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Enlace De Familias hosts Youth Conference

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – Enlace de Familias held its first Western Mass Youth Conference at Holyoke High School on June 28.

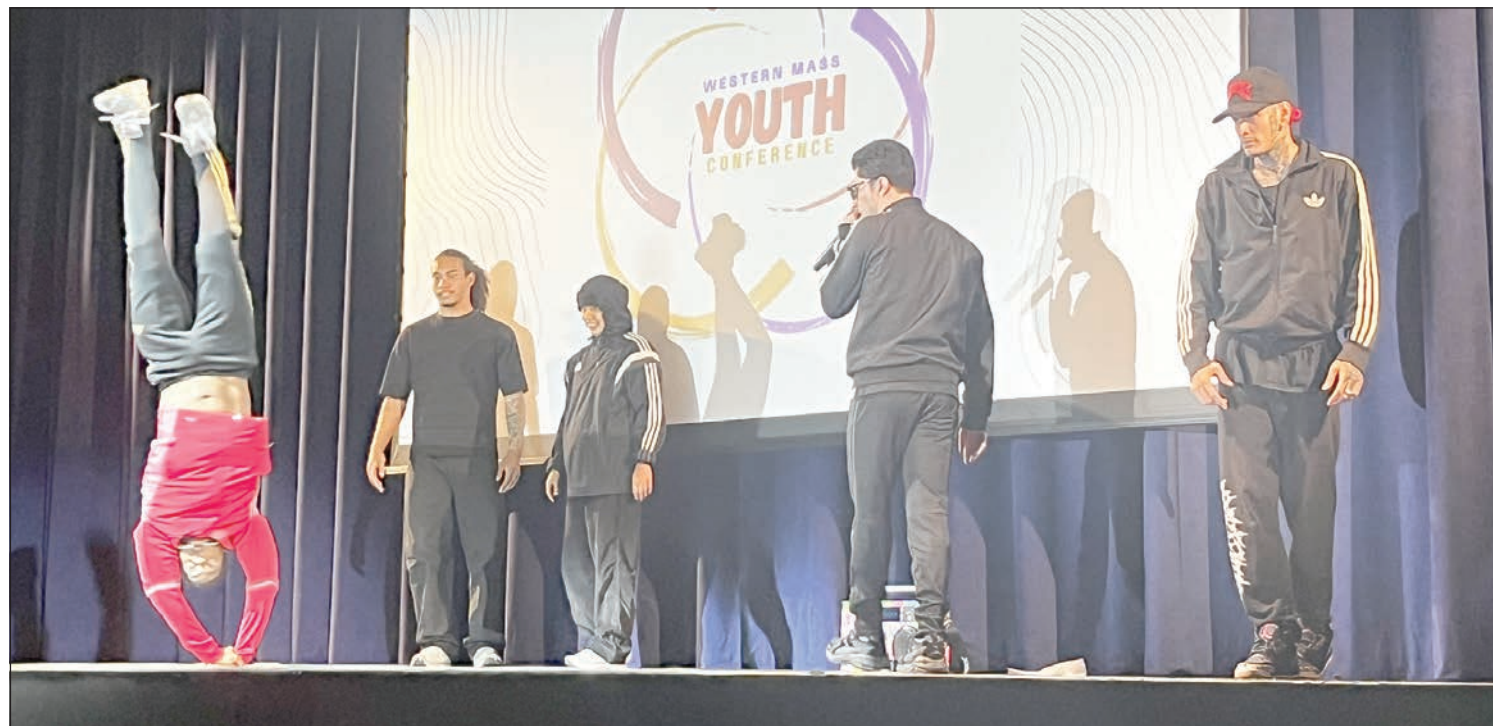
The goal was to bring together youth in the area so they could have conversations about leadership, culture and civic engagement.

They also focused on safety in the community, as requested by the youth who organized the conference.

“The goal of today’s conference is for every youth that comes here to have a takeaway,” Staff Member Jayden Lopez said. “Whether it be in the realm of leadership, civic engagement or community empowerment. That’s why we invited not just Holyoke but all the communities of Western Massachusetts, because we wanted it to be a place where everyone could have these discussions.”

The entire conference was organized by youth from the Youth Task Force as Enlace De Familias really wanted to ensure that youth voices were at the focal point of this conference.

“Everything that you’re seeing today is run and planned by the youth, for the youth,” Executive Director Frank Martinez said.



Each break dancer got a chance to show off some of their skills in front of the youth.

Turley photo by Quinn Suomala

“The ideas for the breakout rooms, that was us,” Youth Staff Adrian Guitierrez-Martínez said. “The whole of what we’re doing, what’s happening in the auditoriums, the guest speakers, we picked those.”

The youth did internships at different non-profits and a civic engagement program, and they then got together in order to plan the conference.

They pulled together this

all-day conference where youth were able to be inspired and learn more about their communities.

The day started off with a welcome and a speech by Keynote Speaker Anthony Valentine.

This was followed by a variety of workshops that youth could select to attend. The workshops included: history and culture of dance plena

and bomba, school to prison pipeline, from leadership to civic engagement and Western Massachusetts trivia.

After this, the kids all came together again to receive a mindfulness and wellness presentation before heading to lunch.

Then there were the Dance Stylez Breakdancers who came from New York City who performed for the youth, and after-

wards gave them a workshop on break dance.

Youth were also welcome to go on a tour of the murals in the city, do a painting workshop or do a tour of some local non-profits.

Then, Voice Semi-Finalist Madison Curbelo performer and the youth reflected on their day at the conference.

See **YOUTH**, page 6

Library kicks off summer reading

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Public Library had their Summer

Reading Kick-off on Thursday, June 27.

Anyone from the community was invited to come, and there were yard-games, balloons and

ice cream for all.

Family and Community Engagement Coordinators Rey Figuera and Myriam Rodriguez from Holyoke Public Schools were also present in order to help families.

They provided information on enrollment in HPS as well as the Summer Eats Program.

Also present were Attorneys Julia Popkin and Molly Jane Thomas from Community Legal Aid.

Community Legal Aid works to provide legal support for the community in a variety of areas, including employment, veterans aid, disability benefits and education.

“We represent children throughout our entire service area in connection with their education,” Thoms said. “That often involves kids with disabilities or mental health needs who are accessing special education for the first time or who need help enhancing or changing their special ed programs.”

Both Thoms and Popkin wanted to use the summer reading kick-off as a chance to reach



Family and Community Engagement Coordinators Rey Figuera and Myriam Rodriguez from Holyoke Public Schools gave families information about enrollment.

Turley photo by Quinn Suomala

See **READING**, page 12

Robert Comeau offers historical tours of city

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – Local Historian Robert Comeau will be offering a variety of free historical tours in Holyoke and surrounding communities.

He will be offering A Mill in Holyoke through Time - The Skinner Silk Mill on Tuesday, Sept. 10 from 5:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. at Wistariahurst.

This is a new program offered by Comeau that he just started this year.

“I’ve been giving tours of the canals for nine years now and I didn’t have time to give details on any one, set mill so I wanted to start doing it, especially for the very popular mills,” Comeau said.

He will be talking about how Skinner Silk Mill has changed through the times and how its production used to work.

He hopes to continue this program in future years and

to include other mills in the Holyoke area so that their history can shine through as well.

*“I point out along the way
all of the mills,
all of the power canal
structures and the
worker homes
that were built...
and at the very end
a park that was
made special by
the canal company,”*

- Robert Comeau

Comeau is also planning his annual Holyoke Canal System Walking Tour. This will be on Saturday, Oct. 5 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. starting at the Dwight Street side of Holyoke Heritage State Park.

See **TOURS**, page 11

The Horace Smith Fund awards area students

HOLYOKE – On Thursday, June 20th, The Horace Smith Fund held its 125th Annual Corporators’ Meeting and scholarship awards ceremony at the Carriage House at Storowton Tavern for recipients, their parents, school counselors, and Corporators. This event was funded, in part, by a Community Care grant from PeoplesBank.

