

## Girl Scouts break ground on service center

By **Dennis P. Hohenberger**  
 Turley Publications  
 Correspondent

HOLYOKE – Officials from the Girls Scouts Council of Western Massachusetts (GSCWM) broke ground on a \$1.5 million service center Monday morning. City and state officials joined executives and members from the organization for the ceremony.

The 9,380 square-foot building will be located at 301 Kelly Way, just off Balboa Road in West Holyoke. A grand opening is planned for November. The new facility will serve over 14,000 girls from kindergarten through 12th grade.

The council includes 5,000 adult volunteers in 186 communities in Central and Western Massachusetts. When completed, the service center will employ 25 persons. The new



Turley Publications photo by Dennis P. Hohenberger

See **SCOUTS**, page 17 Holyoke officials and executives from the Girls Scouts Council of Western Massachusetts break ground on a new service center at 301 Kelly Way.

## Bathed in blue for Autism Awareness

City buildings participate in "Light it up Blue"

By **Dennis P. Hohenberger**  
 Turley Publications  
 Correspondent

HOLYOKE – The City of Holyoke will participate in "Light it Up Blue," a global initiative organized by Autism Speaks. Iconic structures like City Hall will be cast in blue light to raise awareness about autism.

Mayor Alex B. Morse instructed the Department of Public Works to light up City Hall for the month of April. Fire stations across the city and some local businesses will join in. Morse plans to issue a mayoral proclamation on Monday.

State Sen. Michael R. Knapik (R-Westfield) confirmed the Massachusetts State House will also be bathed in blue light. Knapik made the request through the building's superintendent.

Since 2007, the United Nations General Assembly has declared April 2 as World Autism Awareness Day. National and international landmarks will be illuminated,

too, such as Rockefeller Center in New York City, the Tokyo Tower in Japan and the Sydney Opera House in Australia.

According to the latest figures, 1 in 110 children are diagnosed with the broad-spectrum condition. One in 70 boys fall on the autism spectrum. Between 2002 and 2006, the prevalence of autism rose 57 percent, while more children will be diagnosed with the condition than AIDS, diabetes and cancer combined.

Jill Horvitz, an Autism Specialist at Metcalf School, will set up an informational table in the school's cafeteria. Metcalf will also hold a bake sale, with the proceeds being used to purchase sensory equipment for children in the school's Autism Program.

Holyoke City Treasurer Jon D. Lumbra, whose daughter, Sophia, 4, has autism, said the effort is to heighten awareness about autism, a serious health issue for children and an often-misunderstood condition. Sofia participates in Metcalf's autism program. "It's something very near and dear to my wife and I," said Lumbra.

He said one of the challenges is dealing with the

See **AUTISM**, page 7

## Restoration project reclaims 'The Dingle'

By **Dennis P. Hohenberger**  
 Turley Publications  
 Correspondent

HOLYOKE – The Dingle has led students to a good education for generations. Like changing shifts in a mill, students from Holyoke High School and the William R. Peck School pass each other along the hilly route, first in the early morning and then the late afternoon.

Time, erosion and the endless stream of students have worn down the path. Volunteers are

needed on April 21 to clean up and restore the area that runs parallel along Beech Street. An informational meeting is scheduled for March 30.

Stacey Funston, a Promise Fellow through AmeriCorps, is leading the restoration project, "Reclaiming the Dingle." The project came about through her work as the 8th and 9th grade transition coordinator at Peck.

She said little has been done over the years for upkeep or slowing down erosion in the Dingle, a densely wooded area. "We've

been needing some help for a while," said Funston. The project entails shoring up the path, a thorough cleaning, planting shrubs and trees, and several art projects.

The Parks & Rec Department and the School Department maintenance staff have offered their assistance. AmeriCorps will provide volunteers for the clean up, which happens to fall on the organization's National Day Service.

