collisions, derailments, fires, runaway trains and the death of a passenger due to a malfunctioning Red Line train prompted the Federal Transit Administration to launch only the second safety probe of its kind. Once they began looking under the hood, what federal investigators found was dire: a woefully understaffed transit agency with a bevy of unmet maintenance needs, misplaced focus on capital projects, and blind spots that allowed safety problems to fester, plus a Department of Public Utilities that had been failing to live up to its role as the T's state-level oversight agency. The investigation prompted the MBTA to shut down the entire Orange Line for a full month as summer gave way to the school year, saddling riders with unprecedented inconvenience in a sudden bid to make the kinds of repairs necessary to guide the transit system it manages toward a better future.

Much like Gov. Charlie Baker did following the disastrous winter of 2015, Healey will come into office with problems at the T on the

See GOVERNMENT, page 5



## A Quote

### OF NOTE

*"Many years ago  
I resolved never  
to bother with  
New Year's  
resolutions, and  
I have stuck with  
it ever since."*

Dave Beard

## 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.



Red-breasted nuthatch

An Oakham resident said she had a pair of red-breasted nuthatches at her feeder.

The red-breasted nuthatch is a smaller version of its cousin, the white-breasted nuthatch and is 4 1/2 inches long.

It creeps headfirst down tree trunks searching for insects. It also eats seeds of conifers and will come to bird feeders for sunflower seeds and suet.

It has a white eyebrow, which separates its dark cap from the black eye line. Its underparts are rusty colored.

The male has a black cap and richly colored underparts. The female has a gray cap and more lightly colored underparts.

The female lays five to seven white or slightly pink eggs with brown speckles in a nest of rootlets, grasses, mosses and

shredded bark.

She nests in an excavated hole in a tree, a birdhouse or abandoned woodpecker hole. Red-breasted nuthatches smear pitch around the entrance to its nest cavity to deter predators.

As a result, it often has pitch smeared on its feathers. It uses birdhouses and nest holes to roast as well as to raise its brood.

Its call is a nasal "nyeeep, nyeeep" and a short "tsip."

Red-breasted nuthatches have periodic eruptions south in winter in years with scarce cone crops in northern regions.

White-breasted nuthatches are daily visitors to my feeders and suet. I see

red-breasted nuthatches less frequently.

They are one of my favorite winter birds.

#### Christmas Bird Count

The Massachusetts Audubon Society reports a Western Grebe found on Mashpee-Wakeby Pond as the highlight of the Buzzard's Bay Christmas Bird Count. Other highlights from the count, which covers town on both sides of the bay including Falmouth and Marion included three redheads, a hybrid Barrow's x common goldeneye, 350 American Coots, an eastern phoebe, several red crossbills and two palm warblers.

The Cape Cod Christmas Bird Count was held on Sunday, Dec. 18 with sightings including a grasshopper sparrow in Eastham, two blue-winged teal in West Harwich, several red crossbills, nine orange-crowned Warblers in Orleans, several yellow-breasted chats and a painted bunting in Chatham.

#### Audubon Society sightings

Massachusetts Audubon Society bird sightings in Worcester County included a late brown thrasher at the Wildlife Management Area in Westborough and

13 red crossbills in Princeton.

In Berkshire County there were three cackling geese at Baldwin Hill in Egremont, five canvasbacks at Lake Onota in Pittsfield and two Iceland gulls and a lesser black-backed gull at Lake Pontoosuc in Pittsfield.

Franklin County has a rufous hummingbird, which continues to come to a feeder on Highland Street in Millers Falls; a cackling goose at Turners Falls; a canvasback at Barton's Cove in Gill and four white-crowned sparrows in Sunderland.

Hampshire County residents reported five black vultures in Granby and three in Easthampton, a late Baltimore Oriole at the Hadley Transfer Station in Hadley and nine red crossbills on North Road in Westhampton.

Hampden County also had three black vultures in Stanley Park in Westfield.

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.

## GOVERNMENT, from page 4

forefront, including the hefty costs of fixing the problems the FTA flagged. - Chris Lisinski

### Number 3: Historic Tax Relief Catches Lawmakers Off Guard

It was like an unexpected sunshower on a perfect summer day. It caught the Legislature that off guard, and left them all wet. Moments from wrapping up months of work on a targeted tax relief proposal and sweeping spending bill, Democratic legislative leaders were essentially informed by Gov. Charlie Baker that they had forgotten about a 1980s voter law that was about to kick in and require nearly \$3 billion in tax relief. The news buckled lawmakers. They dashed their own pre-election tax relief and spending plans and, very reluctantly, acceded to the fact that the Chapter 62F rebates were legally due to taxpayers and there was nothing that they would do about it.

The 62F saga unfolded in a shroud of intrigue, as evidence emerged that the Baker administration might have known for a few months that the tax relief bombshell was building and didn't share that information with Democrats. Tipping them off might have put the tax relief at risk, although Baker's team didn't say that publicly, offering only that everyone had access to the same information about exploding state tax revenues that were

blasting past the tax cap.

After months of hand-wringing, lawmakers shrunk their economic development bill and passed it without their own targeted tax relief despite election season prodding from both Baker and Maura Healey as she beat the tax relief drum on the way to winning the governor's race. - Michael P. Norton

### Number 4: After Years of Debate, Sports Betting Becomes Legal

Congrats to everyone who took the over. The so-called Big Three (Gov. Baker, House Speaker Robert DeLeo and Senate President Harriette Chandler) and other key lawmakers agreed in May 2018 that sports betting was something that deserved their attention.

"Everything is worth a look," then-Senate Ways and Means Chairwoman Karen Spilka said. "Whether or not we can do it we'll have to see, but we'll consider it." It wasn't apparent at the time, but that "we'll have to see" from Spilka foreshadowed what ended up being a four-year debate that pitted the House against the Senate and DeLeo's successor (House Speaker Ronald Mariano) against Chandler's successor (Spilka).