Wayne Webster, Chair of the Board of Trustees, announced that this year there were 20 Walter S. Barr

Scholarships awards, with 15 going to graduating high school seniors and five to students already attending college. The William R. Rooney Award was granted to one high school candidate who has received special education services. Additionally, three Walter S. Barr Fellowships were given to students pursuing graduate education.

The Keynote Speaker, Alina Antropova, was a 2020 graduate of Southwick-Tolland Regional High School and Walter S. Barr Scholarship

recipient and a 2024 graduate of UMass Amherst and Walter S. Barr Fellowship recipient.

The 2024 scholarship recipients in attendance from Holyoke and who graduated from Holyoke High School and Lighthouse Holyoke, respectively were Brenna N. Phillips and Montasir Abdelrahman.

Providing that students maintain at least a B average in college, each scholarship provides a total of \$12,000 over four years and each fellowship provides

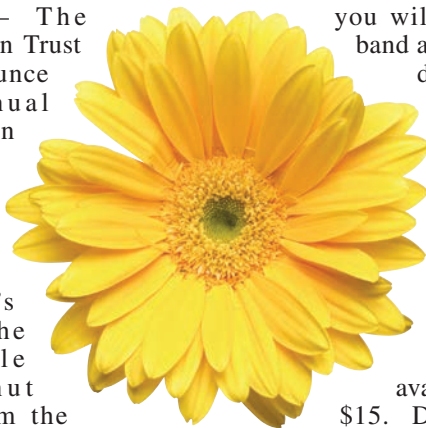
\$15,000 over two years. Therefore, The Horace Smith Fund is happy to be able to grant a total award of \$297,000 to area students this year.

Students were selected on a variety of criteria, including their test scores, class rank, extra-curricular activities, and a personal written account of why the student feels deserving of financial assistance. Applications for next year’s awards will be available September 15th on-line at www.HoraceSmithFund.org or by calling (413) 739-4222.

Garden Tour this weekend

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Preservation Trust is pleased to announce its Fourth Annual Garden Tour on Saturday, July 13.

Check in for this rain or shine event will be at the Holyoke Preservation Trust’s new location, the Masonic Temple at 235 Chestnut Street, across from the Holyoke Public Library. There



you will pick up your wristband and collect a map with a description and location of the gardens. At one of the gardens, you will also have the opportunity to participate in a short lesson on how to turn a tree, shrub, or plant into Bonsai and how to maintain your Bonsai. Tickets are available at Eventbrite for \$15. Day of the event ticket purchase is \$20.

Art gallery displays Thrive

HOLYOKE – The Taber Art Gallery at Holyoke Community College, in partnership with the college’s Thrive Student Resource Center, is seeking submissions from area artists for an exhibit titled “THRIVE: Beyond Surviving.”

The exhibit will run Oct. 31 to Dec. 20. Artists are encouraged to enter work that considers the systemic, communal, and/or individual obstacles and barriers to survival, what surviving means, how we as humans can continue to dream, push, and hope for more than the minimum, and the struggle of exhaustion versus the ability to rest. Submissions are due by Aug. 31.

Gallery director Rachel Rushing said the theme of the exhibit stems from conversation she’s had with Ben Ostiguy, special programs director for the HCC Thrive Center, which operates the college’s food pantry and provides other support services.

“Thrive supports HCC students struggling to meet basic needs by focusing primarily on three areas: housing, hunger, and healthcare,” said Rushing. “One of the Taber gallery’s values is collaboration, and working with Thrive is a great way to amplify their program while featuring work from artists who have concerns in these same areas.”

COLLEGE NOTES

Uhart announces Dean’s List

WEST HARTFORD, CT – The University of Hartford is pleased to announce that Amaraya Deza of Holyoke has been named to the dean’s list for the spring 2024 semester.

The Dean’s List recognizes students achieving superior academic standing. The requirement, with some exceptions, is a grade point average of at least 3.0 and no grade below C.

Siena College 2024 spring Dean’s List

LOUDONVILLE, NY – Siena College names students to the Dean’s List for the Spring 2024 semester. The following students are from Holyoke Samantha Brennan and Anna Evans.

Elms College spring 2024 Dean’s List

CHICOPEE – The College of Our Lady of the Elms has named the following students to the dean’s list for the spring 2024 semester. The following students are from Holyoke. Congratulations to all the students who are named to the list.

Kaylee Bishop, Sadiel Cabrera, Shahla Colon, Trinity Colon, Sheileen Diaz, Andrew Dowland, Diana Figueroa, Armando Fontan, Chloe Gerhardson, Felix Gutierrez, Arianna Ketchakeu, Emmie Lundgren Jennylee Ojeda Colon, Ruth Ortiz-Torres, Marissa Perez, Aliza Riemer, Deborah Rosario Rodriguez and Jyleen Troche Rivera.

HCC announces official online bookstore

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College has selected eCampus.com as its official online bookstore.

Based in Lexington, Kentucky, eCampus.com began providing online bookstore services to HCC students in June.

Through this partnership, eCampus.com provides HCC with a customized online storefront that enables students to sign in with their credentials and have immediate access to their course-required materials. With offerings such as new, used, digital, and rental, and multiple flexible shipping options, students can select course materials according to their unique budgets and needs. eCampus.com also offers students the option to purchase materials through an online market-

place, where third-party sellers sell course materials at a discounted price.

HCC will still maintain a physical store (on the second floor of the HCC Campus Center), where students can pick up their online-ordered books for free and also buy HCC-branded merchandise, electronics, and other supplies.

“Students, and members of the faculty and staff who were involved in choosing a new bookstore vendor prioritized affordability and convenience,” said Narayan Sampath, HCC vice president of Administration and Finance. “With their online platform and proprietary marketplace, eCampus.com provides exactly that for us.”

Sampath said the benefits of the partnership extend to the ease for professors to research and select their

required course materials each semester. Through eCampus.com’s advanced research tools, professors can view course materials based on availability and real-time pricing and are also able to view student purchasing habits. With this technology available, professors can make informed decisions regarding required course materials that take into consideration student affordability and accessibility.

“eCampus.com is honored to be selected as the Holyoke Community College official online bookstore,” said Matt Montgomery, eCampus.com president and CEO. “We are dedicated to using our online bookstore expertise to provide students with the best online shopping experience, one that sets students up for the best chance at success in the classroom.”

Smartphone photography workshop offered

HOLYOKE – On Aug. 8, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the community room at the Holyoke Public Library, learn how to take great photos with your smartphone with Peter Glass. Glass has been a professional photographer in the New England area for over 25 years. Come learn to take great photos with a smartphone is for those interested in producing high-quality images with their smartphone cameras by learning and under-

standing the camera controls as well as when and how to use them. The quality of smartphone cameras is improving rapidly. Their capabilities extend far beyond what you might expect. A good quality smartphone camera can work almost as well as a 35mm camera.

This workshop will cover:
Learning how to use the camera controls on your specific smartphone
Basic photographic theory
Discussing and, if desired, installing other smartphone camera apps
Suggestions for hand-holding your camera

Specific steps to follow when taking a picture

Useful accessories for your smartphone camera

And, how to compose your photographs to produce truly wonderful results

Participants will receive a very complete handout on arrival. Don’t forget to bring a fully charged smartphone as well as any accessories you have, including the charger for the smartphone.

Please note: This class will not cover the taking of selfies and is three hours long.



Mindfulness yoga classes available

HOLYOKE – NAMI Western Massachusetts would like to announce Mindfulness Yoga with Kateri’s third anniversary yoga series. This class is designed as a gentle, therapeutic yoga class with beginners in mind. It is easy-paced, helps reduce stress and anxiety, and aids in the management of mental health symptoms. Kateri is a certified yoga instructor and is vice president of our board of directors.

