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CPAC seeks public input

HOLYOKE – The City of Holyoke Community Preservation Act Committee is pleased to invite the public to attend the project presentations by this year's applicants. These will take place on Wednesday, Jan. 14 and Wednesday, Jan. 21 via Zoom.

On Jan. 14 presentations will be given by:

- Friends of the Holyoke Merry-Go-Round for the restoration of 4 carousel horses
- Nick's Nest for restoration of its historic Chicago band box
- Wisteriahurst Museum for its renovation of the butler's pantry
- Holyoke Health Center for the restoration of their historic Russell Osborne windows, currently boarded up
- City of Holyoke for rehabilitation of the granite

See INPUT, page 6

COLLEEN COURT SELECTED

HOLYOKE – Last Saturday evening, the 70th Grand Colleen pageant took place at Holyoke High School, with five young women chosen to comprise the 2026 Grand Colleen Court. Of those five hopefuls, one will be crowned as the 2026 Grand Colleen next month.

Contestants completed an application highlighting their involvement in school, volunteer work, extracurricular activities, special interests, and future aspirations. Earlier, the contestants participated in personal interviews with the judges followed by the evening program at Holyoke High School. During the pageant, each contestant was introduced to the community and took the stage in evening wear before judges, family members, friends, and local residents.

Scores from both the interviews and the evening program were combined to select the five Colleens. In addition, the contestants themselves vote to recognize a fellow participant with the "Miss Congeniality" award, honoring the individual who best embodies kindness, support, and friendship throughout the experience.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Miss Congeniality Amanda Royland, and the 2026 Grand Colleen Court Paige Leahy, Jayden Christie, Anna Evans, Bridie Bowler, and Olivia Royland.

While the judges were tabulating the scores, the 2025 Grand Colleen, Moira

Catherine Reardon gave a farewell speech with her court, Erin Marie Gauthier,

Abigail Katherine Huebner, Erin Frances O'Donnell, and Maura Catherine

Joseph, who was also Miss

See COLLEENS, page 10

Elected city officials sworn in for new term

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

HOLYOKE – Earlier this week, on Monday, Jan 5, a new chapter officially took shape as Mayor Joshua A. Garcia was officially sworn in for his second term, and it was clear he wasn't coming alone, as a blend of returning and newly elected officials also took the oath of office.

Meet the City Council and School Committee

Joining Garcia this term, among the newly revamped city council are Jenny Rivera (Ward 1), Nicole Maisonet (Ward 2), Anne Thalheimer (Ward 3), Richard Purcell (Ward 4), Linda Vacon (Ward 5), Juan Anderson-Burgos (Ward 6), Meg Magrath-Smith (Ward 7), and lastly, representing At Large are Patricia Devine, Howard Greaney Jr., Tessa Murphy-Romboletti, Mimi Pantich, Israel Rivera, and Michael Sullivan. The School Committee now consists of Gladys Lebron-Martinez (Ward 1), Rosalee

Tensley Williams (Ward 2), Dr. Yadilette Rivera-Colon (Ward 3), Orlando Isaza (Ward 4), Jens Michaelsen (Ward 5), Patty Lubold (Ward 6), Ellie Wilson (Ward 7), and rounding out for the At Large section are, Mildred Lefebvre, and Devin Sheehan.

A Historic Moment for the Paper City

The 2026 inaugural swearing-in ceremony took place in the City Hall auditorium, as a massive culmination of first responders, followers, supporters, and a majority of the general public were all seated to witness the historic event.

Acting as the master of ceremonies was Former City Council President Joe McGiverin, who started the gathering by welcoming in the Holyoke Caledonian Pipe Band, who provided live entertainment as all elected officials followed behind before being seated on stage. Other key moments included the Holyoke Police Auxiliary Color Guard pre-

sending the colors, Molly McGee, Leary's youngest daughter performing the national anthem, and Reverend Bernard Smith of the Bethlehem Baptist Community Church, who provided a prayer for the elected officials, and lastly, the Holyoke High School Madrigal Choir performed.

McGiverin delivered opening remarks, citing being sworn into office as a 'high bar' achievement and that our government is unique and "that this is an important day for Holyoke, as last November the voters chose that they wanted to be part of this 'New Beginning,'" he said. Before adding, "The swearing in, at the beginning of government for a new term, is always with new vision, new hope, and new excitement; some incumbents, some newcomers, a blend of people who represent all of us."

Leary back for her fourth term as city clerk

First to be sworn in for her fourth term was current

Holyoke City Clerk Brenna Murphy Leary, who took the oath, administered by family friend and former prosecutor Hon. Judge Teresa F. Lamarre (Region 1 of New Bedford). Leary then delivered an ode of gratitude, "To say this moment is meaningful feels like an understatement. 16 years of public service, four as a city councilor and 12 as your city clerk, have gone by in what feels like the blink of an eye, and yet they have been some of the most purposeful and rewarding years of my life," Leary said. "When I first stepped into public service, I could have never imagined the journey that lay ahead; Holyoke has shaped me, challenged me, and continually reminded me why community matters so deeply. Because serving the city is not just a responsibility, it is a privilege, and every day I am mindful of the trust our residents place in me and the work we do in city hall." She then went on to note that the role of city clerk also entails

not only being the keeper of records, but also being the bridge and liaison between government and community.

Garcia delivers remarks

The next to take the stage after the city council and school committee took the oath of office, administered by Leary, was Garcia, who discussed a variety of topics, such as the progress made since he took office during his first term, and what he feels the future holds, while responding to his detractors as well.

"Four years ago, I stood here before you, and I shared with you a speech centered around our city's defining trait...resiliency - seen in generations of immigrants and migrants, seen in our community's endurance through challenges, and the diverse new slate of elected officials. In that speech, I shared a sober acknowledgment of inherited crises - such as the pandemic, fiscal instability, education-

See SWORN, page 6

Councilor's ability to vote on police questioned

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – The patrolmen and supervisors of the Holyoke Police Department are very concerned that City Councilor Israel Rivera has a conflict of interest now as it relates to police matters.

Rivera, elected to the city council in 2021 and just sworn in to his third two-year term, was recently arrested by Holyoke Police Department on Dec. 20 for driving under the influence of alcohol and failure to stop for police.

Rivera, according to bodycam footage of the stop, then made what could be viewed as threatening statements as well as statement trying to assert his position.

He allegedly told arrest officers, "I'm a City Councilor; you can't really work with me?" He summarily made a threat to cut the police department budget. He also stated that, "Everyone else gets a pass, but I don't?"

Holyoke Police Supervisors Union Local 409 and Holyoke Police Patrolmen's Union Local 388 delivered a two-page letter addressed to Mayor Joshua Garcia, Police Chief Brian Keenan, City Solicitor Lisa Ball, and newly re-elected Council President Tessa Murphy-Romboletti on Monday, Jan. 5, the day Rivera was sworn in and then elected as the legislative body's first-ever vice president.

See RIVERA, page 5



Former Holyoke City Council President Joe McGiverin kicks off the ceremony.