Representatives overwhelmingly approved betting legalization twice, but Spilka's Senate kept it bottled up in committee as she looked for "some sort of consensus." A News Service survey in March found that at least 60% of sena-

tors supported legalizing sports wagering and the Senate passed its own bill in late April. Then things got even messier -- Mariano said he didn't get the point of the Senate's "paternalistic" bill, and later a top senator accused the speaker of misleading the public about the Senate's stance. Amid House-Senate negotiations, Spilka made clear that she had other priorities, regularly pointing to the Senate's mental health care bill when asked about betting.

So maybe it was no coincidence that a final sports betting compromise was announced simultaneously with word of a mental health agreement around 5 a.m. on Aug. 1. As the Senate wrapped up major lawmaking for the session that morning, the sports betting bill was the very last item enacted by the Senate and sent to the governor's desk. -- Colin A. Young

### Number 5: MassGOP In Turmoil, Dems Sweep Statewide Races

By the time 2022 began, the people in charge of the Republican State Committee, first and foremost its chairman Jim Lyons, had decided they preferred pro-Trump, anti-abortion candidates over the most popular governor in America, and Charlie Baker, Karyn Polito and their like-minded followers had decided to step aside and let them go ahead and see how that worked out. The rest of the year was an exercise in waiting around to see if the polls were accurate. They certainly were. National Republican

money flowed to other states and seats seen as more likely to yield victory for the GOP. Independents were disinclined to elect an anti-abortion governor, and the governing philosophy that suited them was already sitting in the corner office, albeit packing up his belongings. Geoff Diehl wasn't able to raise enough money to get his anti-tax, anti-vax (mandate) message across, and he lost big. He didn't pull the rest of the ticket down with him so much as accompany them, and Democrats added to their supermajorities in the Legislature and will possess all six constitutional offices for the next four years. Whether the GOP found the experience instructive remains to be seen. - Craig Sandler

(Editor's Note: Because of the length of this article, we are running the top five stories as chosen by the staff of the State House News Service. We will follow this article next week with the remaining five top news stories of the year.)

## GARDEN, from page 4

These are the only types I grow these days.

After a good curing outside, they will last in a 50-degree mudroom, basement or closet most of the winter if not longer.

In addition to winter squash, kale tops my personal list of easy to process veggies.

I smartened up a few years back and began growing kale under a floating row cover, to keep cabbage moths away. I harvest the outer leaves first, and in abundance.

After a quick wash in the sink, and a shake dry, the leaves are shredded into small pieces, discarding the mid-rib. About six good-sized leaves fit in a sandwich bag.

I press the air out and pop them into the freezer. My husband makes juice and vegetable soups and stews a lot, so having this ready to use portion handy is economical.

Which vegetables bring me joy in

the growing process?

This may sound like a funny thing to ask yourself, but consider it for a moment.

Some vegetables are picky.

They require a little more work, but you love to face the challenge and reap the rewards for your effort. There are a couple of vegetables I will always grow even though they aren't the easiest.

Peppers and onions come to mind. I chuckled as I typed that, since it was dad's all-time favorite pizza combo!

Peppers are demanding. They like warm soil, so we lay down black plastic to pre-warm the earth.

The fruit can scald easily, so we plant them a little closer than you'd think.

Oh yes, although they appreciate the heat of my raised beds, they will require water each and every day if Mother Nature does not provide.

Lastly, patience is required, especially as you wait for them to turn from green to red, orange or yellow. But it's worth it.

Onions too require patience.

Starting the seeds indoors in February to yield a harvest in September is a long-term commitment that is not for the faint of heart.

Weed the bed and weed it again. Water, water, water- onions don't have long roots to support the tops needed to make big bulbs.

Make sure you provide enough nitrogen, but not past the summer equinox.

It's all too much, but when that softball sized Alsa Craig wins you a blue ribbon at the local fair you'll be the envy of your neighbor!

A few onion braids in the pantry feels good too, that is, if you are the sustainable type.

Happy New Year everyone!

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 with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

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 TurleyPublications



The Holyoke Summer Greenagers Crew poses on a completed bog bridging in August. L-R: Joshua Ruiz, Aiden Pares, Jason Rivera, Isaias Roman, Daniel Rodriguez, and crew leader Katelyn Leger.

File photos

# Looking Back at



Families and kids attended the puppet show where they heard from a worm, a fly, a slug and more spring time bugs during a Spring Break event in April.



## An Important Update for Our Communities

The local 24/7 response system for behavioral health crisis is changing on January 3rd.

Starting January 3rd, if you need urgent access to behavioral health services in the following communities, please call **1-833-CHD-TALK**.

Belchertown, Chicopee, Granby, Holyoke, Ludlow, Monson, Palmer, South Hadley, Southampton, Ware

CHD is here to serve our communities, around the clock, with rapid, capable, and compassionate support to those in need.

# CARE FINDS A WAY.



Senator John Velis, Mayor Joshua Garcia, Matt Boger, Glen Wiley, Jessica Pertuz, Kimberly Meyer, and Lauren Meizo represent Donate Life and organ donors on Valentine's Day.



A Pride Youth Prom was held in mid-June at the House of Colors.

# HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

<p>USDA INSP. FRESH PORK LOIN RIB END OR LOIN END ROAST ..... <b>\$1.44</b> lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH PORK SPARE RIBS ..... <b>\$2.22</b> lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH CENTER CUT BONELESS PORK LOIN ..... <b>\$1.99</b> lb</p> <p><b>SLICED IN OUR DELI</b></p> <p>USDA INSP. ROAST BEEF ..... <b>\$6.99</b> lb</p>	<p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TENDERLOIN <b>\$9.89</b> lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF STRIP STEAKS <b>\$4.99</b> lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH DAILY 80% LEAN GROUND BEEF <b>\$3.25</b> lb</p>	<p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF SHOULDER LONDON BROIL ..... <b>\$4.44</b> lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS &amp; SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST 10 LB BAG .... <b>\$1.44</b> lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH WHOLE CHICKEN WINGS 10 LB BAG ..... <b>\$1.33</b> lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN OCEAN GOURMET STUFFED CLAMS ..... 20 OZ. <b>\$6.99</b> EACH</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN OCEAN GOURMET COOKED SHRIMP ..... 2 LB BAG <b>\$17.99</b> EACH</p>
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Holyoke resident Miren Neyra Alcántara holds a certificate announcing her award from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation alongside Irma Medina, HCC Pathways Program coordinator, and Mark Broadbent, HCC Transfer Affairs coordinator.

## 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.

# SPORTS

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## Western Mass. refs officiates first state final game

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

LEOMINSTER – The Monson girls and the South Hadley boys were the only two high school soccer teams from Western Massachusetts that played in this year’s state finals.

Their state final matches took place at Doyle Field in Leominster on Nov. 19.

Joe Bielin, a Belchertown resident, also made the trek to Northern Worcester County on the same day. He was the referee in the Division 4 girls state final match between the Cohasset Skippers and the Northbridge Rams at Doyle Field. The Skippers players celebrated a 2-0 shutout victory.

“I’ve been an assistant referee in several previous state finals, but this was the first time that I was the center referee in a state final match,” Bielin said. “It was very nice doing the Division 4 game between two quality teams.”

During the regular season, there are only two referees at varsity soccer matches.

See REFS, page 8



Dylan Rohan chases down a bouncing loose ball.  
Staff photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

## Late surge results in loss for Holyoke

HOLYOKE – Paulo Freire dumped 27 points in the basket during the final frame of last Monday’s battle and the visitors left Holyoke winners 67-58. Holyoke dropped to just 1-3 this season. Dylan Rohan led the Knights with 16 points while Shawn Rivera had nine points.



Dominick Renaldi comes down with a rebound for the Knights.



Shawn Rivera looks to inbound the ball.



Jordan King-Perelli looks to turn around and shoot.



Dylan Rohan dribbles near the sideline.



Alexandra Plotniak competes in the 200 medley relay.



Austin Smith does the individual medley race.



Jackson Gomes races for first in the 100 freestyle.



Morgan Murphy competes in the 100 freestyle.

## Swim teams sweep Turners

HOLYOKE – In its final meet before the holiday break, Holyoke defeated Turners Falls. The boys won 65-27 while the girls were winners narrowly 42-39. The boys are now 2-1 on the season and the girls have the same 2-1 record.



Julian Vann goes for the win in the 200 freestyle.  
Staff photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

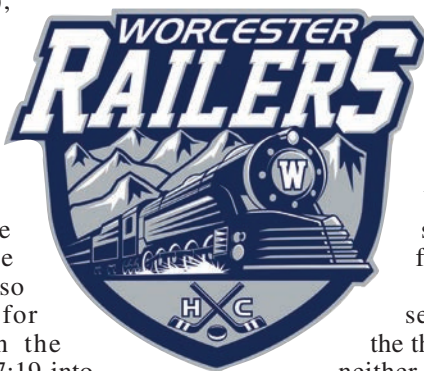
# Worcester Railers suffer shutout against Adirondack Thunder

GLENS FALLS, NY – The Worcester Railers HC (18-9-1-0, 37 pts) lost to the Adirondack Thunder (6-14-3-1, 16 pts) on Friday evening by the final score of 7-0 in front of a crowd of 2,476 at Cool Insuring Arena in Glens Falls, NY.

A former Railer got things going in the first period as Grant Jozefek (1-0-1) tipped a shot in front on the power play to beat Henrik Tikkanen in net for Worcester and make it 1-0 Thunder as the teams headed into the first intermission. Isaac Poulter in net for Adirondack and Tikkanen in net for Worcester each stood tall in the second, with neither team conceding a goal. This was just the second time all season Worcester had been held scoreless through two. Adirondack then opened the floodgates in the third, with goals coming from

Ryan Smith (1-1-2), Xavier Parent (3-1-4), and Sebastian Vidmar (2-0-2) to make it 7-0 Adirondack by the game's end.

Grant Jozefek (5th), who once scored a goal for the Railers during the 2021-22 season, did so against the Railers for Adirondack to open the score at 1-0 Thunder 7:19 into the first. It came as an Adirondack power play expired, which freed two Railers from the penalty box simultaneously in Bobby Butler and Phil Beaulieu. The two had yet to rejoin the flow of play, which enabled the Thunder to score on what was effective-



ly a five-on-three. Neither team scored the rest of the frame, sending the game into the intermission at 1-0 Adirondack. Worcester was outshot 16-9 through the first.

It was a scoreless second period for just the third time all season, as neither team found the back of the net through two periods. Henrik Tikkanen had been lights out for Worcester, stopping 29 of 30 shots faced for the Railers through two stanzas. Worcester continued to get outshot by Adirondack, 14-7 in the second, and 30-16 for the game.

Adirondack then poured on the offense in the third period, scoring the most goals they've scored in a single game this season at seven total on the night. Worcester conceded six goals in the third period, the most that they've allowed in a single frame all season long. Xavier Parent (5th, 6th, 7th) scored a hat trick for the Thunder all within the third period, but not everyone realized it at first. Only one hat was thrown onto the ice as Parent scored his third of the night. The rest of the hats ended up making their way out once Parent was announced as the first star of the game, postgame. Sebastian Vidmar (5th, 6th) added a pair of goals while Ryan Smith (1st) notched his first of the season, all contributing to the game's 7-0 final. Worcester was outshot 15-5 in the third, and 45-21 on the game.