This series will be 4 weeks starting on Monday July 29 and continuing August 5, August 12, and concluding on August 19. Come celebrate Kateri’s Third Anniversary, July 29, with a free yoga class. The remaining three classes are available for just \$30. Partial proceeds go to NAMI-WM. Pre-registration is required. To Register email Kateri at: mindfulnessyogawithkateri721@gmail.com.



Send Us Your Photos!
TheSun@turley.com

Wistariahurst at 150: Reflections of the Museum

HOLYOKE – Wistariahurst Museum commemorates the 150th anniversary since the historic home began moving to Holyoke. Ever since, Wistariahurst has been a cornerstone of Holyoke’s cultural heritage, housing a museum and serving as a hub for cultural, educational, and community engagement. The museum welcomes guests to its latest exhibit, “Wistariahurst at 150: Reflections of the Museum,” to recognize this significant event in local history and celebrate its impact on the city. Focusing on the latter part of the 20th century, this retrospective exhibit will feature various programs, events, and performances that influenced Wistariahurst and the City of Holyoke. With a unique approach, “Wistariahurst at 150: Reflections of the Museum” will present a fascinating collection of preserved artifacts, documents, and photographs. The exhibition will unveil items that have been privately stored for years, such as wedding gowns, sculptures, and posters from cultural events.

For over 150 years, Wistariahurst has been proud to be a part of Holyoke’s history. Since being gifted to the city in 1959, the venue has been a hub for events that have brought people and community members together. You can visit and explore this exhibit on Mondays from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., and Tuesdays from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and 4:30-6:30 p.m. starting July 22.



Opening Reception at Go Retro at Wisty Wednesdays on July 17 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The opening reception for this exhibit at Go Retro at Wisty Wednesdays will be held July 17 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Swing by to check out the exhibit, enjoy music, lawn games, and tasty treats from local food trucks. The best part? Admission to the opening reception and gallery hours are free and open to the public.

Wistariahurst Museum, which is located at 238 Cabot Streets an educational and cultural center owned and operated by the City of Holyoke and supported by The Wistariahurst Foundation. Wistariahurst is dedicated to preserving Holyoke’s history and inspiring an appreciation of history and culture through

educational programs, exhibits and special events. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Wistariahurst is the former home of William Skinner, a prominent silk manufacturer and was built in 1874. To view open hours and plan your visit, or for more information visit <https://wistariahurst.org/events/>.

‘Love and Hope Day’ set for Saturday

HOLYOKE – Nueva Esperanza, in collaboration with Mass in Motion, Iglesia Templo Ebenezer, One Holyoke, and Unified Worship, is excited to present the Love and Hope for Holyoke Day of Worship. The event will take place on Saturday, July 6, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Chestnut Street Park. The entire community is invited to come and experience a day dedicated to spreading positivity, love, and hope.

Event Schedule Highlights:

Community Clean-Up (10 a.m.): Kick-start the Day of Worship with a community clean-up aimed at enhancing the beauty of Holyoke. Join in to elevate the charm of the city. Participants will be meeting at Chestnut Street Park (corner of Chestnut street and Sargeant Street).

Spreading the Word (noon): Following the clean-up, everyone will actively promote this remarkable event, spreading messages of love and hope throughout the community. Be sure not to miss the main event at 5:30 p.m. in Chestnut Park.

Free Giveaway (5:30 p.m.): As a gesture of love and solidarity, join in for a free giveaway of groceries and toiletries. This initiative underscores the commitment to supporting households in need and fostering community spirit.

Live Music (6 p.m.): Prepare to be enchanted by the soulful melodies of a live youth band, filling the atmosphere with their captivating music.

Uplifting Message: The event will culminate with an inspiring message from a local pastor, emphasizing the profound impact of love, hope, and faith

in our lives.

This event is part of the Holyoke Cultural Resilience Cookbook, managed by Mass in Motion in partnership with Nueva Esperanza through the El Corazón Project/The Heart of Holyoke, alongside many other partners. This initiative unites faithbased and non-faith organizations to address community needs, providing essential resources such as food.

They work closely with One Holyoke for the community clean-up, ensuring a safe and effective environment with necessary materials and are grateful to Parks and Recreation for generously allowing the use of the park for this event, and to the churches for their united efforts.

Lastly, thank you the Unified Worship team for showcasing young



talents and spreading love. The goal is to promote positivity through acts of love, support for the community, and by offering resources, compassion, and uplifting messages. Come by and immerse in a day of peace, love, hope, and faith. Let’s create a brighter future for Holyoke, hand in hand. Follow on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/nuevaofoholyoke> for updates and more information about the event.

Cooper’s Gifts hosts drive to benefit Westover military families

AGAWAM – Cooper’s Gifts will collect non-perishable food items, books, games, school supplies and toiletries for the Westover Galaxy Community Council (WGCC). The Westover GCC is a 501(c)3 charitable organization; comprised of veterans, local business owners and community members. Their goal is to support the military men, women, families and the mission of Westover ARB. They support team-building and morale-boosting activities for our Airmen, Soldiers and Marines. The WGCC works with and contributes to on base activities such as the Family Readiness Center, the Westover Young

Marines, the Civil Air Patrol & Youth Out-Reach Day and Back-To-School Drive. Donations go to our military reservists in need. All donations stay local.

Cooper’s has supported the Westover families for many years, through the stores charity Round Up Program. “We worked with our closest USA-made vendors to curate wonderful raffle items that would entice people to donate more items to benefit the good folks over at the Westover GCC,” said Kate Gourde, Owner of Cooper’s Gifts Apparel Home. In exchange, Cooper’s will swap entry tickets for the raffle prizes. Entries are

also available for purchase at \$1 each, or 6 for \$5. All monies collected will go to the Westover Galaxy Community Council. Raffle prize winners will be notified in early August.

Each month Gourde chooses a local charity to receive the profits of the store’s Round Up program, through which customers are invited to round up their purchase total to the next dollar amount. Gourde will then match 50% of the total collected. The program has donated over \$50,000 to local organizations since its inception in 2014. “Our customers have been so supportive of Cooper’s Round Up Program. We are so grateful and

wanted to pay it forward; to help the men and women who serve selflessly, and their families. With your help ... the WGCC strengthens our local military service members by keeping them connected to family, home and country throughout their service to our nation.” Gourde said.

Cooper’s is located at 161 Main St., Agawam, and is open 7 days a week. Weekdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays 12 to 4 p.m. More information on the Round Up program and how to nominate a charity, may be found on Cooper’s website www.coopersgifts.com/round-up/.

Chicopee announces fireworks celebration

CHICOPEE – Chicopee Parks and Recreation is thrilled to announce the rescheduled date for the highly anticipated Chicopee Fireworks Celebration. The event will now take place on Friday, July 19 at Szot Park, with a rain date scheduled for July 20 and 21.

This spectacular fireworks display promises to be a highlight of the sum-

mer, offering a festive way to celebrate America’s birthday with friends, family, and the entire Chicopee community.

The fireworks will commence at dusk, and attendees are encouraged to arrive early to secure a good viewing spot. Food vendors will be on-site to provide refreshments throughout the evening.

Stanley Park to celebrate 75th Anniversary

WESTFIELD – Stanley Park is celebrating its 75th Anniversary this August with a big day long celebration and are in need of unique vehicles take part in our “Touch a Truck” program taking place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will also be a classic car show taking place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. that day which more cars, trucks and motorcycles are needed for.

There is a \$10 donation per vehicle entered and we ask that you register in advance. Please call the Development Office at 413-568-9312 x108 or x 112 or email development@stanleypark.org to register. For further information or to be a sponsor of the event please go to www.stanleypark.org, our Facebook page or call the park office at 413-568-9312.

Guest Column



Will IRA withdrawals affect my Medicare premiums?

Dear Rusty:

I am a member of AMAC and learn so much from the Ask Rusty column.