Turley Photos by Brendan Rooney

MiraVista Behavioral Health Center sets goals for new year

HOLYOKE – As the new year begins, many people feel pressure to set ambitious resolutions or reinvent themselves overnight. Mental health leaders at MiraVista Behavioral Health Center are encouraging a different approach in 2026: one grounded in compassion, flexibility, and emotional well-being rather than perfection.

“From a mental health perspective, the most sustainable goals aren’t built on criticism or pressure —

they’re rooted in self-understanding and care,” said Dr. Kenneth Richmond, MD, MS and Chief Medical Director at MiraVista Behavioral Health Center. “The start of a new year can be a powerful moment for reflection, but it’s important to remember that growth does not require harsh expectations.”

As a psychiatrist, Dr. Richmond notes that traditional resolutions fail because they are overly rigid or focused solely on outcomes rather than how peo-

ple want to feel in their daily lives.

“When people focus only on achievement — numbers, milestones, or external measures — they often miss the deeper purpose of change,” he said. “A more supportive question is: How do I want to feel this year? Calm, connected, steady, hopeful — those intentions tend to guide healthier, more lasting choices.”

Dr. Richmond encourages individuals to approach

resolutions with curiosity and kindness. Helpful strategies include:

- Starting small, recognizing that meaningful change happens one step at a time
 - Choosing goals that add care, not stress, to daily life
 - Allowing flexibility, understanding that progress is rarely linear
- “Missing a day or needing to adjust a goal is not failure,” Dr. Richmond emphasized. “It’s part of

being human. What matters most is the ability to restart with kindness rather than giving up altogether.”

According to Dr. Richmond, celebrating effort — not just outcomes — plays a critical role in mental wellness.

“Resilience grows when we acknowledge the effort it takes to keep going, even when things feel uneven,” he said. “Checking in with yourself, noticing what’s working, and adjusting as needed are signs of strength, not

weakness.”

As the year unfolds, MiraVista encourages individuals, families, and communities to view resolutions not as rigid promises, but as living intentions that can evolve alongside life’s challenges.

“This year, let your goals support your mental health rather than compete with it,” Dr. Richmond said. “Growth happens when we meet ourselves with patience, grace, and compassion — exactly where we are.”

COLLEGE NOTES

SNHU announces Fall 2025 President’s List

MANCHESTER, NH – It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Fall 2025 President’s List: Luis Rondon, Blake Brisebois, Andrew Febu, Destiny Martine, Cali Brennan, Jazmine Ladriye, and Michaela Kosloffsky.

The fall terms run from September to December. Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President’s List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

HCC announces Fall 2025 Dean’s List

HOLYOKE – Each semester Holyoke Community College recognizes superior scholarship through the Dean’s List. A student is placed on the Dean’s List if their G.P.A. is 3.2 or higher. The students listed below have earned Dean’s List honors for the Fall 2025 term:

Lily Margaret Angers, Elliott Leo-Tate Anthony, Cedric Lucca Ayvazian, Henry Aidan Bayne, Fred Louis Berio, Dustin Corey Bonnoyer, Kelsy Margaret Brainard, Charlie Bridges, Naidelyn M. Buri Alvarez, William Michael Burke, Rihanna Ashley Cabrera, Franchesca Marie Carattini, Genesis Marie Cardona, Kameron Colby, Emmanuel Ruben Contin Pimentel, Chad Andrew Correia, Alexis Jeremiaiah De La Cruz, Ivy Wrenne Drude Demetriou, Billy Escobar Descant, Harman Singh Dhaliwal, Yadrin Diaz, Brendan Michael Duval, Ishmael Flores, Aidan Alexander Fontanez-Courchesne, Nathaniel Joseph Gomes, Alany Gracia, Kaylany Gracia, Azlyn Rose Greaney, Christian Guzik, Jordan Louise Hart, Victor Michel Herlemont, Talitha Ashar Hernandez, Tanner Owen Joseph, Alivia Kaifer, Dylan Kennedy, Jemima Mueni Kitsa, Hannah Lynn Laprade, Cristal Marie LaSanta, Lilly Faith Lawrence, Crystalline Amanda Lopez, Tiffany Pearl Mackey, Oceana Maldonado, Vincent Aldo Maupin, Nathaniel Medina, Gianni Lee Merced, Misteny Montano, Ginette Morales, Yara C. Nevarez-Martinez, Erin Frances O’Donnell, Nicole Rose Ouimet, Cassandra Pulowski, Anna Claire Puttick, Anastasiia Pylypenko, Jemme Carlos Quinones, Mayumi Dalay Ramon, Damian Alexis Ramos, Juan Carlos Reyes, Christopher Daniel Rivera, Rafael Yadiel Rivera, Dyani Aines Rivera, Kevin Michael Rodgers, Edgar Xavier Rodriguez, Thais Rodriguez, Jeymishel Rodriguez Colon, Angel Luis Romero, Sammy Charie Rosa, Katherine Ryan Rousseau, Erick Santos, Sasha Santos, Kayla Saunders, Anaiya Marie Sepulveda, Lucy Paige Sklarski, Kierstin Ruthanne St. Lawrence, Nicholas Michael Sylvester, Jasmine Tauscher, Yasani Martina Thompson, Sophia Amanda Turgeon, Sidney Omarys Valentin, Vladimir Vazquez, Keilymar Vazquez Negrón, John Wagner, Tawana W. Walter, Hunter Thomas Weck, and Amani Willis.

HMC receives Guardian of Excellence

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Medical Center announced that it has been named a 2025 Human Experience (HX) Guardian of Excellence Award winner by Press Ganey, the global leader in healthcare experience solutions and services. This award is part of Press Ganey’s annual ranking of the top hospitals and health systems in the country based on clinical quality performance.

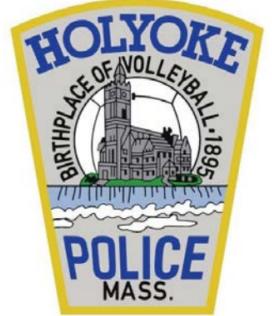
“Holyoke Medical Center is raising the bar for what great clinical quality looks like,” said Patrick T.

Ryan, Chairman and CEO of Press Ganey. “They’re turning ambition into action, building a culture where every interaction reflects purpose, respect, and care. That kind of leadership makes a lasting difference.”

The Press Ganey Human Experience (HX) Awards Program recognizes healthcare organizations that consistently elevate human experience through proven performance in patient and consumer experience, employee and physician engagement, clinical quality, and safety. Award winners

were judged against a set of rigorous, data-driven criteria. Criteria is reviewed, updated and published each year and reflects updated standards across the care continuum.

Spiros Hatiras, President and Chief Executive Officer of Holyoke Medical Center and Valley Health Systems stated, “Holyoke Medical Center is committed to providing our patients with the highest quality of care. We received this recognition because of their hard work and dedication and we are proud of their efforts.”



HPD delivers presents to shelters

HOLYOKE – On Christmas morning, Dec. 25, Holyoke Police Chief Brian Keenan and members of the Holyoke Police Department delivered Christmas presents to local shelters on Christmas morning. The event took place at the intersection of Oak St. and Sargeant St.