See **PROJECT**, page 7

## Spotlighting student literacy

City Council approves 'All American City Award' application

By **Dennis P. Hohenberger**  
 Turley Publications  
 Correspondent

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke City Council recently approved a motion that allows the city to submit an application for the "All American City Grade Level Reading Awards." If approved, the city can apply for educational and literacy grants through major philanthropic organizations.

Councilors Aaron Vega and Jason Ferreira introduced the motion, and included sponsors Kevin Jourdain, Gladys Lebron-

Martinez and Anthony Soto. Councilors unanimously passed the motion.

**If we have students who don't know how to read by third grade at a proficient literacy rate, the gap is going to continue and they're going to fall behind."**

- Aaron Vega

Vega said the initiative puts a focus on getting children to read proficiently by third grade. Studies have shown that if a child is not a proficient reader by third grade, the child will likely strug-

gle academically from then on.

Up to third grade, said Vega, children learn to read and not read to learn. "If we have students who don't know how to read by third grade at a proficient literacy rate, the gap is going to continue and they're going to fall behind," he said.

Vega said the literacy gap has become "everyone's concern," as even business leaders speak of an unprepared workforce. "When we look at Dean Tech and the graduation rates, everything is together, he said. "What we have here is a complex problem with lots of different issues feeding it."

School Committee Member Michael Moriarty, who authored

See **LITERACY**, page 17

LITERACY, from page 1

the grant, said only 21 percent of Holyoke third graders read at the proficient level. The School Committee established a goal that by 2014, 85 percent of Holyoke third graders will read proficiently.

Third graders recently took the English Language Arts portion of the MCAS Exam. Results will not be available until fall. Mary Curro, director Early Childhood Education for the Holyoke Public Schools, is leading the Early Learning Task Force.

Moriarty said the 85 percent goal is common in the state's most successful school districts. "We believe it's doable. There are other communities that have huge gains in short periods of time," he said. "It's about an entire community, as well as the entire school department, recognizing the importance and urgency of this, and changing some of the practices that are done at

home and at school to educate young children."

He said the statewide and objective use of MCAS revealed that Holyoke third graders are far behind their counterparts, even when compared to other urban communities.

Governor Deval Patrick visited a Chicopee middle school last week, where he spoke about his administration's Gateway Cities Educational Agenda. Holyoke and 23 other communities in Massachusetts have been designated as Gateway Communities.

As a turnaround district with Level IV schools, said Moriarty, Holyoke has been recognized by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (MDEEC) as having some of the greatest needs.

Moriarty said a "widespread outreach" involving churches, businesses, pediatricians and non-profit organizations will aid in the citywide effort. A community work group is assessing a number of children who need preschool and the spaces available to them.

SCOUTS, from page 1

facility will replace centers in Leeds, Worcester and East Longmeadow.

Girl Scout Junior Emma Norman, a bright and enthusiastic 9-year-old, welcomed guests and introduced speakers. Norman told the audience that she plans on being a Girl Scout "for a very long time."

"How cool that this place brings this all together for girls to experience," she said.

She was later joined by Girl Scout Brownie Esme Powers, 9, for the closing address.

Patti Hallberg, the CEO of GSCWM, said on March 12 the organization celebrated their centennial. She said the organization represents 2.3 million girls and close to one million volunteers. "It's a place that will meet the needs and the challenges of girls in the 21st Century," she said. "A place that works for us as we move from our first 100 years into our next hundred years."

Holyoke Mayor Alex B. Morse said, "This a demonstration of government and the private sector working together to make sure Holyoke is home for what will be a beautiful facility." He said even more important than bringing 25 new jobs to the city, is "the thousands and

thousands cookies" that will be available.

He added the proximity to Route 91 and the MassPike makes the service center accessible to most of Massachusetts.

Ward 5 Councilor Linda Vacon, who spoke, said her Girl Scout training comes in handy during the often tough City Council meetings. She led past and current Girl Scouts, with the traditional two fingers raised, in the organization's pledge.