I hope you can give me some information about a question that has come up in my family. My husband is retired and has reached Full Retirement Age. He is considering withdrawing money from an IRA to pay off our mortgage. We are wondering what, if any, penalties may be incurred on Social Security, Medicare and income tax. Thank you for your help in this matter.

Signed: Concerned Taxpayer

Dear Concerned:

Thank you for contacting the AMAC Foundation Social Security Advisory Service.

Regarding your question on the impact of withdrawing IRA funds, there is no impact to your husband's gross Social Security benefit. The amount withdrawn, of course, is considered ordinary income for federal income tax purposes and will need to be included as such on your federal income tax return and will therefore affect your federal income tax liability when you file the return.

Depending on the amount withdrawn, there could be an impact to the Medicare premium due to the Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount provision. Assuming you file jointly, you will pay a higher Medicare Part B premium if your modified adjusted gross income is above certain thresholds, i.e., more than \$103,000 for an individual and \$206,000 for a married couple.

Please note that Medicare's procedures will not note this income change for two years, so if you make the withdrawal in 2024 it will

See SECURITY, page 5

Election letters to the editor welcome

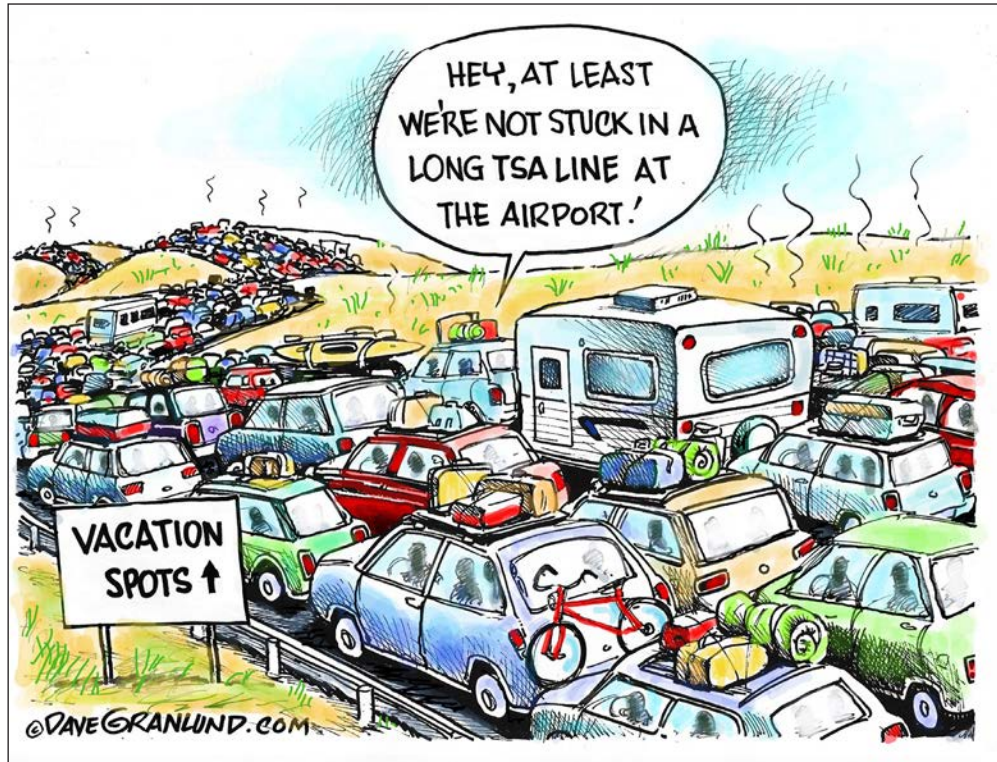
The Holyoke Sun welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to *The Holyoke Sun*, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to thesun@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Friday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

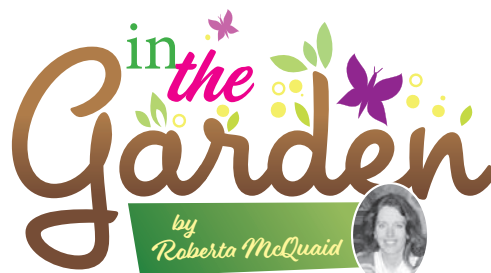
As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in *The Holyoke Sun*.



Guest Column

The Garden Lady tackles the Rose of Sharon



Paul, who gardens in Palmer, wrote in with this timely question for the Garden Lady: "My question deals with the Rose of Sharon and the many seedlings that it disburses. I have a large bush/tree in my front yard, and it disburses many seedlings. I have weeded the seedlings going on three times this spring and summer. When is the best time to cut the dead blossoms off the tree so that I don't repeat this task? Please share any other hints/ideas about the Rose of Sharon shrub."

This is a perfect question, since bloom time for the Rose of Sharon (*Hibiscus syriacus*) is right around the corner.

Like you, I am familiar with the shrub's tendency to self-sow, a lot. The best way to halt all of the seedlings coming is to "dead-head" the flowers as they begin to fade, before they are given the opportunity to make and drop seed.

Some would argue that this is, in fact, as much or more work as weeding the seedlings away. I guess it all depends whether you prefer to work standing up or on your hands and knees.

One suggestion I have would be to weed by use of a scuffle hoe. It's a tool you use standing up whereby you drag the scuffle across the soil.

It cuts the weed away from its roots, stopping it dead in its tracks. If you do this every week, the weeds will be so small that they will just wither in the sun- you don't even have to pick them up.

That may be the easiest way out of your overabundance of seedlings.

You also asked for some information about the shrub. Here are some excerpts from a column I wrote a few years ago that you might find interesting, especially in regard to the appropriate time of year to prune.

The Rose of Sharon is also known as Shrub Althea. It is a member of the mallow family, a diverse bunch of plants that include hollyhocks, marsh mallows, cotton, okra and even tropical hibiscus as kin.

Although native to Asia, it had already found a home in North America by 1600. In the 19th century it was among the most popular shrubs in the nursery trade. It grows well in zones 5-8.

The Rose of Sharon has an upright growth habit that lends itself well to all types of combination plantings: in foundation plantings, as stand alone hedges, and as the backdrop for perennial borders.

Likewise, a single shrub can be trained to be an outstanding specimen.

Because its flowers are borne on new growth rather than old, pruning can be accomplished in late winter or early spring without the risk of sacrificing blooms. As with most shrubs, concentrate first on removing any dead branches, then remove those that are crossing or rubbing on one another.

If growth needs to be checked, cut well into the shrub to decrease its height and girth.

Cutting back to a bud that points outward and in the direction of least competition will result in a bushy, less lanky shrub- one suitable for use as a specimen. Frequent pruning results in fewer but larger flowers, whereas no or little pruning gives way to many small flowers.

Plant the Rose of Sharon in full sun or part shade situations. Although it is tolerant of many types of soil, from seashore sandy to wet, this shrub prefers deep, well-drained soil to perform its best.

Fertilization is rarely necessary.

Although Japanese beetles are said to favor the flowers, I haven't had much of a problem with them at home or at work.

To intentionally propagate this plant, simply take a softwood cutting four or five inches long in early summer. Remove lower foliage and insert into the ground in a shady location.

Water as needed.

By the season end roots will have likely formed, but wait until spring to move your cutting to a nursery bed.

As mentioned, seeds of the Rose of Sharon have also been known to sprout under the mother plant, sometimes to the degree of being a nuisance. Grow these seedlings on and see what color flower you get; there is no guarantee it will be the same as mother.

Single or double hibiscus shaped flowers come in shades of red, pink, purple and white, depending on the cultivar. Like those of their tropical cousin, individual Rose of Sharon flowers bloom for a single day, close at night, then eventually drop from the plant.

Even at that rate, flowering occurs for many weeks throughout late July, August and sometimes into September.