Library hosts Switch Game Night Jan. 21

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Public Library will host a Nintendo Switch Game Night on Wednesday, Jan. 21. The evening will go from 6 to 8 p.m. and there will be multiple games available to be played in the community room.

Block Grant applications now available

HOLYOKE – The City of Holyoke Office for Community Development has released the FY2026 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Proposal Application and Materials for funding of activities in the City of Holyoke to benefit low- and moderate-income persons or low- and moderate-income areas. Eligible activity categories include Public Services, Public Facilities, Housing, Infrastructure, and Economic Development.

Application materials, requirements and guidelines are available from the Office for Community Development, online at www.holyoke.org, or on Facebook @HolyokeOCD. The link

to the GoogleForm: <https://forms.gle/eeLBzFnGG-83ZyXFj6>

Activities or programs that have not been previously funded with CDBG should be reviewed with OCD staff prior to submitting an application to ensure HUD eligibility.

OCD staff are available to meet virtually with all potential applicants to provide technical assistance with proposal development. Please note that the FFY2026 Applications have been revised from previous versions. Application forms from previous years will not be accepted. Direct assistance to individuals or families is not provided by

this application process.

FFY2026 funding will be for activities from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. The City of Holyoke CDBG Allocation has not yet been released by HUD.

Please consult the 2026 Annual Plan Development Calendar for all dates and opportunities to provide public input. Application materials are available in alternative formats or other languages by request. Additional information is available by calling 413-322-5610 or emailing Alicia Zoeller, Administrator at zoellera@holyoke.org. All applications materials are also available on Facebook @HolyokeOCD.

Free HCC line-cook training program beginning Jan. 26

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College will be running both daytime and evening editions of its free, line-cook training program at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute beginning Jan. 26.

The six-week daytime program starts Monday, Jan. 26, and runs until March 6. Classes meet Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The 11-week evening program runs from Jan. 26 until April 8 on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from 5 to 9 p.m.

Additional spring semester line-cook training programs will start on March 30 (daytime), April 27 (evening) and May 11 (daytime).

“HCC tries to meet the needs of its students by offering multiple options for start days and times,” said Paul Sheehan, assistant project coordinator for culinary arts programs. “Over the last few years, we have offered our free line cook training as separate day and evening programs to help students find the schedule that works best for them.”

The program is designed for those already in the restaurant industry who want

to upgrade their skills as well as unemployed or underemployed individuals interested in starting new careers.

“We usually have a mix of young people entering the job market for the first time and people who are re-entering the job market, looking for a second career,” Sheehan said. “The course is perfect for anybody who’s looking for a job and has a passion for food and the dining industry.”

All classes meet in person at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute at 164 Race St.

Participants will learn all the essential competen-

cies they need to become successful line cooks: knife skills; how to prepare stocks, soups, sauces, desserts, poultry, fish and meat; culinary math and measurements; moist and dry heat cooking methods; as well as workplace soft skills, such as building a resume and searching for jobs.

Offered as part of HCC’s Business & Workforce Development division, the line cook course is free to qualifying applicants.

For more information, or to fill out an inquiry form, please go to hcc.edu/line-cook.

Tuesday Night 6pm
Pitch Night
\$5 per person

Wednesday Night 6:30pm
Bar Bingo

Thursday Night 7-10 pm
Karaoke by New England Disc Jockeys

Friday Night starts at 7:30 pm
Trivia Night \$5 per person

Saturday Night 5-7 pm
Spaghetti Dinner

7 Days A Week
Queen of Hearts Raffle
\$1 per ticket - unlimited tickets
Drawing Wednesdays at 5 pm

February 21st 7-10pm
Live Music by Kitchen Jam

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| USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS CUT FREE CENTER CUT PORK LOIN \$1.94 lb | USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF SHOULDER ROAST or STEAKS \$4.99 lb | USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN CHICKEN BREAST 10 LB BAG..... \$1.11 lb |
| USDA INSP. FROZEN PORK TENDERLOIN \$2.66 lb | USDA INSP. FROZEN FULLY COOKED CORN DOGS \$1.99 lb | USDA INSP. FROZEN CHICKEN THIGHS TRAY PAK..... 66¢ lb |
| USDA INSP. STORE MADE ITALIAN MARINATED BONELESS CHICKEN BREAST \$2.99 lb | USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY DIET LEAN GROUND BEEF \$4.99 5 LB BAG | USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN 21/25 COUNT COOKED SHRIMP 2 LB BAG..... \$16.99 ea |
| USDA INSP. FROZEN FULLY COOKED W/ BBQ RUB ST LOUIS PORK RIBS \$2.99 lb | SLICED IN OUR DELI USDA INSP. ROAST BEEF \$7.99 lb | USDA INSP. FROZEN FULLY COOKED CORN DOGS \$1.99 lb |

TAILGATE SPECIALS

SALE DATES: 1/8/26-1/14/26 **BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE**

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Holyoke Community College helps out with donations

HOLYOKE – For the 24th year, Holyoke Community College students, staff, and faculty collected hundreds of holiday gifts for consumers at local agencies through its annual Giving Tree campaign.

On Dec. 17, representatives from the five groups – Homework House, the Mass. Veterans Home at Holyoke (formerly the Holyoke Soldiers' Home), Access Care Partners (formerly WestMass ElderCare), the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, and the Itsy Bitsy Child Watch Center

at HCC – attended a closing celebration where 320 gifts were distributed.

"This is a community of caring and giving folks," said HCC President George Timmons, "and that's not just words, but deeds and actions. This community shows up for one another, and it really does make a difference."

Each year during the annual campaign, Giving Trees are set up in designated areas around campus. Participants choose tags from one of the nonprofit agencies based on the age of the recipient and their wish for a gift.

The wrapped gifts are then piled on tables for the closing celebration, when HCC faculty, staff, and students join with representatives from the agencies to share food and stories.

"Home has always been part of our title," said Colleen Strunk-Ackerly, volunteer coordinator for the Veterans Home. "With community partners like you, we're able to provide that home-like environment for our veterans with nice things like a comfortable pair of pajamas or a nice warm blanket. There's nothing better, especially

during the holidays."

Even though the holidays can be a joyful time, the season can put added pressure on parents who can't afford to buy gifts, but still want their children to experience a "sense of magic and normalcy," said Nancy Ritz, MSPCC regional director of prevention programs:

"Your gifts send a powerful message to parents: You are not alone. And to children: You matter. Someone thought of you."

This year, the Giving Tree committee added the college's Itsy Bitsy Child Watch

program to the list of beneficiaries. The center, a free program for HCC student parents, includes a clothing donation closet, where students can drop in and select used items for their children.

"But these personal, individual gifts that the college community has provided are going to be even more meaningful," said Kimm Quinlan, HCC director of early childhood initiatives. "It's hard being a student. It's hard work being a parent, and when you put the two of them together, it's even harder, so I know how much our families are

going to appreciate these gifts."

"I am so honored to be chairperson of this committee that really shows how much the HCC community cares. This is it in a big way," said Michelle Vigneault, who followed with a personal story.