Helene Florio, a former Girl Scout, represented State Sen. Michael R. Knapik (R-Westfield), who was unable to attend the ceremony. Florio proudly wore several pins she earned as a Girl Scout. State Rep. Michael F. Kane (D-Holyoke) presented a proclamation from the Massachusetts Legislature.

Holyoke Chamber of Commerce President Doris Ransford and Allison Lane, GSCWM board president, also spoke.

Esme Powers, the final speaker, said she loves Girl Scouts for the "special friendships" she has made. She said her troop recently made a trip to New York City and will travel to Washington, D.C. in June. Emma Norman shouted it was time for everyone to grab a shovel and "dig for the future of Girl Scouts."

For the past year, the group has worked closely with MDEEC in ensuring literacy programs in Holyoke are of the right quality, said Moriarty.

The group will also seek ways to improve data management, which can better understand summer learning loss, absenteeism, and a "vigorous" assessment of children who are behind well before they enter the third grade. Additional data can be culled from the MCAS results.

He said a "struggle" continues in finding the right tools for English Language Learners.

On Monday, ten city leaders participated in a nationwide web conference on the All American City Program, which will prepare them to be peer reviewers. Participants included Mayor Alex B. Morse, School Superintendent David Dupont, Holyoke Community College President William Messner and state educational officials.

Please recycle this newspaper.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS FROM PAGE 8

T	I	D	I	S	A	P	S	I	A	M	B			
S	A	R	A	N	A	R	C	H	A	N	G	E	L	
L	C	O	M	F	O	R	T	I	F	F	A	N	Y	
R	O	N	I	R	I	S	F	I	O	R	D			
		A	X	E	S	A	T	E						
		D	E	E	S	V	I	L	E	S	T			
A	D	I	O	S	S	E	E	D	A	H	A			
D	A	R	N	S	H	I	R	R	O	M	A	N		
A	B	A	D	A	I	S	S	A	B	I	N			
		A	C	C	E	D	E	V	I	S	A			
			C	I	D	S	A	L	T					
		M	O	S	E	S	E	A	S	E	F	A	A	
N	O	T	W	I	T	H	S	T	A	N	D	I	N	G
I	N	S	A	T	I	A	T	E	C	A	C	A	O	
P	O	U	T	C	E	E	S	E	R	A	S			

LEGALS

**City of Holyoke  
Department of Purchases  
Holyoke,  
Massachusetts 01040  
INVITATION FOR BID #711  
BID #711 Sealed Proposal for:  
Electrical Supplies 2011-2012**

Will be received by the Purchasing Director, Room 15—City Hall, Holyoke, MA up to 04/11/12 @ 10:00 a.m. at which time they will be publicly opened and read in the Purchasing Department bid room.

The specifications and proposal forms may be obtained with an administrative fee of \$-0- in the form of cash, cashiers check, or money order, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

If the contractor wishes to have the documents mailed, the necessary deposit and a self addressed, pre-stamped (\$-0-postage) 11x13 envelope must be forwarded to the Purchasing Department.

Minority Business Enterprises that are certified and qualified are strongly encouraged to submit proposals. The City of Holyoke is an Equal Employment Employer. Instructions to bidders regarding Equal Employment requirements are part of the bid specifications.

The City of Holyoke reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids.

**David A. Martins  
Chief Procurement Officer  
Room 15, City Hall  
536 Dwight Street  
Holyoke, MA 01040  
3/30/12**

**City of Holyoke  
Department of Purchases  
Holyoke, Massachusetts  
Invitation for Bid #712  
BID #712 Sealed Proposal for:  
Carpentry Supplies 2011-2012**

Will be received by the Purchasing Director, Room 15—City Hall, Holyoke, MA up to 04/12/12 @ 10:00 a.m. at which time they will be publicly opened and read in the Purchasing Department bid room.