In my opinion, single flowered cultivars are more desirable; they put on a better show and are more tolerant of rainy weather. Double types turn to mush after a rainstorm - much like petunia flowers do. Not very attractive and oh so squishy!

"Diana" is my all time favorite cultivar. Four- six inch pure white single flowers bloom in abundance, even through the night, making it a perfect candidate for use in a moonlit garden.

"Woodbridge" is another popular vari-

See GARDEN, page 5

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



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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.



Whip-poor-will

I received an email from a Belchertown resident, she said, "I have had a whip-poor-will in my yard for about a month."

She also said, "I hear the call every morning around 4 a.m. and in the evening around 9 p.m. I have not had one for the past 10 years and am quite lucky to have again."

She said she lives in a quiet neighborhood and she was wondering if any other folks have them. She is fortunate. It has been many years since I heard the call of the whip-poor-will.

The whip-poor-will is ten inches long and are mostly heard calling in the evening. It is a brownish to dusk colored bird, which blends in well with

its surroundings. In flight, the rounded wings and long tail are visible. They eat aerial insects and feed mostly at night on moths. They are nocturnal and rest during the day. They also eat beetles and grasshoppers.

The whip-poor-will nest on the woodland floor and lays two white eggs with gray or brown spots. Their call is "whip-poor will," with emphasis on the last syllable. They inhabit open woods, canyons and dry, brushy areas.

Green heron and more

My daughter saw a green heron fly across Route 32 in Ware, near the power supply at the town line on Thursday, June

27. It landed in a small, swampy area. Green herons unlike the great blue and blue heron has a short neck and legs. They have a blue-green back, reddish brown neck and chest and a long, pointed bill.

The week before she saw a family of raccoons near the pond across from Church Street. The little ones frolicked in the grass; it was the cutest thing. She also saw a pileated woodpecker at the Lucy Stone Park in Warren on a new section of trail. She said, "It flew ahead and landed on a tree. I've never seen one so close before." On June 29, she saw a pair of cedar waxwings at Hardwick Pond.

Loon facts

The Loon Preservation Committee provided this interesting information in one of their newsletters.

"Loons diving to deeper depths tend to spend more time underwater than those diving in more shallow areas. In a study of loons using Lake Michigan as a stopover site during fall migration, Kenow et al. (2018) found that loons diving to depths of 131 feet were spending, on average, 139 seconds, over two

minutes, underwater per dive. In contrast, loons diving to depths of 65 feet in that study were spending less time under water per dive, 87 seconds, on average."

The article also said, "It can be difficult to quantify the absolute maximum amount of time that a loon can spend underwater, as loons likely have no need to test their limits during normal bouts of foraging. While there have been anecdotal reports of loons spending up to five minutes at a time underwater, the maximum documented dive duration that we were able to find in the published literature for loons was 219 seconds or 3.65 minutes. However, given that the loon that was documented making this dive was doing so in the process of normal foraging, it is possible (and likely) that under duress, loons may be able to stay under even longer, perhaps up to the fabled five minutes, or even more."

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.

SECURITY, from page 4

not trigger the increases until your 2026 Medicare premiums. A change to your Medicare premium might also result in a change to your net Social Security payment at that time since Medicare is automatically deducted from your Social Security payment.

Also depending on the amount withdrawn, you may have to pay an additional amount on top of your Medicare Part D premium. The Part D adjustment amount is calculated based on a percentage of the Part D national base beneficiary pre-

mium, not on a percentage of the plan premium.

The Social Security Administration mails letters to beneficiaries, who currently pay a Part B Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount and, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, are in a Part D plan. The letter explains the additional Part D amount and how exactly Social Security will collect it. You can contact SSA at 1-800-772-1213 or your local SSA agency if you have any further questions about your Part D IRMAA premium.

The Association Mature Citizens

Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadviser@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

GARDEN, from page 4

ety. It is deep pink and darker at the base. "Blue Bird" is unique, sky blue with a red center.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 32 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.

Send Us Your Community Autumn Events

Turley Publications will print your Autumn event **FREE OF CHARGE** in our **Autumn Fest Supplement** which will be published **September 11, 2024**. Total circulation of **85,000** which reaches over **200,000** readers in the Pioneer Valley. **Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public**

FREE Calendar Listings Reaching over 200,000 Readers in the Pioneer Valley

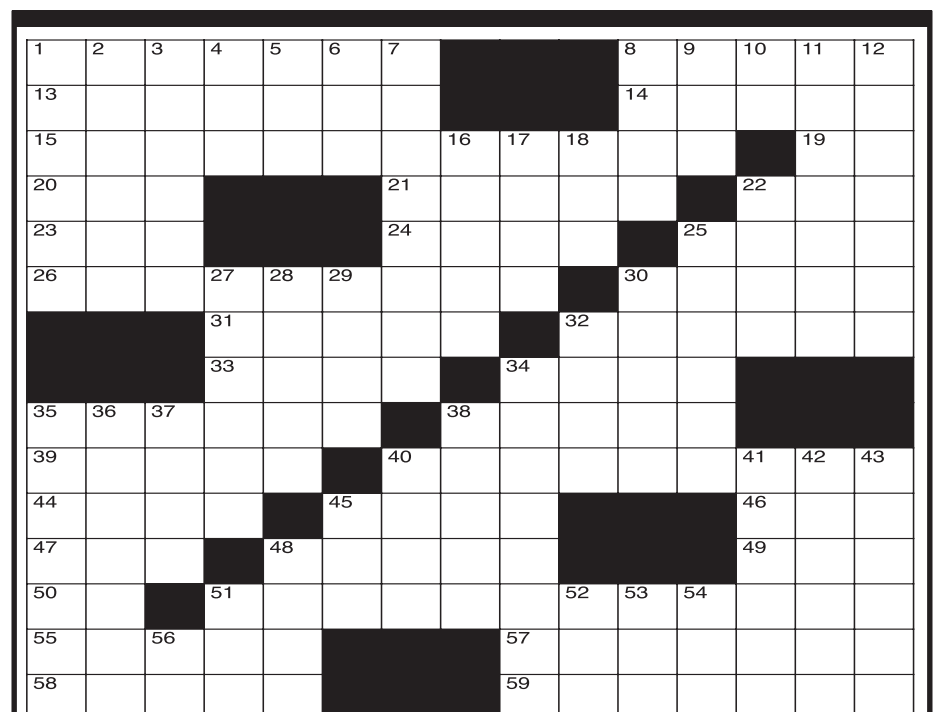
Event Name _____
 Date/Time _____
 Location _____

 Description _____

 Cost _____
 Contact name & phone number for more information _____



MAIL YOUR LISTING INFORMATION TO: Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or email* them to: jamie@turley.com *Be sure to indicate "Autumn Event" in the subject line of your email.



- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Book size
 - 8. Indonesian Island
 - 13. "The Sopranos" character
 - 14. Plants often found in stews
 - 15. Stern
 - 19. Atomic #52
 - 20. Often seen after a company name
 - 21. Silk garments
 - 22. Inhibiting hormone (abbr.)
 - 23. Type of beer
 - 24. Margarine
 - 25. Throw lightly
 - 26. Explains again
 - 30. Raccoon-like animal
 - 31. Sneaker parts
 - 32. Platforms
 - 33. Scored perfectly
 - 34. One's essence
 - 35. Strikes with a firm blow
 - 38. Makes tractors
 - 39. Music term
 - 40. Lack of energy
 - 44. Vestments
 - 45. ___ and feathers
 - 46. Total
 - 47. Gobbler
 - 48. One with Japanese immigrant parents
 - 49. Type of braking system (abbr.)
 - 50. Home of Rudy Flyer
 - 51. Manageable
 - 55. Lugged
 - 57. Irritated
 - 58. Sea eagles
 - 59. Warm seasons
 - interchanged
 - 4. Rocker's accessory
 - 5. Very important person
 - 6. It precedes two
 - 7. Flavored
 - 8. Musical notes
 - 9. String instrument (slang)
 - 10. Mister
 - 11. Fine, light linen fabric
 - 12. Absence of bacteria
 - 16. Discounts
 - 17. Area units
 - 18. A description of one's life
 - 22. Gazelles
 - 25. Plumbing fixture
 - 27. Makes especially happy
 - 28. One side of something many-sided
 - 29. Frosts
 - 30. Defunct monetary unit of Guinea
 - 32. Female animal species
 - 34. School terms
 - 35. Written law
 - 36. Unpleasant aroma
 - 37. Nuclear weapon
 - 38. One who challenges
 - 40. Opposite of first
 - 41. Able to be utilized
 - 42. Less interesting
 - 43. Implants
 - 45. Canister
 - 48. Gestures
 - 51. After B
 - 52. Romanian monetary unit
 - 53. Long-term memory
 - 54. Cash machine
 - 56. The Volunteer State

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 9

In The News

YOUTH, from page 1

The whole day ended with a block party and resource fair in the HHS parking lot.