"As a child, I was the recipient of a similar campaign, Toys for Tots, and it was the best gift I ever got in my whole childhood," she said. "And it matters. It matters to children. It matters to families, and it matters to our elderly and our veterans and the whole community."

Cradles to Crayons places local drop box

HOLYOKE – While many children head out to sled or build a snowman with friends, others face clothing insecurity and lack access to coats, warm clothing layers, gloves, and boots to stay warm during these weather extremes.

Cradles to Crayons needs winter weather gear. Can you help us by sharing an urgent plea with your audience?

Cradles to Crayons Gear Up for Winter initiative aims to provide 50,000 coats to

children living in low-income and homeless situations across Massachusetts so they can stay warm and feel prepared for the winter weather.

"As winter begins, one in three children in Massachusetts don't have the winter clothing they need," said Alicia Kabir, Executive Director of Cradles to Crayons Massachusetts. "As families juggle the costs of housing, heat and food, their budgets are stretched to the limits.

Cradles to Crayons Gear up for Winter will help provide warm clothing like coats, boots, and hats so local families have one less expense to worry about," she added.

Thousands of families rely on Cradles to Crayons to keep their kids warm during New England's harsh winter weather. This need includes clothing items, boots, hats, gloves, and coats. We need more donations to meet the growing need across

Massachusetts this year.

Cradles to Crayons has donation drop box locations in your area where we accept new or gently used clothing items:

- Old Navy store in Holyoke - 50 Holyoke Street Holyoke
- Old Navy store in Hadley - 335 Russell Street Hadley
- Lander Grinspoon Elementary School - 257 Prospect St Northampton

South Hadley Chorale to resume rehearsals, new singers welcome

SOUTH HADLEY – The South Hadley Chorale will resume rehearsals for its annual March concert on Wednesday, Jan. 7 from 7 to 9 p.m. at All Saints' Church, 7 Woodbridge Street, South Hadley. The program features Vivaldi's Gloria, plus a selection of spirituals.

Rehearsals will continue on Wednesday evenings until the concert on Sunday, March 15, 2026.

New singers are welcome to join. There are no auditions, although most singers have had some choral experience.

This is Anita Anderson

Cooper's second year as Music Director of the South Hadley Chorale. Ms. Anderson Cooper is a member of the faculty of the Paul Baird Middle School in Ludlow and directs the Smith College Handbell Choir. She is also a composer and a frequent soloist and guest conductor both locally and throughout the East Coast.

The South Hadley Chorale is made up of 70 singers from 16 communities. For more information, please visit www.southhadleychorale.org or call 413-533-3833.

Mixed Media exhibit coming to Wistariahurst

HOLYOKE – Wistariahurst Museum is excited to announce the upcoming exhibit *Metamorphosis*, opening Jan. 6, 2026. This exhibit features artists who have attended one or more of the artist sessions held at Wistariahurst Museum. These sessions, led by artist and volunteer Linda Devine, serve as a way for local art-

ists to network, share their work with one another, and develop as artists.

To celebrate the growth these artists have made over the past year, they will be exhibiting their work in Wistariahurst's gallery. *Metamorphosis* has a theme of change, which each artist has interpreted their own way through several mediums, from painting and

sculpture, to writing. Artists express themes of personal change, changes in nature, fashion, culture, and more.

Artists featured in this exhibit include J. Arthur Birth, Natasha Colon Ortiz, Linda Devine, Lydia E Freytes Rodriguez, Emily Munsell, Maureen Naff, Catalina Rojas, Whit Kilpatrick Russell, Carolyn Ruzsala, Deborah Skelly,

Darlene Swiszczy, Chuck Collins, and Mike Worden.

Wistariahurst is an artist-friendly space that encourages creativity and supports the growth of this region's artists. Open Gallery Hours will be held through Feb. 24 on Mondays (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.) and Tuesdays (4:30 to 6:30 p.m.), which will also be free and open to the public.

Scholarship and Fellowship funds now available

WESTFIELD – The Horace Smith Fund, located in Westfield has scholarship and fellowship money available for residents of Hampden County, MA. Graduating high school seniors and students already in college may apply for Scholarships of up to \$12,000. Those in their final year of college and previous college graduates pursuing advanced degrees may apply for Fellowships of \$15,000. Applicants must maintain at least a B average in college and be enrolled as full-time students.

Awards are made based on both academic achieve-

ment and merit. Of great importance is a personal written account of why the student feels deserving of financial assistance and their goals in pursuing higher education.

Last year, \$297,000 was awarded to 24 individuals. Scholarships were given to 18 graduating seniors from 11 Hampden County high schools. Three scholarships were also awarded to current college students to assist them in completing their undergraduate degrees, and 3 fellowships were given to college graduates pursuing advanced degrees, who had graduated from Hampden

County high schools.

The Horace Smith Fund was established in 1899 by the successful and generous philanthropist named Horace Smith, co-founder of Smith & Wesson, established in Springfield. The scholarships and fellowships are named for Walter S. Barr, a West Springfield businessman, whose widow left the bulk of the family estate to The Horace Smith Fund in 1950.

Completed applications must be received either electronically or by mail to The Horace Smith Fund at 16 Union Avenue, Suite 2K, Westfield, MA

01085 no later than March 15, 2026. Applications will also be available at local high school guidance offices, college financial aid offices, online at www.HoraceSmithFund.org or by phoning (413) 739-4222.

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

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 413-543-0791
donovanspub.com
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| | |
|--|--|
| Saturday, Jan. 10th Frank Serafino 6-9pm | Saturday, Jan. 17th Dee Reilly 6-9pm |
| Sunday, Jan. 11th The Healys 2-5pm | Sunday, Jan. 18th Jimmy McArdle & Jerry Murphy 2-5pm |

Sale of Real Estate Under M.G.L. C. 183A:6

Tuesday, January 20, 2026 @ 11:00 AM

70 Greenwood Terrace, Unit 6026C, Chicopee, MA
Doverbrook Estates Condominium

This spacious (+/-871 sq ft), 1bedroom, 1 bathroom, garden unit with eat-in kitchen opening to formal dining room, large living room. Private patio area. Attached garage. Storage. Association swimming pool and tennis court.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of \$5,000 per unit, by cash, certified or bank check will be required at the time & place of sale. Balance due within 30 days. All other terms announced at sale. Auctioneer makes no representations as to the accuracy of the information contained herein.

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| #2 One Large 1 Topping Pizza, 10 Buffalo Wings & 2 Liter Soda \$32.99 +Tax | #13 Two 16" Grinders with Bag of Chips & Can of Soda \$25.99 +Tax |
| #4 One Party Size Cheese Pizza, 20 Buffalo Wings & 2 Liter Soda \$44.50 +Tax | #16 Large 1 Topping Pizza, Small Cheese Calzone, 2 Liter Soda & 10 Wings \$43.50 +Tax |

Clipless Coupons – Order By Number

DAILY SPECIALS (Especiales Del Dia)

Mini Calzone Each Topping (same as Pizza Toppings) Additional \$1.75 \$8.95
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 4 Chicken Tenders with French Fries & a Can of Soda \$10.99
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| | |
|---|--|
| #5 8" Grinder or Pita Pocket with Fries & FREE Can of Soda \$14.25+Tax | #6 One Large 2 Topping Pizza, & FREE 2 Liter Soda \$23.99 +Tax |
| #10 One Large 1 Topping Pizza, 20 Wings & FREE 2 Liter Soda \$40.99 +Tax | #14 One Medium 1 Topping Pizza, 10 Wings & FREE 2 Liter Soda \$30.99 +Tax |

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Guest Column



My wife believes she can get a spouse benefit while I'm still alive; can she?