# 19th Annual Penguin Plunge will benefit children's museum

WESTFIELD – Amelia Park Children's Museum is challenging the wild, the wacky, and the just plain crazy to take "The Plunge" into the icy, cold waters of Hampton Ponds State Park, Westfield on Saturday, Jan. 28. Check-in begins at 11:30 a.m. and participants start hitting the water at 1 p.m. All proceeds from the Penguin Plunge will benefit Amelia Park Children's Museum. Now in its 19th year, the Penguin Plunge has raised over \$325,000 to support Amelia Park Children's Museum.

Defy the seasonal temperatures and take the dare.

Join as an individual or as a team. Each participant pledges to raise a minimum of \$75 from friends and family and is encouraged to collect as many

sponsors as possible. Full time students will receive a registration discount of \$25 with valid school ID and pledge to raise at least \$50.

The participant who collects the most funds will be crowned the 2023 Penguin Excelsior and win \$500. A costume contest is part of the fun, and there are prizes for Best Individual Costume and Best Team Costume.

Register in advance or the day of the event from 11:30 a.m. to 12 noon. All participants will receive a free 2023 Penguin Plunge T-shirt.



Registration and pledge forms are available via the museum website at [www.ameliaparkmuseum.org/plunge](http://www.ameliaparkmuseum.org/plunge) or can be picked up at the museum. Penguins may also use the Fundly page to collect sponsors; <https://fundly.com/penguin-plunge-2023>.

Don't want to jump in the water? No worries. We need spectators to cheer on our brave participants. We will have activities and games for everyone, including a live ice sculpting demo. Hot chocolate, coffee, chili, and other refreshments will be available to keep everyone nice and warm.

The money raised by the Plunge goes to providing a safe and welcoming place for children to learn and play. This event is crucial in supporting the work of Amelia Park Children's Museum.

Amelia Park Children's Museum is located at 29 South Broad Street, Westfield, MA and is open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday through Monday. The museum offers hands-on learning for children ages 1-7 in a safe and welcoming environment. Cost of admission is \$8 per person; grandparents have a reduced rate of \$4. Admission is \$2 per person on Thursday afternoons from 1 – 3pm. Call us with questions at (413) 572- 4014 or email questions to: [fun@ameliaparkmuseum.org](mailto:fun@ameliaparkmuseum.org). Learn more about the museum at: [www.ameliaparkmuseum.org](http://www.ameliaparkmuseum.org).

# Springfield Thunderbirds drop nail-biter to Lehigh Valley Phantoms

SPRINGFIELD - The Springfield Thunderbirds (11-13-1-4) registered 31 shots but could not find enough offense in a 2-1 loss to the Lehigh Valley Phantoms (13-11-2-1) on Friday night inside the MassMutual Center.

Things did not start on the right foot for the T-Birds, as a puck skittered into the middle of their own zone just 23 seconds into the contest, and veteran Artem Anisimov was the beneficiary of a slick between-the-legs pass from Olle Lycksell for a slam dunk goal at the side of Vadim Zherenko's cage, giving Lehigh Valley the 1-0 advantage.

The rest of a penalty-free first period saw lots of stoppages anyhow, but the two clubs each managed to fire 12 shots on goal, with Zherenko stopping 11 straight following the Anisimov goal. 35-year-old Phantoms backstop Pat Nagle denied all 12 Springfield shots on the net through 20 minutes.

In the last meeting between the clubs, the T-Birds power play diced

the Phantoms penalty killing unit for four power-play goals. However, in the middle period of this affair, the Lehigh Valley shorthanded group had a standout performance, turning away three separate Springfield advantages. Zherenko's middle stanza was less hectic, as he made all seven stops asked of him.

A quiet third period brought about an insurance marker by Phantoms captain Cal O'Reilly at the 12:28 mark to make it 2-0. Springfield battled and finally cracked Nagle as Kean Washkurak funneled a wraparound into the crease, where Mitchell Hoelscher deposited his second goal in two nights to cut the lead to 2-1 with 4:34 to play.

The Thunderbirds were granted a power play when Jordy Bellerive flipped the puck out of play with a minute to go, but the Lehigh Valley penalty kill survived the final moments to bring home their second win in three tries over Springfield so far this season.

# Class of 2023 Basketball Hall of Fame eligible candidates named

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced the list of eligible candidates for the Class of 2023, including several high-profile, first-time nominees including Pau Gasol, Dirk Nowitzki, Tony Parker, Gregg Popovich, Dwyane Wade, and the 1976 U.S. Olympic Women's Basketball Team.

A first look at the list of eligible nominees was provided by "NBA Today" on ESPN, hosted by Malika Andrews, Richard Jefferson, Chiney Ogwumike, Kendrick Perkins and Zach Lowe. A complete list of eligible candidates can be found below.

Finalists from the North American and Women's committee for the Class of 2023 will be announced on Friday, Feb. 17, at 5:30 p.m. ET in Salt Lake City, Utah, during NBA All-Star Weekend.

The entire Class of 2023, including those selected by the direct-elect committees, will be unveiled during

the NCAA Final Four in Houston, Texas, on Saturday, April 1, in a nationally televised broadcast at 11 a.m.

Enshrinement weekend will begin at the Mohegan Sun on Friday, Aug. 11, with the Tip-Off Celebration and Awards Gala, followed by the Enshrinement ceremony on Saturday, Aug. 12, at Springfield's historic Symphony Hall.

VIP Packages for the Hall of Fame Enshrinement Weekend will go on-sale on Friday, Feb. 17. All single-event tickets to the Ceremony, Tip Off Celebration and Awards Gala, as well as other ancillary events, will go on-sale on Saturday, April 1 at 12 noon. All packages and tickets will be available for purchase at [hoophall.com](http://hoophall.com).