Throughout the day the youth had the opportunity to earn and win prizes for participating in the conference.

Two of the bigger prizes included a new laptop and a new tv.

Additionally, there were scholarships of \$1,000 given out to four seniors who stood out throughout the conference.

“Our whole goal was to give prizes to those who participate, who speak out, who want to be heard,” Martinez said.

Enlace was inspired to do this conference as they wanted to encourage more leadership from youth in the community and allow youth to shine.

“When we were looking back at the leaders in Holyoke and what made the most diverse city council we’ve ever had,” Martinez said. “We wanted to know what impacted them to be in leadership and we saw that most of them were on the Holyoke Youth Commission when they were in high school.”

Enlace, specifically the Community Empowerment Lab (the youth department of Enlace) had done a survey with about 400 youth in Holyoke.

Through the survey they found that many did not understand the leadership structure of the city. They hoped that this conference would help to grow the youth’s understanding of leadership and how they can become leaders in their community.

Additionally, they hoped that through this conference youth in Western Massachusetts would be able to connect with one another and grow their understanding of each other.

“We really wanted to get them in one room so they could understand that we all



Enlace de Familias held a youth conference for teens all over Western Massachusetts.

Turley photos by Quinn Suomala

go through these different issues together and we really wanted them to come together and build community within all these different communities,” Martinez said.

Enlace was grateful to the Print Shop in Holyoke, Holyoke Media, Holyoke Police Department, Holyoke Public Schools, the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development, the City of Holyoke Community Block Grant, Mass Hire Holyoke and the Public Health Organization for all their support in putting together this conference.

They plan to hold this conference again next year, and to see it grow and improve even beyond what it was this year.



The staff got involved in some of the fun and danced along to the Cupid Shuffle.



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<p>USDA INSP. FROZEN BONELESS CENTER CUT PORK LOIN ... \$2³³ lb</p>	<p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF BACK RIBS \$2⁷⁹ lb</p>	<p>USDA INSP. FROZEN NEAPOLITAN CHEESE PIZZA 14 OZ \$1⁹⁹ ea</p>
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Field hockey summer campaign opens

SOUTH HADLEY – On Wednesday, June 26, South Hadley High School hosted more than a dozen field hockey squads made up of players from several area high schools.

Among the participants are Agawam, Belchertown, South Hadley, Holyoke, Quabog, and Minnechaug.

Teams participating in the league are playing short games every Wednesday for several weeks in an effort to get more repetitions prior to the fall season.

There is also hope more high school players will come try out the game.



Kylie Blaha looks for a pass.



Siobhan Armstrong tries to get around a defender. *Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com*



Lyara Rodriguez watches in goal.



Kylie Blaha tries to shoot around a defender.



Sam Allen slides into third base safely for PeoplesBank.

Turley photos by David Henry

PeoplesBank takes down Tigers

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

HOLYOKE – Since losing back-to-back games to Hilltown Tents at the beginning of the Tri-County League regular sea-

son, PeoplesBank has been on a roll.

PeoplesBank, who have won a total of 18 TCL championship titles since 1995, won their sixth consecutive game following a 6-2 victory over the

Chicopee Falls Tigers at Cougar Field, which is located on the Holyoke Community College campus, last Tuesday night.

“We were able to score a couple of runs with some time-

See TRICOUNTY, page 8

New player leads to Blue Sox win

HOLYOKE – Blue Sox third baseman Kollin Ritchie joined Valley last Saturday for his first game of the season.

Ritchie led the way for Valley with a two-run 418-foot home run and an RBI double en route to a 11-2 victory against the Sanford Mainers.

Valley hitters walked three times in the first two innings, but they couldn't come around and score. Sanford walked twice in the first two and also failed to score. The first hit came in the third inning on a Caleb Shpur single.

In the third, Logan Hugo led off with a walk and scored on a Jay Bant single to make it 1-0 Valley.

Valley opened the game wide open in the bottom of the fifth. The first five batters of the inning all reached base and scored. Newcomer Connor Misch hit a two-RBI single. Valley tacked on three runs in the sixth, capitalized by Ritchie's two-run home run.

Jared Davis hit a home run to left field and made it 10-2. But that's all Sanford could muster up. Valley scored one more in the bottom of the eighth to make it 11-2.

Second baseman Mike O'Connor continues to see the ball well as he extended his

hitting streak to 14 games.

Blue Sox starter Gregory Shaw earned the win after going five innings of one hit ball. He walked five and struck out just one. On the other side, Mainers starter Colton Trisch went three plus innings and gave up one run on two hits. The southpaw also walked five hitters but recorded zero strikeouts.

Blue Sox beat Mountaineers

The Vermont Mountaineers (16-6) walked into last Friday's game with a 10-2 record since June 15, and holding the best record in the NECBL. The Valley Blue Sox on the other hand, after finding a possible turnaround in their season, found themselves on a five-game losing streak. Holding a 2-0 season lead over Valley as well, Vermont looked to finish off the sweep and extend the Valley losing streak.

In the early going, the Mountaineers continued their narrative. Led by David Michael Jefferson, the Mountaineers jumped out to an early 4-0 lead, and the Blue Sox trends telegraphed how the game would result.

Yet this game was different than the few in recent memory. After David Case was pulled in the fourth

See BLUE SOX, page 9



Camilo Comi changes direction to avoid the opposing defense.



Santiago Blasco Gomez looks to keep the ball away from an opponent.



Aidan Kelly makes his way up the field.
Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Pioneers holding steady

LUDLOW – During the past two weeks, the Western Mass. Pioneers picked up more wins, defeating Albany Rush 4-1, Black Rock FC 1-0, and last Saturday, defeated Boston City 5-0 to go to 10-1-1

on the season. Their only loss this season came against the Seacoast Phantoms. Their tie is against Vermont Green, who they will meet in their final regular season game this Saturday, July 13 at 7 p.m.



Gianluca Cersosimo socks a goal kick away.



Scott Testori looks for a header.

TRICOUNTY, from page 7

ly two out base hits in tonight's game. Our pitchers also pitched well, said PeoplesBank player/coach Joe Ferry. "We now have a week off and we'll finish the regular season with a bunch of home games."

PeoplesBank, who posted an 11-1 win over the Tigers down the street at Mackenzie Stadium on June 18, entered their week off with a 7-2 overall record.

Lefthander James Flahive was scheduled to be the PeoplesBank starting pitcher in the second meeting of the regular season against the Tigers (6-4). He arrived to the field late and righty Mikey Rivera was the opener for the visiting team.

"Jimmy had a prior engagement, and he didn't have his normal pregame routine," said Ferry, who's the PeoplesBank starting left fielder. "In my opinion, not

only is he the best pitcher on our team during the past three years, but he's probably the best pitcher in this league this year.

Rivera allowed a leadoff single to centerfielder Travis Kagan in the bottom of the first inning before retiring the next three Tigers batters.