Dear Rusty:

A friend of my wife told her and she believes, she could receive a Social Security benefit based on my SS benefit that I'm currently receiving while I'm still alive. I told her she could only receive spouse survivor benefits. Is there any truth to what she now believes? Would you settle this issue for us please? Thank you.

Signed:
Uncertain Husband

Dear Uncertain Husband:

Well, surely I don't want to get in the middle of your marital discussion, but I'll be happy to explain Social Security's rules about your wife's eligibility for spousal benefits while you are both still living. And just for awareness for both of you, the rules about spousal benefits are one of the most confusing areas of Social Security.

Per Social Security's rules, a spouse (e.g., your wife) can receive a "spousal boost" from you — while you are still living — if the SS retirement benefit she is personally entitled to at her Full Retirement Age is less than 50% of the SS retirement benefit you are (were) entitled to at your FRA; full retirement age amounts are used to calculate living spouse benefits, regardless of when each of you actually claimed your Social Security.

So, if your FRA entitlement benefit amount is more than twice your wife's FRA entitlement benefit amount, she can, indeed, get a "spousal boost" from your record while you are both still living. The spousal boost is added to her own SS retirement amount and will be based on the difference between her FRA entitlement and half of your FRA entitlement. Thus, in this discussion, your wife may be correct — she may be able to get a spousal boost from you while both of you are living, depending on how your personal FRA retirement amounts compare. The best way for your wife to find out is to contact Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 to inquire and if she's eligible, also make an appointment to apply for her spousal benefit.

And to clarify your wife's options as your possible widow, a surviving spouse can also get a survivor benefit if their marital partner passes away, but only if the deceased spouse's current benefit at death was more than the surviving spouse is already receiving. The surviving spouse receives the higher amount, instead of their own smaller Social Security retirement benefit.

But here is an important thing to know: Whenever any Social Security benefit (including a spousal or surviving spouse benefit) is claimed before the recipient's Full Retirement Age, the payment amount is permanently reduced, both spousal and survivor benefits do not reach maximum until the recipient's Full Retirement Age. And just to complete the picture for survivor benefits, a surviving spouse is also entitled to a one-time, lump-sum death benefit of \$255 if their marital partner dies, in addition to any other benefit they are entitled to.

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 ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



Guest Column

TLC for overwintering plants

Have you taken a good look at your tender plants lately? Maybe you have a Gerber daisy, coleus, fuchsia or geranium that you are attempting to overwinter because you loved it so much this past summer.

Perhaps the flower color or leaf shade was perfect in a patio planter and you thought if you could get through the winter you wouldn't have to buy it new this spring. Or maybe you intend to use your overwintered plants as stock plants.

Soon you'll be taking cuttings and making your own new plants. Likewise, maybe you brought in some tender herbs in hopes of growing your own seasoning year round.

Whatever the case may be, closer examination of each plant at this point in the winter might be a smart idea. What I have noticed



by Roberta McQuaid

far behind.

Don't push growth by fertilizing more than what I recommended or growth could become lanky and weak — just what aphids are looking for.

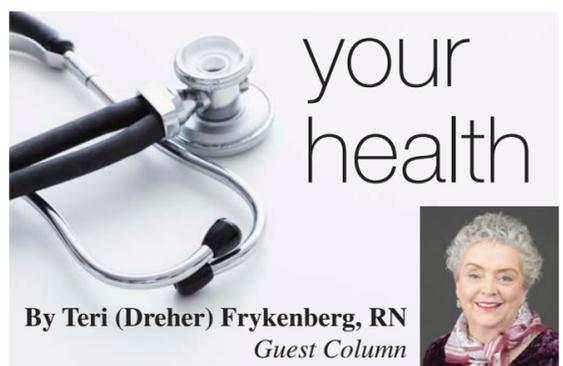
Speaking of pests, if you notice distorted foliage, webbed areas or stippling on the leaves, take a closer look at your plants. There are many tiny bugs with mouthparts that suck plant juices. Even in your sunny window spider mite, mealy bugs, aphids or white fly might be becoming more active.

Spider mite cause webbing, and are usually indicative of hot, dry conditions. Dousing with cold water will really set them back.

Mealy bug show up as a cottony blob usually on growth tips or at the junction of leaves and stems. Rubbing alcohol on a swab applied

See GARDEN, page 5

Tweaks you can do for a happier, healthier 2026



By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN
Guest Column

A recently released poll of 2,000 American adults of various ages yielded some interesting insights. Nearly 70 percent of those responding said 2025 was a dumpster fire of one sort or another for them, labeling it okay, bad or even awful.

Yet, hope springs eternal. About a third of the women and nearly half of the men plan to set goals for 2026, such as eating healthier, exercising more and saving more money. (Boomers, by the way, were the least likely to set goals for the new year: 23 percent.)

The poll, conducted by Talker Research on behalf of

Talkspace, an online therapy provider, reported that money is one of the biggest barriers to people achieving their goals, along with the state of their mental health and lack of time.

When they fall short of their goals, Gen Z most commonly responds by criticizing themselves or feeling guilty (36 percent), while millennials (42 percent), Gen X (48 percent), and baby boomers (55 percent) all accept failure as part of the process and keep moving forward.

I wish those percentages were higher.

That said, there are some small goals that don't cost

much in time or money that will help you feel and move better in the new year. Some you've heard before, and maybe some will give you food for thought.

And remember: You don't have to do all of them! Concentrate on one new one each month, or just select the ones that resonate with you the most.

Floss every day before going to bed. Our dentists sound like broken records when they remind us that flossing keeps our teeth and gums healthy, and who doesn't want to keep their teeth their whole life? If you're not going to use regular floss, water flossers are an OK substitute.

Get the vaccinations your doctor recommends. It seems like vaccine skeptics are winning over public opinion, but doctors' groups are united in saying that vaccinations save lives and hold down health-care costs.

Get up from your desk for five minutes each hour. This one is kind of easy because you can set reminders on your phone or smartwatch. Some watches even remind you to move without you asking. While you're up,

take some deep breaths and roll your shoulders. Also:

Just move more. The research is incontrovertible: People who exercise 30 minutes a day live longer. That 30 minutes can be broken into 10-minute "exercise snacks."

Forgo eating after dinner. It's estimated that we consume anywhere from 10% to 30% of our daily calories between dinner and bedtime. Over time, this can contribute to weight gain and other unhealthy outcomes. If you need to eat because you're a night owl, have an irregular schedule or are just plain hungry, try for less calorie-dense foods like popcorn, zero-sugar popsicles and fruit.