The complete listing of events and pricing will be released by Feb. 1.

For the latest news and updates, follow @hoophall on Twitter and Instagram.

## REFS, from page 7

Each referee runs half of the field along the sideline, which gives them a good angle to call offsides and see what other fouls are being committed.

During the postseason tournament, the MIAA uses a three-person crew. There are two assistant referees, who waves a flag whenever a player is offsides or when the ball goes out of bounds. The head referee controls things in the middle of the field. Some referees use headsets to communicate with their AR's during the course of the match, which lasts 80 minutes at the varsity level.

"A three-person crew is a lot easier,

as long as you have experience with that system," Bielin said. "I did the best that I could in today's game."

Bielin, who graduated from West Springfield High School, is one of the veteran referees on the Pioneer Valley Soccer Officials Association board. He's been refereeing soccer matches in Western Mass. for the past 25 years.

"I became I soccer referee when I was in high school because I thought it would be a good way to stay in shape," he said. "The money was okay, and it was a lot better than working at McDonald's."

Dave DelBuono, who's currently the Vice President of the P.V.S.O.A., was the person that convinced Bielin to start refereeing matches at the high school and

college level.

"I began my refereeing career by doing Park and Rec games. Then I moved up to U.S. soccer," Bielin said. "Dave DelBuono is one of my mentors. He was the person who got me interested in doing high school and college games. The game is a lot more intense now than when I began refereeing."

Bielin enjoyed working the state final match because he didn't know any of the players or coaches on either team.

"I prefer not knowing anything about the two teams," he said. "That way I don't have a bias going into the match. I just call what I see taking place on the field. I do like working both a girls game and a boys game. It's a good change of pace to me."

Just like in most high school sports, there aren't enough soccer referees to cover all of the games in the state.

"There is an extreme shortage of high school soccer referees," Bielin said. "A major problem is there is a lot of referee abuse by the coaches and parents. I began refereeing when I was 16 years old and there aren't very many young referees anymore. As the older you get, the better you become at dealing with adults. Another issue is most varsity soccer games start at 4pm."

Bielin is hoping more high school players become referees in the future.

"Being a soccer referee is a good way to stay involved with the sport," Bielin said. "It's also a lot of fun being out on the field with the players."



# Public Notices

**City of Holyoke  
Notice of Public Hearing**  
The Holyoke License Board will be holding a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, January 4, 2023, at 5:15 pm** in person at 20 Korean Veterans Plaza room 401 and via Zoom.com; ID: 84025323745; CALL IN: +1 646 558 8656 regarding a new application for a seasonal alcohol package store wine & malt license for **JDE Corp DBA Flat's Supermarket** located at 36 Ely Street. M.G.L. Ch. 138. Sec. 15  
Applicant:  
Evaristo Almonte  
License Board:  
Anthony L. Luciano,  
Chairman  
12/23, 12/30/2022

**Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and  
Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
Docket No. HD22P2621GD  
In the matter of:  
Thomas J McPherson  
Of: Holyoke, MA  
RESPONDENT  
Alleged Incapacitated Person  
CITATION GIVING  
NOTICE OF PETITION  
FOR APPOINTMENT OF  
GUARDIAN FOR  
INCAPACITATED PERSON  
PURSUANT TO  
G.L. c. 190B, §5-304**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Jeffrey J Yelle** of Holyoke, MA  
**Brett D Walker** of Holyoke, MA  
in the above captioned matter alleging that **Thomas J McPherson** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is Incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

**You have the right to object to this proceeding.** If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before **10:00 A.M. on the return date of 01/13/2023.** This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone

may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.  
WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: December 16, 2022  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
12/30/2022

**CITY OF HOLYOKE  
PUBLIC HEARING  
NOTICE**  
The Holyoke Planning Board will be holding a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.** via Zoom.com; ID: 836 3939 8493; CALL IN 646 558 8656 8656 to hear, pursuant to the Holyoke Zoning Ordinance, a Site Plan Review Modification petition (Sec 10) submitted by Holyoke Landing, LLC to be located at 12-44-Holyoke Street (117-00-005).  
Holyoke Landing is seeking approval for a time modification to an approved Site Plan Review (144).  
A complete copy of the application and site plan may be viewed M-F, 9am-4pm  
APPLICANT:  
Holyoke Landing, LLC  
PLANNING BOARD:  
Mimi Panitch  
12/23, 12/30/2022

**City of Holyoke  
Notice of Public Hearing**  
The Holyoke License Board will be holding a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, January 4, 2023, at 5:15 pm** in person at 20 Korean Veterans Plaza room 401 and via Zoom.com; ID: 84025323745; CALL IN: +1 646 558 8656 regarding a new application for a Transfer of License for **Red Robin International, Inc.** located at 27 Holyoke Street. M.G.L. Ch. 138. Sec. 15  
Applicant:  
Red Robin International, Inc.  
License Board:  
Anthony L. Luciano,  
Chairman  
12/23, 12/30/2022

**Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Probate and  
Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
Docket No. HD04P2731G11  
In the interests of  
THOMAS MCPHERSON  
OF: HOLYOKE, MA  
RESPONDENT  
Incapacitated Person/  
Protected Person  
CITATION GIVING NOTICE  
OF PETITION FOR  
RESIGNATION OF A  
GUARDIAN OF AN  
INCAPACITATED PERSON**  
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Jeffrey J Yelle** of Holyoke, MA  
**Brett D Walker** of Holyoke, MA  
in the above captioned matter requesting that the court:  
Accept the Resignation of the Guardian of the Respondent.  
The petition asks the

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

**You have the right to object to this proceeding.** If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 AM. on the return date of **01/13/2023.** This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: December 16, 2022  
**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
12/30/2022

**Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and  
Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD17P1171EA  
Estate of:  
Omaira D Torres  
Date of Death: 04/05/2017  
CITATION ON PETITION  
FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE  
SETTLEMENT**  
A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by **Helen J Cruz** of Holyoke, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

**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 02/03/2023.**  
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within

**thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.**  
WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court  
Date: December 28, 2022  
**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
12/30/2022

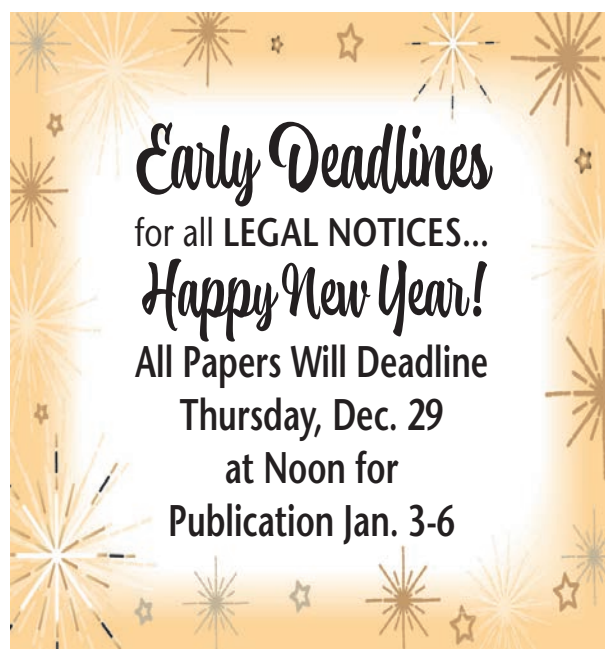
**Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and  
Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
Docket No. HD22P2726GD  
In the matter of:  
Stephen Anderson  
Of: Holyoke, MA  
RESPONDENT  
Alleged Incapacitated  
Person  
CITATION GIVING  
NOTICE OF PETITION  
FOR APPOINTMENT OF  
GUARDIAN FOR  
INCAPACITATED PERSON  
PURSUANT TO  
G.L. c. 190B, §5-304**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Careone Holyoke** of Holyoke, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Stephen Anderson** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Nancy Godbout** of Granby, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is Incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

**You have the right to object to this proceeding.** If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before **10:00 A.M. on the return date of 01/23/2023.** This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.  
WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: December 23, 2022  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
12/30/2022



## SEEKING STAFF WRITER

Award-winning, family-owned 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.

- 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 our editor's position and send it along with a resume and three writing samples to Executive Editor Cliff Clark at cclark@turley.com.**



## 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.

This is a job for a self-starter who has a vision for growing and connecting with our valued readers, and who thoroughly enjoys community journalism.

- Qualifications should include:
- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience
  - Willingness to mentor a staff writer and correspondents
  - Own camera and have some photography experience
  - Editing experience and ability to write clean copy in a fast-paced, deadline-driven environment
  - 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.



*The 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 \$120, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

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The Pulse is a community calendar for Holyoke and neighboring communities. Free listings are available for non-commercial, non-political entertainment or educational events that are free to attend, or fundraisers that benefit a non-profit organization. Only events in Holyoke or one of its immediate bordering towns, or events that benefit an organization based in Holyoke, will be listed. Submitted items should be brief, with only time, date, location, activity explanation, and contact information, and may be edited for length and style. Items may be sent to [thesun@turley.com](mailto:thesun@turley.com), fax to 413-283-7107 or mail to The Holyoke Sun, c/o Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069. The deadline for calendar listings is noon Monday for that Friday's newspaper.

### Saturday, Dec. 31

First Night Junior returns to Holyoke Heritage State Park. Join us from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 31, with unlimited rides on the Merry-Go-Round, entrance to the Children's Museum, crafts, live entertainment, and more. Tickets must be purchased online at <https://www.holyokemerrygoround.org/tickets>.

### Saturday, Jan. 7

Holyoke St. Patrick's Grand Colleen Pageant will be held at 7 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 7 at Holyoke High School. See eligibility requirements and apply at [holyokestpatrickcommittee.com](http://holyokestpatrickcommittee.com). Application deadline is Dec. 28.

For questions, contact Kathy Dulchinos, Colleen

Coordinator, at 413-592-4945.

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.

To submit items, email [thesun@turley.com](mailto:thesun@turley.com).

## SAFETY, from page 1

gangs, saying the department was a "gang that uses force."

Pratt would take exception to the comparison, demanding the councilor apologize to his department and discontinue voting on police matters.

At the press conference, Gulluni advocated for ShotSpotter, saying it has been very successful in nearby Springfield.

Gulluni said his office was working to mitigate the violence and bring those responsible to justice. Gulluni also assured Holyoke residents the city is working hard to keep people safe.

"The Holyoke Police Department serves this city very well under the leadership of Chief David Pratt," he said. "Every citizen deserves to be safe and feel safe."

Despite the reassurances, two more murders along with a major drug and weapon raid would take place in the next three months.

Curbing the violence will be something Garcia will have to look at in 2023, especially after the city receives the results of a police operations audit it requested late in the year. A firm is supposed to look at the current structure at the police department and make recommendations for improvements there.

## SCHOOL, from page 1

over in 2015 after the state seized control of the public schools.

After Zrike moved on, his successor, Alberto Vazquez Matos only logged seven months in the top administrative spot, before Soto, who was serving as a Finance Director, took over.

The state would appoint Soto the permanent receiver/superintendent in 2021, and he would take over a number of key issues, including trying to get funding for a new middle school building.

The schools would announce several changes late this year.

Sullivan School will be a middle school. The Kelly and Donahue schools will remain elementary schools. E.N. White will also be an elementary school.