The specifications and proposal forms may be obtained with an administrative fee of \$-0- in the form of cash, cashiers check, or money order, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

If the contractor wishes to

have the documents mailed, the necessary deposit and a self addressed, pre-stamped (\$-0-postage) 11x13 envelope must be forwarded to the Purchasing Department.

Minority Business Enterprises that are certified and qualified are strongly encouraged to submit proposals. The City of Holyoke is an Equal Employment Employer. Instructions to bidders regarding Equal Employment requirements are part of the bid specifications.

The City of Holyoke reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids.

**David A. Martins  
Chief Procurement Officer  
Room 15, City Hall  
536 Dwight Street  
Holyoke, MA 01040  
3/30/12**

**Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758**

**Docket No.  
HD09P0546EA  
To all persons interested  
in the Estate of:  
ANNETTA C MCDERMOTT  
Late of: HOLYOKE, MA 01040  
NOTICE OF EXECUTOR/ADMINISTRATOR ACCOUNT**

You are hereby notified pursuant to Mass. R. Civ. P. Rule 72 that the First and Final accounts of LEONARD C JEKANOWSKI as Executor/trix of said estate has/have been presented to said Court for allowance.

If you desire to preserve your right to file an objection to said account(s), you or your attorney must file a written appearance in said court at Springfield on or before the 04/17/2012, the return day of this citation. You may upon written request by registered or certified mail to the fiduciary, or to the attorney for the fiduciary, obtain without cost a copy of said account(s). If you desire to object to any item of said account(s), you must, in addition to filing a written appearance as aforesaid, file within thirty (30) days after said return day or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order a written statement of each such item together with the grounds for each objec-

tion thereto, a copy to be served upon the fiduciary pursuant to Mass. R. Civ. P. Rule 5.

Witness, Hon. Anne M. Geoffrion, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: March 20, 2012  
**Thomas P. Moriarty, Jr.  
Register of Probate  
3/30/12**

**LEGAL NOTICE  
SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLE  
UNDER G.L. c. 255,  
Section 39A**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by Crabtree's Service Station, 1530 Northampton Street, Holyoke, MA 01040 pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.255, Section 39A, that on 4/13/12 at Crabtree's Service Station the following motor vehicles will be sold to satisfy the garagekeeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices of sale of said vehicles:  
**Description of vehicles:**  
Vin. No: IN44L11095E166127  
2005 Nissan Altima, last known owner: Steven Michaelson, 216 Shawmut St., Springfield, MA  
Vin. No: 1FMFU1816VLB37305  
1997 Ford Expedition, last known owner: Mark Perez, 854 Main St., Holyoke, MA  
Vin. No: HGC698652MA009856  
1991 Honda Accord, last known owner: Lillian Verdejo, 472 Front St., 3R, Chicopee, MA  
By: Ben Scott  
3/30,4/6,4/13/12

If you desire to object thereto, you or your attorney must file a written appearance in said court at Springfield on or before ten o'clock in the morning (10:00 a.m.) on 04/17/2012.

In addition, you must file a written affidavit of objections to the petition, stating specific facts and grounds upon which the objection is based, within (30) days after the return day (or such other time as the court, on motion with notice to the petitioner, may allow) in accordance with Probate Rule 16.

Witness, Hon. Anne M. Geoffrion, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: March 19, 2012  
**Thomas P. Moriarty, Jr.  
Register of Probate  
3/30/12**

**Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hamden Division  
Docket No. HD12P0494EA  
MUPC SUPPLEMENTAL**

**NOTICE  
Estate of: HALINA KOWALSKI  
Date of Death: March 6, 2012**  
To all persons who may have an interest in the above-captioned estate, the Division of Medical Assistance and, if interested, to the Office of the Attorney General and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs:

Notice is being sent to you as you may have a legal interest in this case, in order to inform you of your rights.

Under the new Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code Inventory and Accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can Petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to Petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of the appointed Personal Representative.