Connect with others. You could call or send an encouraging note to a friend once a week or once a month, just to say you're thinking about them. I personally have made it a goal to meet more of my neighbors, so I host an easy appetizer potluck every few months. My neighbors love it, and it builds a sense of community as well as defeating isolation.

See HEALTH, page 5

The Holyoke Sun welcomes election letters to the editor

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 newspa-

per 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.

the HOLYOKE Sun
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Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the Editor have a maximum of 350 words. We require writers to include their name, address and phone number in order for our office to authenticate authorship prior to publication. Addresses and phone numbers are not published.

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

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

Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon. Please email (preferred) letters to thesun@turley.com. Mailed letters can be sent to The Sun, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

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Agawam Historical Association hosts armory presentation

AGAWAM – The public is invited to the Winter Meeting of the Agawam Historical Association on Thursday, Jan. 15, at 6:30 p.m. at the Captain Charles Leonard House, 663 Main Street, Agawam, when Springfield Armory National Historic Site Curator Alex MacKenzie will present “The Most Proper Spot in America: The Continental Arsenal at Springfield,” revealing its hidden stories and the contributions of our region to American independence.

Following the creation of the Continental Army in 1775, General George Washington and his lieutenants organized a system of supply and logistics to support the fledgling American military as it fought for independence. Brigadier General Henry Knox, Chief of Artillery, personally sited a military supply depot at Springfield, Massachusetts early in 1777. Hundreds of enlisted tradesmen poured into town to begin building, repairing, maintaining, and ship-

ping all sorts of military supplies, and Springfield was quickly bustling with activity throughout the American Revolution.

Alex MacKenzie is a museum professional, author, and historian specializing in U.S. military history, with a focus on small arms development, logistics, and supply. He has authored numerous articles and publications on the technical and industrial history of small arms centered on the Springfield Armory (1777–1968) and

is a leading authority on the management and care of historic firearms and ammunition in museum collections. He has developed museum policy for the National Park Service, contributed to publications on collections care, and regularly consults with museums nationwide. He serves as Curator of Collections at Springfield Armory National Historic Site and resides in Belchertown with his wife and two daughters.

This event is free and open to the public.

Winter Gym Time program offered

CHICOPEE – Winter Gym Time will be taking place at Szetela School.

Drop-in playtime with friends in the gym. Children build strength, coordination and confidence through playful movement. Using games, obstacle courses, music and imagination, children jump, balance, stretch and move in a safe environment!

They take place on Wednesdays from 4 to 5 p.m.

on Jan. 21, Jan. 28, Feb. 4, Feb. 11, Feb. 25 and March 4.

For information, call Shane at 413-310-1632.

The programs are offered by the Holyoke Chicopee Family and Community Program.

Funded by the Coordinated Family & Community Engagement Grant from the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care.

HEALTH, from page 4

Make sure to get your recommended health screenings. Mammograms and colonoscopies save lives, too. If you're at risk for lung cancer, get screened for that. If you're a woman over 65, Medicare pays for a bone-density scan every two years. And while you're at it, see a health-care provider at least once a year so you avoid “silent killers” like high blood pressure and diabetes.

Care for your mental and emotional health, too. Give yourself self-compassion and grace in the face of challenges. If you find yourself feeling unusually

down, helpless or hopeless, ask to be screened for clinical depression, which is one of the most common mental health disorders – and often goes untreated.

Reduce your exposure to social media. Research indicates that social media use can lead to negative mental health outcomes, such as increased feelings of anxiety and depression, particularly among those who use it excessively. Algorithms are designed to promote posts that are intended to make you angry. Use your Facebook or Instagram time for taking a walk.

I wish all of you a happy, healthy and productive 2026!

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, R.N., a registered nurse and board-certified patient advocate, is the founder of www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com, which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. A Monson, MA resident, she is the author of “How to Be a Healthcare Advocate for Yourself & Your Loved Ones” and her new book, “Advocating Well: Strategies for Finding Strength and Understanding in Health Care,” available at Amazon.com. Contact her at Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com to set up a free phone consultation.

RIVERA, from page 1

The letter coming from both unions stated Rivera also kept shouting racial slurs during the incident.

Now, both unions want the solicitor to issue an opinion about whether or not Rivera should be able to vote on and participate in matters related to the Holyoke Police Department.

“Councilor Rivera currently participates in deliberations and votes involving police staffing levels, departmental oversight, and funding,” the letter states. “His continued involvement in these matters under the circumstances described above raises concerns about impartiality and public trust.”

“Additionally, Councilor Rivera reportedly used offensive racial slurs during this incident, includ-

ing statements that are deeply troubling and inconsistent with the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Such language, if accurately reported, erodes public confidence in local dealership and undermines the trust essential to effective governance—particularly in a city as diverse as Holyoke. Elected officials bear a heightened responsibility to uphold these values, and failure to do so warrants appropriate scrutiny.”

Garcia has already stated he does not believe Rivera's issues affect the daily operation of the police department, but did encourage the police unions to seek the legal opinion they are after.

Lt. Andrew DiNapoli, who serves as president of the supervisors union, said one of the most concerning things about Rivera's cur-

rent position on the city council, is that Rivera has a seat on the Public Safety Committee.

That sub-committee directly hears and makes recommendations on resolutions and orders related to police issues that are sent to the city council.

The patrolmen's union president is Off. Manuel Rivera. He also has massive concerns over the councilor's ability to fairly and impartially vote on police matters.

Israel Rivera previously served five years in prison on drug-related charges. He had since worked to earn college degrees and is currently the regional director of Families First.

There have been no public comments made by the city council or Rivera, other than expressing regret following the arrest.

GARDEN, from page 4

directly to the blob will dissolve that protective layer and the insect underneath.

Aphids are usually green and congregate in clusters on stems or leaf ribs. White fly usually hang out on the underside of leaves. They fly around if disturbed.

Both insects are best stopped in their tracks by use of an insecticidal soap. Safer's Soap or M Pede as it's known commercially work well. I've even soaped up my plants using a mild dish detergent and hosed them off in the shower.

One pest in particular attacks the herb rosemary and is especially trouble-

some. I noticed stippling on the leaf tips and clear winged insects flying away when I brushed by the plants. After placing sticky yellow monitoring cards nearby I learned it was leaf hoppers!

As carefully as I could I carried the lighter plants outside and gave them a good shake to dislodge any eggs or nymphs (and to make me feel better) then I doused them to the point of runoff with insecticidal soap. I will have to be careful here, because tiny 3 mm size, wedge-shaped (adult) insects can transmit viruses from plant to plant.