According to Soto, more than 900 people attended various meetings held throughout the past year to gain feedback into the decision-making progress. More than 450 surveys were filled out by stakeholders in the community as well.

Soto also announced Dual Language programs will be available at White,

though Kelly and Sullivan will have partial programs.

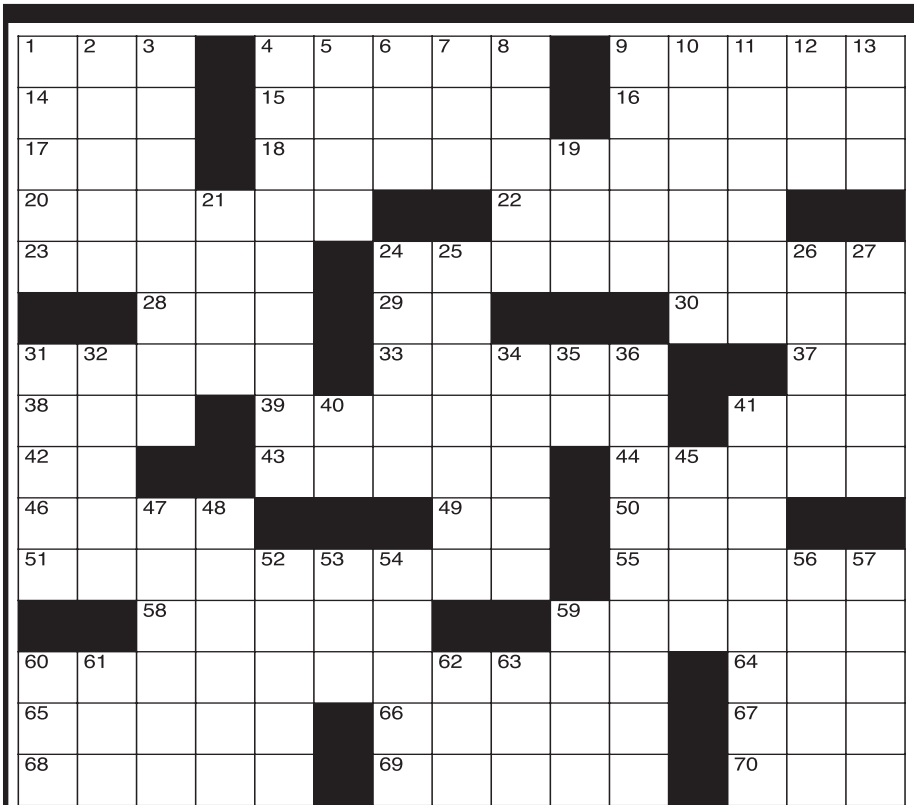
As 2022 comes to a close, a renewed call to end the receivership, which has been viewed as ineffective in Holyoke, came to the surface.

Two weeks ago, Ward 5 Councilor Linda Vacon and At-Large Councilor Kevin Jourdain filed an order that was introduced at a recent meeting demanding Governor-elect Maura Healey return control of the schools to the School Committee and a local superintendent. The mayor chairs the school committee.

"We believe local control can produce improved results, and with new leadership in the governor's office. We request consideration for the issuance of an order to return local control by July 1," the order states.

While Healey does not have the unilateral power to end the receivership, she can recommend it to the education commissioner.

Many of the current stories involving the public schools will now continue into 2023, with hopefully many of the them coming to a happy and favorable conclusion for the city



### CLUES ACROSS

1. Product or (abbr.)
4. Zodiac sign
9. S. China seaport
14. Former OSS
15. Early English printer
16. Aphid genus
17. General's assistant (abbr.)
18. Aussies
20. Dissuades
22. Make law
23. Drench
24. Soak in a liquid
28. Male child
29. It cools your home
30. Small constellation
31. To call (archaic)
33. Explores beneath the Earth
37. Commercial
38. W. hemisphere
39. You can find it in
- a can
41. "Land of the free"
42. 36 inches
43. Footwear
44. Challenges
46. They hold things together
49. Of I
50. Partner to flow
51. Not connected by kinship
55. Worries
58. Garlic mayonnaise
59. A way to take by force
60. Legendary English rockers
64. Your consciousness of your own identity
65. Fencing swords
66. Silly
67. Actor DiCaprio
68. Encircles with a belt
69. Mails a message
70. Longing

### CLUES DOWN

1. Horse mackerels
2. It can be viral
3. Prickly plants
4. Consciousness
5. Type of sarcoma
6. Tax collector
7. Sun up in New York
8. One who scorches
9. Influential psychotherapist
10. Situated at an apex
11. Communicative
12. Forearm nerve
13. Former CIA
19. Folk singer DiFranco
21. Employee stock ownership plan
24. Large-scale
25. School environment
26. Remove
27. Male parents
31. Large rodent
32. Weighed down
34. Held tightly
35. \_\_\_ route: going there
36. Explains again
40. Exclamation of surprise
41. Courteously
45. Lying down
47. Judge
48. Forcefully took
52. Loosely compacted sediment
53. High mountain
54. Portable conical tents
56. Cereal grass
57. Dining utensil
59. Thoughtful
60. Helps you walk
61. Indicates near
62. Midway between northeast and east
63. Local area network

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 9

## COUNCILOR, from page 1

cilor refused.

"Holyoke cannot bar Plaintiff (Puello-Mota) from the city council seat because the law says the seat is not vacant," according to court documents filed in Hampden Superior Court.

Callan agreed with the Mara's contention, writing that the 90 days Puello-Mota spent in jail were not the result of being convicted of a crime and thus, the city had no right to expel him from the council's Ward 2 seat.

The lawsuit requested an injunction, which would allow Puello-Mota to return to the council and serve as a councilor pending the outcome of the case.