"Mikey is a new player on our team, and he had the honor of pitching the first inning," Ferry said. "He's fitting in very well with us."

Flahive, who was the winning pitcher, took over on the mound at the start of the second inning. He pitched the next five innings allowing two runs (one earned) on six hits with 10 strikeouts and no walks. Veteran righty Danny Gaines allowed only a double in the seventh inning.

The Tigers also used three pitchers in the game.

Righty Brendan Fournier made his first start of the season for the Tigers.

"This was the first time that Brendan pitched in a game for us this season," said Tigers player/coach Ryan Magni, who's also the baseball coach at Holyoke Community College. "I thought he pitched well in the first three innings."

After not allowing any runs in the first two innings, Fournier, who also pitched at Chicopee High School, got himself into a jam with two-outs in the

top of the third inning.

Centerfielder Seth Allen began the two-out rally by blasting a double to deep centerfield. Then catcher Pete Hogan was hit-by-a pitch and right fielder Johny Gegetskas drew a walk which loaded the bases. First baseman Dustin Brisson drove home two runs with a hard groundball single into right field.

Brisson, who played college baseball at Central Florida, was selected in the 15th round of the 2000 MLB draft by the Boston Red Sox. He played in 345 career minor league games without being called up by a major league team.

With two-outs in the following frame, PeoplesBank pinch-hitter Kyle Platner delivered a two-run single to right field off righty relief pitcher Evan Dougherty increasing the lead to 4-0.

The Tigers broke the ice when first baseman Austin Leclerc, who played high school baseball at Pathfinder Tech, blasted a home run over the left field fence.

After Allen hit a double that bounced off the left field fence leading off the fifth inning, Gegetskas smashed a two-run homer over the right field fence, which increased the PeoplesBank lead to 6-1.

It was the first home run of the season for Gegetskas, who played college baseball at Westfield State University.

The Tigers scored an unearned run with two outs in the bottom of the sixth.

Righthander Race Drobiak pitched the final two final innings for the home team without allowing a run.

The third meeting of the regular season between the two squads is slated to take place at Mackenzie Stadium on July 16.



Johnny Gegetskas rounds third after hitting a home run out to right field.



Austin LeClerc, of Palmer, catches an out at first base for the Tigers.
Turley photos by David Henry



Ryan Magni looks to field a grounder to short.



Dustin Brisson, of Wilbraham, catches the ball at first.

Rookie gets win in 'Thursday Night Thunder'

THOMPSON, CT – Excitement returned to the high banks of Thompson Speedway for the second of three rounds of Thursday Night Thunder on June 27 in the quiet corner of Connecticut. In their first 50-lap, \$3,000-to-win showdown of the season, Danny Cates quickly took off to lead the start of the Thompson Sunoco Modified feature. Both the competition, and the patience, was fierce with the field running nose-to-tail, biding their time for the right space to make a move.

Two-time winner Jon Puleo was the first, launching around Cates in turn three and powering through turn four to steal the early lead. Keith Rocco began stalking Puleo, making his move to lead lap 8 but Puleo held strong, jumping under the multi-time Thompson champ

to take back the lead with the crossover. The battle continued until mechanical issues forced Puleo out of the race, giving Rocco the lead all the way to the checkered flags. Rocco's machine would be disqualified in post-race technical inspection giving rookie Isaiah Newcomb his first Thompson Sunoco Modified win followed by Cates and Josh Carey in the top-three.

The Late Model division went green to checkered with Kulwicki Driver Development Program (KDDP) finalist Derek Gluchacki leading all 25 laps ahead of the pack. Ryan Morgan continued his consistent and competitive season to finish second with fellow former Thompson champion Brian Tagg taking third. Windham, Maine's Cole Robie and Riverside, Rhode Island's Connor Souza

joined in to round out the top-five.

Sixteen strong, the Street Stocks began the evening's racing action, running clean and green until the halfway point of their 20-lap main event when Scott Sundeen and Austin Flanagan made contact in turn two with both cars being towed off for the night. One final late caution for a spinning 'Leadfoot' Larry Barnett couldn't slow the dogfight between Ryan Waterman and Corey Fanning in the final circuits. Post-race technical inspection removed Waterman, Fanning and Aaron Plemons from their top-five finishes giving Jason Chicolas the win with Brent Gleason and Tyler Cinamella rounding out the top-three.

After the AZ Roofing SK Light Modifieds were plagued by cautions early in their feature event, young point

leader Tyler Chapman worked through the field to lead the final 21 circuits with Nick Hovey and Meghan Fuller rounding out the podium. Similarly, the Mini Stocks also had a rough start with defending champion Jared Roy quickly sifting things out to take the lead and the win with Ryan Pomposelli and Richard LaFlesh joining him in victory lane.

Thursday Night Thunder is back at Thompson Speedway for the third and final time in 2024 on Thursday, July 25 headlined by the \$3,000-to-win, Twisted Tea Midsummer 50 for the Thompson Sunoco Modifieds! Along with the Thompson Sunoco Modified 50-lapper, the Late Models, AZ Roofing SK Light Modifieds, Street Stocks and Mini Stocks are back in action on Thursday, July 25 with a 6:00pm Post Time!

BLUE SOX, from page 7

inning, after starting the first four giving up four runs off six hits, Will Newell and Chris Torres stepped in and led the Blue Sox charge. Newell pitched three and Torres the final two, they gave up a combined 0 hits and 0 runs with six strikeouts each. An unbelievable display of relief pitching from the Blue Sox, when their strength was needed most in a season defining game, it showed true.

This spark was all the offense needed as well, with Michael Toth leading the charge in the top of the seventh inning, the Blue Sox scored

four straight to tie the game. In the following inning, Chase Jans hit a double to bring Kyle Hennington home, giving the Blue Sox the lead they finished with.

In a gritty win to say the least, it's one that will be looked highly upon as the season progresses. After crossing the halfway mark of the season, the Valley Blue Sox find themselves just a half game back now on the Bristol Blues for the West division crown. It will be interesting as the two teams still have 4 head-to-head matchups yet to come, but for now the Valley spirits must be high as ever, with hope pumped back into their season.

Public Notices

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Holyoke Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, August 13, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.com**; ID: 83639398493; CALL IN 1 646 558 8656 to hear, pursuant to the Holyoke Zoning Ordinance, a Special Permit for Dimensional Reg in a DR District (Section 8.8.4), submitted by OneHolyoke CDC, for 150-152 East Dwight St, (035-02-002).

APPLICANT: Michael Moriarty
PLANNING BOARD: Mimi Panitch
07/19, 07/26/2024

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Holyoke Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, August 13, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.com**; ID: 83639398493; CALL IN 1 646 558 8656 to hear, pursuant to the Holyoke Zoning Ordinance, a Special Permit for a Parking Reduction (Sec 6.1.7), submitted by OneHolyoke CDC, for 150-152 East Dwight St, (035-02-002).

APPLICANT: Michael Moriarty
PLANNING BOARD: Mimi Panitch
07/12, 07/19/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD24C0197CA
In the matter of:
Luis Israel Figueroa, Jr.
CITATION ON PETITION

TO CHANGE NAME
A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Luis Israel Figueroa, Jr. of Holyoke, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Luis Israel Reyes
IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/26/2024.**

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: June 28, 2024
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
07/12/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD16P0227GD

In the interests of:
Carmen Pena
formerly of Holyoke, MA
now of: **Chicopee, MA**
RESPONDENT
Incapacitated Person/
Protected Person
CITATION GIVING
NOTICE OF PETITION
TO EXPAND THE
POWERS OF
A GUARDIAN

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Dept of Developmental Services of Springfield, MA** in the above captioned matter requesting that the court:

Expand the powers of a Guardian of the Respondent.

The petition asks the court to make a determination that the powers of the Guardian should be expanded, modified, or limited since the time of the appointment. The original petition is on file with the court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding.