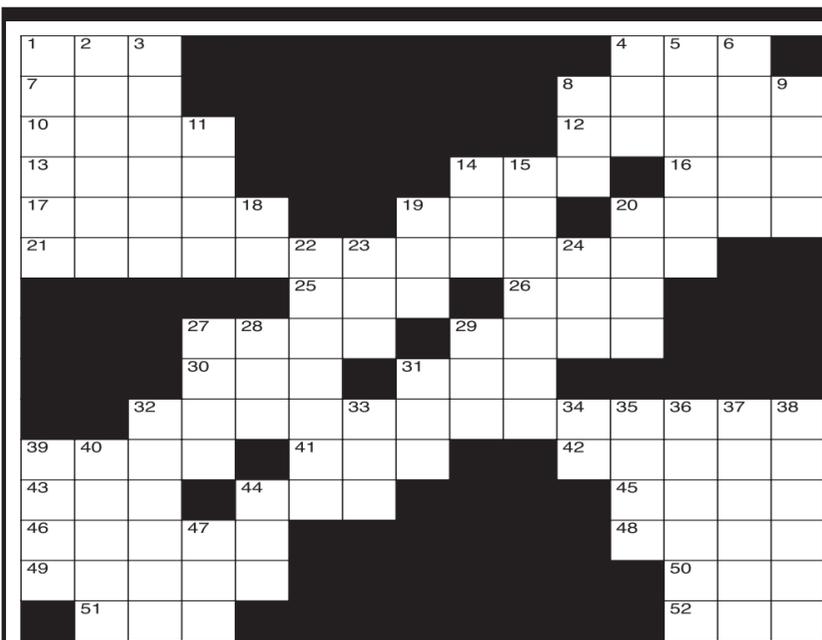
I'll put out new monitoring cards near the rosemary plants to check if the

population is decreasing. Regardless, I am glad I caught this situation early.

With the pests under control and a proper fertilization regimen, these plants will be in great shape come springtime, and ready for new adventures in the landscape.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 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.

Read or subscribe to The Holyoke Sun online at sun.turley.com



CLUES ACROSS

1. Former CIA
4. Language
7. Constrictor snake
8. Demand
10. Rich man
12. Short-tailed marten
13. Zoroastrian concept of holy fire
14. Superconducting super collider
16. International group of countries within the Americas
17. Sacred state for Muslims
19. Shock therapy
20. Engrave
21. Localities
25. Paddle
26. Periodical

27. Dishonestly gained money
29. Gain possession of
30. Actor DiCaprio
31. High schoolers' test
32. Mr. October
39. Sign of healing
41. One's grandmother
42. Entrap
43. One who simultaneously buys and sells
44. ___ Francisco
45. Web-based data provider of marine life
46. Type of snake
48. Dark mark or stain
49. Member of the Sali

50. Former measure of length
 51. CNN's founder
 52. Witness
- #### CLUES DOWN
1. Acquire
 2. Console
 3. Hunting expedition
 4. Pie ___ mode
 5. Simple shoes for peasants
 6. Eurasian shrub
 8. Reciprocal of a sine
 9. Work together in harmony
 11. Grenade
 14. File extension
 15. Minute pores in a plant
 18. Medal of Honor
 19. Make a mistake
 20. Advance slowly, as

- if by inches
22. Sandwich meat
23. An awkward stupid person
24. Strong tree
27. Commoner
28. Electro-encephalograph
29. ___ Mahal
31. Congressman
32. Disorderly crowd
33. 007's creator Fleming
34. Atomic #55
35. Part of a door
36. Short-tail martens
37. Baltimore ballplayer
38. Cuddle
39. Gang in “The Outsiders”
40. Of Croatia
44. Body cavity
47. Get free of

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page ????????

CHURCH DIRECTORY



Blessed Sacrament Parish

Rev. Duy Le
 frduyle@blessedsacramentholyoke.org
 1945 Northampton St., Holyoke
 PARISH RECTORY: 413-532-0713
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 Friday 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 WEEKEND MASSES:
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 Sunday 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
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 Monday - Friday: MASS 6:45 a.m.
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 Legal Holidays: MASS 8 a.m.
 ROSARY AND MEDITATION
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First Baptist Church

Pastor Theresa Temple
 1976 Northampton St., Holyoke
 (413) 533-7728
 firstbaptistchurchhollyoke@comcast.net
 Facebook: First Baptist Church of Holyoke, MA
 HOURS: Sunday worship service (winter hours) at 10:30 a.m. (summer hours) at 10 a.m.
 Wednesday Bible Studies, one at 11 a.m. and one at 5:30 p.m.

Our Lady of the Cross Catholic Parish

Pastor: Fr. Albert Scherer, OFM Conv.
 Email: pastor@ourladyofthecross.com
 Holy Cross Ave., Holyoke
 Parish Offices are located at: 15 Maple Street, Holyoke (413) 532-5661
 parish@ourladyofthecross.com
 OFFICE HOURS:
 Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
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 Saturday 4 p.m.
 Sunday 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m. (Polish), and 10:30 a.m.
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 Reconciliation (Confession)
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 Saturday 3:15pm
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Your Community Church

St. Peter's Lutheran Church

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 facebook.com/stpetershollyoke
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 Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
 Friday, 12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
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 Sundays at 9:30 a.m. (also on Facebook Live) & Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.
 Other: Prayers with Pastor - Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. - on Facebook Live.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

The Rev. Canon Joel Martinez
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 StPaulsHollyoke.org
 Instagram:
 stpaulsepiscopalchurch_holyoke
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 Tuesday - Friday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 Days and Hours of Services:
 Sunday: 8 a.m.
 Sunday: 10 a.m.
 Sunday: 5 p.m. (Spanish)



Holyoke High School Madrigal Choir performing.



The Holyoke Caledonian Pipe Band in attendance.



Mayor Joshua A. Garcia watches on as the ceremony is set to kick off.



City Clerk Brenna Murphy Leary swears in the new city council.

Turley Photos by Brendan Rooney

SWORN, from page 1

al receivership, inconsistent and selective enforcement, and systemic inequity," Garcia stated. "As we prepare to begin this next term, I am mindful of how our local landscape has a little of everything across the spectrum: including people who have lost hope and people who restore hope; visionaries, people who stubbornly love this city, and we have doubters; we also have dividers, and we have uniters." Garcia then acknowledged that despite the challenges presented, he feels optimistic that the city is heading towards a shift in perception, and one that he feels the public appreciates, as he cites the

recent November elections and record voter turnout displayed.

"Now, some say that the results of the recent elections indicate Holyokers are going in a different direction. I would argue differently and tell you that is not true," Garcia stated. "We're going in the same direction, just with fewer obstacles, and I commend each of you on this stage for your commitment to this city and also for the resiliency you showed in order to be here today."

Garcia lays out his agenda

He then unveiled a small sample of what this new chapter will possess by offering insight into continuing to tackle housing needs, strengthening code enforcement, protecting

tenants, responding to community concerns with public safety, while addressing the improvement of quality of life within its community response team, by implementing the Municipal Modernization Act.

"We're going to continue to leverage our economic development opportunities and promote our assets that make our city competitive in the Commonwealth," Garcia said. "And we're looking forward to new initiatives - zoning and special permitting reforms specifically designed to facilitate responsible and sensible development, eliminating inefficiencies that have contributed to Holyoke being recognized as not business-friendly.

