

# Holyoke Community College celebrates fall 2023 graduates



Submitted photo

Left to right are student speakers Marcos Figueroa, of Holyoke, Angela Tindell-Gula, of Three Rivers, and Alannah Milgros Brunt, of Springfield, with President George Timmons at HCC's first Fall Graduate Reception on Wed., Nov. 29.

HOLYOKE - The first time Alannah Brunt tried Holyoke Community College, she flunked out after one semester. The next semester, she only passed one class.

"I was working a ton of hours and had not yet invested in school," she recently said. "I hadn't found a way to get excited about being a student. It was COVID times, folks, and it was not fun."

But Brunt eventually did find a way to get excited about college, and that led her to where she now stood - on the stage of HCC's Leslie Phillips Theater as one of the student speakers for the college's first-ever Fall Graduate Reception, held on Nov. 29.

"Fear not," said Brunt, who will complete her associate's degree in Latinx Studies this month before heading to the University of Massachusetts in the spring. "In my journey at HCC, I found a commu-

nity of people who became my village."

According to the HCC Registrar's Office, 172 HCC students will be fall 2023 graduates at the end of the current semester. Like Brunt, many of them will transfer to four-year schools in the spring. Although fall graduates are always invited to attend HCC's formal commencement ceremony in the spring, historically, many do not attend.

"This is really just the beginning of your celebrations as a college graduate," said President George Timmons. "Today, we honor your achievements with this reception because what you just achieved deserves immediate recognition. In June, we will come together again and formally welcome you as HCC alumni."

The family-friendly event began in the HCC theater, followed by food and photo opportuni-

# Simple ways communities can combat bullying

*Stand for the Silent, an organization helping to stop school bullying, helps communities address the issue*

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK -- It has been known that bullying around the country is a big problem. The statistics point to the fact that something needs to be done. People mostly look to the schools to handle the issue of bullying, but perhaps it is time for the whole community to take the issue on. With the community on board, addressing the issue to dismantle it, the schools and all areas will benefit. Tapping into how to get the community on board to combat bullying is a powerful method for creating a kinder world.

"We work with schools and communities around the country. We know how important it is to get the whole community on board with stomping out bullying," said Kirk Smalley, co-founder of Stand for the Silent. "It's really a team effort to address the issue, and we are happy to be at the forefront of helping people to make a difference."

Bullying is a common issue at school, with one in five high school students reporting being bullied on school property, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. But it doesn't stop once kids leave the school campus. The CDC reports that one in six high school students are cyberbullied, which takes place online, through texting, etc.

While we tend to think that bully-

ing is a problem only for our youth, one look at the statistics surrounding workplace bullying proves otherwise. The CDC reports that up to 59% of workers in America say that they have felt bullied in the workplace, while up to 15% globally have felt bullied, and 12% have witnessed others being bullied.

With youth and adults having bullying issues around the nation, it's time for communities to address the issue as a whole. Here are ways for communities to combat bullying:

Guest speaker, Stand for the Silent has a mission of traveling the country to speak with schools and communities about bullying. Inviting them to the community or school to talk is a significant first step toward making a change and setting a new tone.

Make the commitment. The community needs to commit to the idea of addressing bullying. Coming together to share in the mission of tackling the issue will be more successful if those involved are 100% on board with making it a consistent part of the community discussion.

Raise awareness. The more people talk about bullying in the community, including what it looks like, the damage that it does, and what to do to address it, the more it takes the power away. When people are aware of the issue in their community, they will become more active in helping not to tolerate it.

Partner up. Community groups working to eradicate bullying can partner with other local resources, including groups, organizations, sporting teams, etc. That way, the message is being re-

Please see **BULLYING**, Page 14

# PUBLIC NOTICES

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Division  
Docket No. HD23P2438EA  
Estate of:  
Pauline Marie Ryba  
Date of Death:  
September 29, 2023  
INFORMAL PROBATE  
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Marguerite M. Swartz of Needham, MA a Will has been admitted

to informal probate. Marguerite M. Swartz of Needham, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regard-

ing the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 12/13/2023

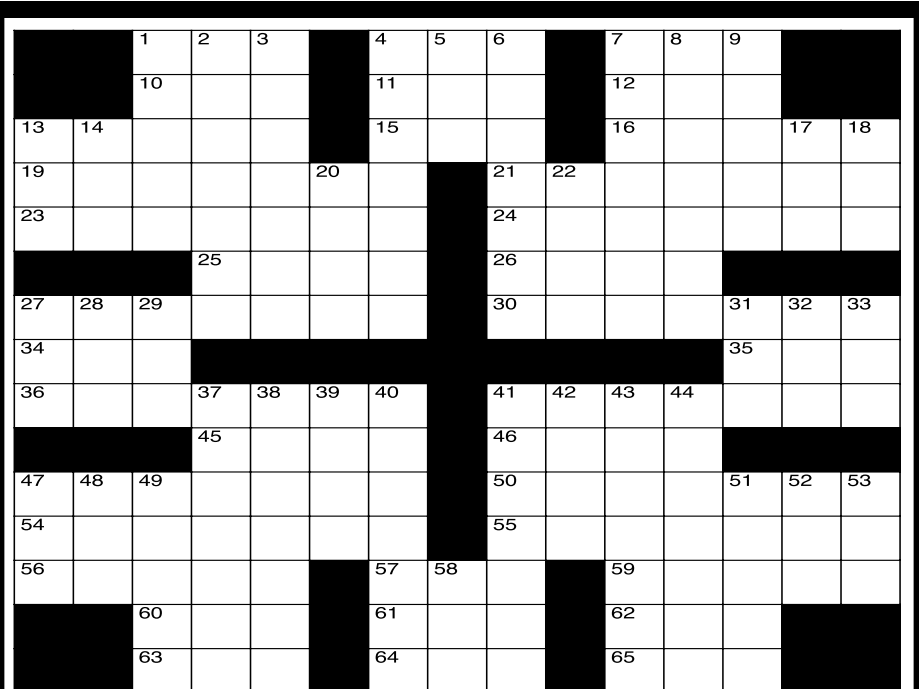
# PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to [notices@turley.com](mailto:notices@turley.com)
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit [www.publicnotices.turley.com](http://www.publicnotices.turley.com)

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.



### CLUES ACROSS

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

### CLUES DOWN

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

### CLUES DOWN (abbr.)

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