Petitioner requests to be permitted to file a MUPC Bond.  
3/30/12

**Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758**

**Docket No.  
HD12P0494EA  
In the Estate of:  
HALINA KOWALSKI  
Late of: HOLYOKE, MA 01040  
Date of Death: 03/06/2012  
NOTICE OF PETITION  
FOR PROBATE OF WILL**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, a petition has been presented requesting that a document purporting to be the last will of said decedent be proved and allowed; and that **MARIA K. KONCZAK** of HOLYOKE, MA be appointed executor/trix, named in the will to serve Without Surety.

If you desire to object thereto, you or your attorney must file a written appearance in said court at Springfield on or before ten o'clock in the morning (10:00 a.m.) on 04/17/2012.

In addition, you must file a written affidavit of objections to the petition, stating specific facts and grounds upon which the objection is based, within (30) days after the return day (or such other time as the court, on motion with notice to the petitioner, may allow) in accordance with Probate Rule 16.

Witness, Hon. Anne M. Geoffrion, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: March 19, 2012  
**Thomas P. Moriarty, Jr.  
Register of Probate  
3/30/12**

**Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hamden Division  
Docket No. HD12P0494EA  
MUPC SUPPLEMENTAL**

**NOTICE  
Estate of: HALINA KOWALSKI  
Date of Death: March 6, 2012**  
To all persons who may have an interest in the above-captioned estate, the Division of Medical Assistance and, if interested, to the Office of the Attorney General and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs:

Notice is being sent to you as you may have a legal interest in this case, in order to inform you of your rights.

Under the new Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code Inventory and Accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can Petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to Petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of the appointed Personal Representative.

Petitioner requests to be permitted to file a MUPC Bond.  
3/30/12

**Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758**

**Docket No.  
HD12P0517EA  
In the Estate of:  
ALBERT P HELLYAR  
Late of: Holyoke, MA 01040  
Date of Death: 12/06/2011  
NOTICE OF PETITION  
FOR PROBATE OF WILL**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, a petition has been presented requesting that a document purporting to be the last will of said decedent be proved and allowed and that **DENISE M FOX** of CONCORD, NH be appointed executor/trix, named in the will to serve Without Surety.

If you desire to object thereto, you or your attorney must file a written appearance in said court at Springfield on or before ten o'clock in the morning (10:00 a.m.) on 04/20/2012.

In addition, you must file a written affidavit of objections to the petition, stating specific facts and grounds upon which the objection is based, within (30) days after the return day (or such other time as the court, on motion with notice to the petitioner, may allow) in accordance with Probate Rule 16.

Witness, Hon. Anne M. Geoffrion, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: March 22, 2012  
**Thomas P. Moriarty, Jr.  
Register of Probate  
3/30/12**

**Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
Docket No. HD12P0421GD**

**In the interests of:  
Jeffery M Melendez  
Of Holyoke, MA  
Minor  
NOTICE AND ORDER:  
Petition for Appointment of  
Guardian of a Minor  
INTERESTED PARTIES**

1. **Hearing Date/Time:** A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a

Minor filed on 03/08/2012 by **Yiesie M Mateo** of Holyoke, MA will be held 04/10/2012 02:00 p.m. Guardianship of Minor Hearing Located 50 State Street, 4th Floor, Springfield, MA 01103

2. **Response to Petition:** You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to:

File the original with the Court; and

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

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

4. **Presence of the Minor at Hearing:** A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.  
Date: March 8, 2012  
**Thomas P. Moriarty Jr.  
Register of Probate  
3/30/12**

HOW TO  
SUBMIT LEGAL  
NOTICES

All legal notices to be published in "paper name here" should be sent directly to klanier@turley.com. Karen Lanier processes all legal notices for this newspaper and can answer all of your questions regarding these notices. Please indicate the newspaper and publication date(s) for the notice(s) in the subject line of your email. For questions regarding coverage area, procedures or cost, please call Karen directly at 413-283-8393 x271.

Turley Publications, Inc. publishes 15 weekly newspapers throughout Western Massachusetts. Visit www.turley.com for more information.