Puello-Mota is still facing charges in Rhode Island, though his case was continued for one month. He is facing child pornography charges, and then was also charged with obstruction, counterfeiting,

and forgery in an attempt to avoid issues with his employer, Barnes Air National Guard Base.

He was arrested in May for a bail violation and spent 90 days in jail for the violation. If Puello-Mota is convicted of any of the charges, it is possible the city could then try to invoke Section 46.

Until then, Puello-Mota is the Ward 2 councilor and allowed his full voting rights.

Puello-Mota would run into more trouble about a month later for violating the terms of his bail by being at a function featuring children. He attended a Halloween event at a Holyoke elementary school his child attends along with Councilor David Bartley. The Rhode Island court was generous, not putting the councilor back in jail for violating the terms of his bail.

The charges are still pending in Rhode Island, with pre-trial functions occurring as 2023 rolls around.

# Giving Back

with TURLEY PUBLICATIONS

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All hardwood.  
Tree length available  
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**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

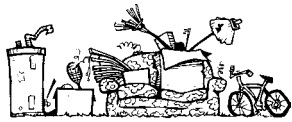
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### CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

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

## SERVICES



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## CHILD SERVICES

**\*NEW STATE LAW.** Anyone advertising caring of children must list a license number to do so if they offer this service in their own home.

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## HELP WANTED

**ASSISTANT TREASURER/COLLECTOR** The Town of Blandford seeks candidates for part-time Assistant Treasurer-Collector position responsible for administrative and supervisory work involving the receipt and collection of all money due. Candidates must have minimum of one to three years' experience in municipal finance and bachelor's degree in finance or accounting. Compensation range for this 19.5-hour-a-week position is \$23.00 to \$24.00 an hour. The right candidate will have the opportunity for promotion to Treasurer-Collector within six months; salary range of \$26.00 to \$35.00 an hour. Closing date for all applications is Thursday, January 5, 2023, by 3:00pm. Visit **TownOfBlandford.com/job-openings/** for detailed job description and instructions on how to apply. The Town of Blandford is an Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

## HELP WANTED

**FIRE CHIEF** The Town of Blandford is seeking candidates to fill a part-time Fire Chief position who will oversee the operation of the all-volunteer department, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 48, Section 42. Candidates must have three to five years' experience, with minimum of two years in supervisory position, in fire/EMS service. The compensation for this 19.5-hour-a-week position is \$23.00-25.00 an hour. A full job description with submission of application guidelines can be found at **www.townofblandford.com/job-openings/**. Closing date for all applications is Thursday, January 12, 2023, by 3:00pm. EEO/AEE

## REAL ESTATE

### FOR RENT



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

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HILLTOWNS - **MONDAY AT NOON**

CATEGORY:			
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9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40

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Circulation: 50,500

**Hilltowns**  
Circulation: 9,800

**Suburban Residential**  
Circulation: 59,000

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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: \_\_\_\_\_

First ZONE base price \_\_\_\_\_ Includes additional words  
Add a second ZONE **\$10.00**  
Add a third ZONE **\$5.00** Run my ad in the following ZONE(s):  
Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_  Quabbin  
x Number of Weeks \_\_\_\_\_  Suburban  
TOTAL Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_  Hilltowns

**OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!**

# Year in Review 2022



The Holyoke High and Holyoke Catholic Alumni play an exhibition game in late November.



Members of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox church join Mayor Joshua Garcia before the flag raising on March 25. *File photos*



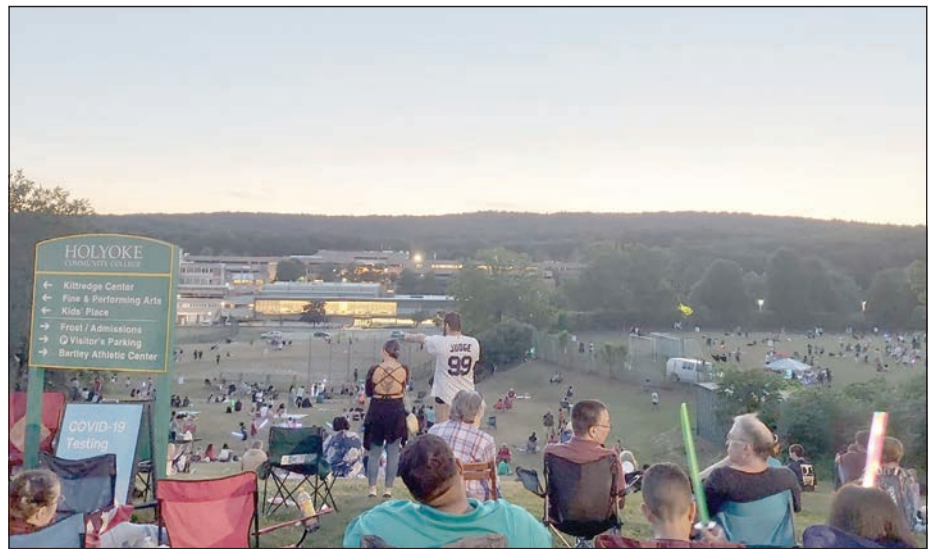
An explosion underground blew manhole covers off near a building in mid-January.



The Dean Tech graduation is held on June 2.



The Hibernians of Hampden/Hampshire Counties announced and celebrated the recipients of their Highest Irish Cultural Awards for 2023.



Holyoke Community College hosted the Fourth of July fireworks display.



The school mask mandate remained in place in Holyoke schools for most of the year despite the state lifting the mandate at the end of February.



Deer are captured during a summer nature walk at Mt. Tom.



The city's Easter celebration included free rides at the merry-go-round at Heritage Park.



The Holyoke High School football team faces South Hadley on Thanksgiving.



Holyoke High School's outdoor ceremony held on Sunday, June 5.