If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **07/25/2024**. 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: June 26, 2024

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
07/12/2024

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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.

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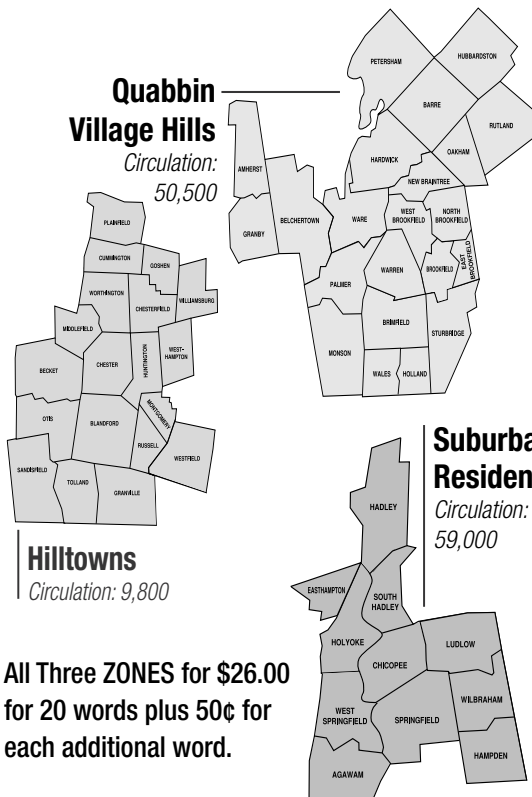
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In The News

TOURS, from page 1

The tour is expected to be 2.5 miles long and it is the ninth annual canal tour in Holyoke.

"We walk from the first level canal to the second and we talk about the power stations in the canal, the mills that still exist and any of the spillways," Comeau said. "We finish by going up to the Pulaski Park in Holyoke which is where you can see the keyhouse of the canal, where the Connecticut River comes into the canal."

This tour has always been rather popular, according to Comeau, as people enjoy learning about how the canal works and about some of the history around the canal.

Comeau also plans to have a High Street Walking Tour on a Saturday in mid to late October. Comeau believes that this will occur on the same day as Doors Open Holyoke at Holyoke City Hall.

This will be his third time going up and down High Street on a tour. He hopes to talk about the history of some of the old buildings along the street.

On top of all of this Comeau plans to have the third annual A House in Holyoke through Time. This presentation will be focused on the Lovering Schoolhouse and will be on Monday, Nov. 18 from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Holyoke Public Library.

"Every year I choose a new house and I research and I talk about who lived there or what institutions were there and I try to show people how those institutions or families helped to develop Holyoke," Comeau said.

In addition to these events he also has two planned summer pro-

grams in Chicopee.

He plans to do a presentation at Chicopee Library on Tuesday, July 16. It will be focused on the six power canals on the Chicopee River.

"I go through each of the historical canals, I describe each one, how they're built, what mills were put in place to use that power and what has happened to them," Comeau said.

He also plans to do a Chicopee Canal Tour on Saturday, Aug. 31 at 10 a.m. The tour will kick off at the Chicopee Library parking lot and then the people will drive down to the Chicopee River.

"I point out along the way all of the mills, all of the power canal structures and the worker homes that were built... and at the very end a park that was made special by the canal company," Comeau said.



Comeau has been doing tours in the area for nine years now and he enjoys the experience, as not only does he get to help others learn about their local history, but he also learns a lot himself.

In the future, Comeau hopes to be able to continue to grow his tours and open them up to different communities.

All of his public tours are either sponsored by local cultural councils or by local libraries, so he hopes to get more communities on board with his programs.

He plans to spend the summer researching different communities, including Agawam, Longmeadow and Springfield so that he can try to expand his offerings to them as well.

To keep updated about the different tours Comeau will offer, go to his website at <http://www.holyokecanaltour.org/2024-tours/>.

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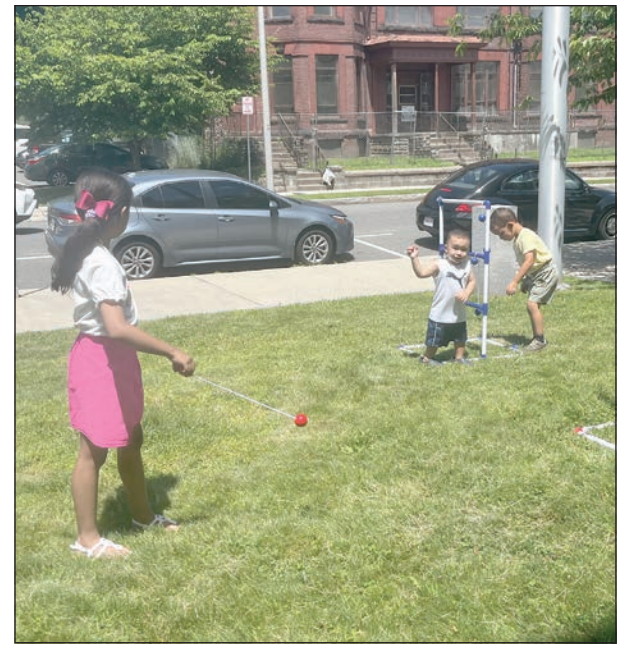
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Attorneys Molly Jane Thomas and Julia Popkin from Community Legal Aid were at the Holyoke Library Summer Reading Kick-off to give information about their organization.



People lined up to sign up for summer reading.
Turley photos by Quinn Suomala



Children were able to play a variety of yard games at the Summer Reading Kick-off.



Those who attended the Summer Reading Kick-off were able to get free ice cream.



Families came to Holyoke Public Library for their Summer Reading Kick-off.

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READING, from page 1

out to the community.

“We’re really interested in connecting with families in the communities that we serve,” Popkin said. “We represent a lot of folks who live in Holyoke and we’re always trying to make sure we’re reaching as many people as possible.”

While at the summer reading kick-off families were encouraged to sign up for the summer reading program.

Kids, teens and adults were all welcome to sign up.

Children get a sticker for every 30 minutes they read. They can log their reading and turn the log in once a week at the library to get a prize.

They will also get chances throughout the summer to scratch-off a ticket and earn a special prize, such as musical diego dino, rock painting and crystal creations.

Teens get a raffle ticket for every 30 minutes they read and for each library program they attend that they can use to enter for prizes, including gift cards, art kits and games.

Teen Librarian Robin Siniaho encourages all kids and teens to sign up for summer reading.

“It keeps children’s minds engaged over the summer while school is out, it promotes literacy and it promotes families reading together,” she said.

Adults who sign up will receive a reading log where they can log a book they read, a brief review of the book and a rating for the book.

For each reading log they turn in, adults earn 10 raffle tickets that they can use to try for prizes. The big prize for the

summer is a Kindle Fire.

Additionally, throughout the summer there will be programs for kids, teens and adults.

The kid events include story time at the children’s museum, learning to knit and crochet and karaoke.

There is also a “Poop Museum” where children can learn about the science behind defecation.

“It’s the science of defecation,” Children’s Librarian Nathan Hayes said. “Kids can find out things like what is the only animal that can defecate any color... it’s just fun science for kids.”

The teen events include crafting, BattleBots and a Movie Matinee. Siniaho looks forward to BattleBots.

“A place called mobile quest is coming and they help you build your own robot and program it and then they’ll fight each other,” Siniaho said.

There will also be two local authors coming in as part of the adult programming. The authors are Angela Grout and Jessica Hogan.

Even if you are not interested in the programs by the library, the staff still encourage people to come and spend some time.

“People should come down to the library this summer,” Siniaho said. “It’s a great way to beat the heat, you can charge your phones, you can use our wifi, you can hop on the computers, play games, do arts and crafts, it’s a great way to spend a hot, summer day.”

To keep updated about the programs offered by the library, go to the library website at <https://www.holyokelibrary.org/>.

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