Garcia then contin-

ued his speech by highlighting the necessity to improve student outcomes and focus on student attendance while also expressing ample support towards the educators and staff, amid ongoing contract negotiations with HTA (Holyoke Teachers Association), while also floating the possibility of building a new middle school.

"We also look forward to possibly building another middle school, and let it be known we are going to do this together, as neighbors, no matter where you fall in the social spectrum," he said. Garcia then shifted

gears to shed light on the inclusion and appointment of Eric Nakajima, who officially started on Monday. Nakajima recently accepted the role of Director of the Office of Planning and Economic Development for the city, from Aaron Vega, who announced his departure last year and is now CEO of the Western Massachusetts Economic Development Council, according to Garcia.

After the inauguration ceremony drew to a close, it was noted that the recently sworn-in councilors gathered in the City Council chambers to elect a president and vice president, where Garcia



Holyoke City Clerk Brenna Murphy Leary is sworn in by Hon. Judge Teresa F. Lamarre for her fourth term.

Artist McQuillan to guest at next ACAA meeting

AGAWAM - Whether he's building Rat Rods, crazy trailers or sculpting fascinating people or creatures, Brian McQuillan is always creating exciting works of metal art designed to captivate your imagination, and command your attention.



Brian McQuillan

McQuillan's magic is created in part, by the huge amounts of nuts, bolts, antique toys, tools, automotive, and motorcycle parts that are always included in his art. Wherever his work is exhibited there is always a group of people gathered around challenging themselves to identify the fantastic amounts of objects con-

tained in his art.

Brian's work will be on display, and he will be doing a demonstration, on Wednesday, Jan. 14, at the Agawam Community

Artists and Artisans monthly meeting. The meeting will be held at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, beginning at 6 p.m. The meeting is open to the pub-



lic and free of charge. Brian is a member of the Scantic River Artisans and a member of the Monson Arts

Council. He and his wife Marie make their home in Hampden, MA.

McQuillan's sculptures can at time be fascinating, curious, humorous, and thought-provoking, but they are always entertaining.

"As an artist, my interests are all over the place. My subjects are also very diversified," he said.

"Often, I'm captivated by a pose or an attitude, something in the way a subject presents itself. I try to find the soul of a subject or create a soul. By using facial expressions or movement, I find that every human subject or animal or insect that I portray can be brought to life this way and by doing so create a reaction from the viewer."

For further information please contact Ceil Rossi (413)-207-1247 or email tocarefree2@hotmail.com.

IRISH INNOVATION



The Cassin Academy Step Dancers perform.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

INPUT, from page 1

stairs and stone pillars at City Hall

On Jan. 21 presentations will be given by:

- Neighbor2Neighbor for infrastructure improvements to the community gardens on Dwight St.
- City of Holyoke to continue the restoration of Scott's Tower
- City of Holyoke to make improvements to Pouliot Pool
- City of Holyoke to upgrade the facilities at Bonin Field

A project spreadsheet with links to the full applications can be found here: Holyoke CPA Project Submissions FY26. For a zoom link, please go to the City's calendar page on their website holyoke.org/calendar available Jan. 9, or contact Naomi Klayman, CPA Administrator at klaymann@holyoke.org.

Created by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 2000 and adopted by the City of Holyoke in 2017, the purpose of the CPA is to support Historic Preservation, Recreation, Open Space and

Community Housing within Holyoke. The Holyoke CPA has funded a variety of popular projects throughout the City including the Miracle League Playground, restoration of Lady Liberty at Veterans Park, the ongoing upgrades to Scotts Tower and surrounding park and many others.

Since adoption, the Holyoke CPC has disbursed over \$4.5 million dollars to preserve Holyoke's character and improve quality of life for its residents. Please visit our website at www.holyoke-cpac.org for more information.



Free Fly Tying Classes

Sponsored by the Western Mass Fly Fishermen starting January 8th, 2026.

Held at the Ludlow Elks Lodge, 69 Chapin Street, Ludlow Mass. Thursday nights for 8 weeks from 7PM to 9PM.

The classes are open to the public with children 10 years and up being accompanied by an adult. Classes are geared to the beginner or novice. Course materials and tools will be supplied!

Please register online at <http://wmffclub.org> or Contact John Lawor at 413-579-1994.

Space is limited and on a first come basis!

SPORTS

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Boys suffer loss at Comp

CHICOPEE – Last Monday evening, Chicopee Comprehensive boys basketball hosted Holyoke for a league matchup and remained undefeated with a 76-48 win. Brody Fay led the team with 20 points and Jacoby Haney had 15 points. Xavier Kleps added 13 points for the Colts. Michael Medina would score 13 to lead the Knights, who are just 1-4 to start the season.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Michael Medina flies toward the hoop.

Knights fall on the road

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke High School girls basketball team struggled early and would fall on the road at East Longmeadow High School 48-34. The Knights would manage just a pair of baskets in the opening from and trailed by seven early on. Despite a better second quarter, they trailed by 11 at halftime. East Longmeadow was able to maintain its double-digit lead throughout the second half and Holyoke could not overcome the early deficit.

The bright side for the Knights was a 25-point performance from Juliana Pirela. She had four treys as part of her performance.

The Knights are just 1-3 on the season. They have dealt with a couple of postponed games during the holiday weeks and have many more games to go in the regular season. Holyoke is back in action on Friday, Jan. 9 hosting West Springfield High School at 7 p.m.



Gian Cora focuses on the hoop as he shoots from close range.



Julian Fasoli fakes one way to try and get around a defender.



Jose Millan tries to avoid having the ball stolen.

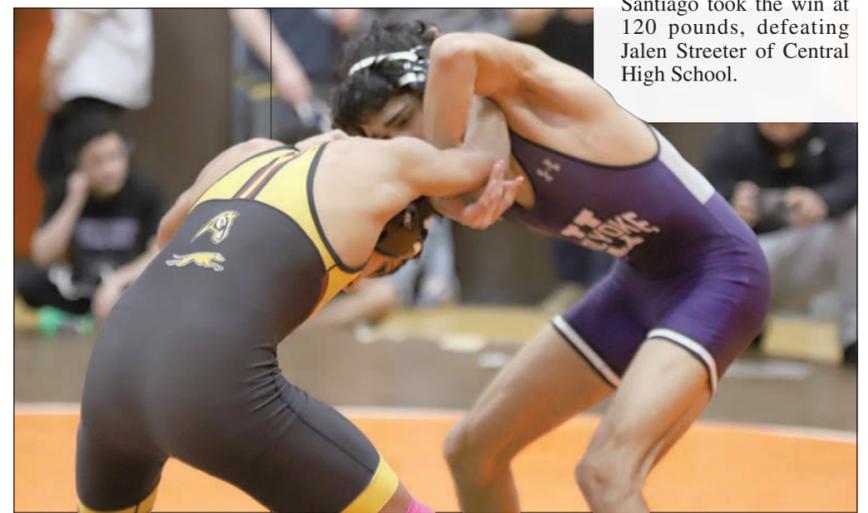
HHS places eighth at Tomkiel

AGAWAM – Last Monday, the Holyoke High School wrestling team finished eighth overall with 92.5 points in the Phil Tomkiel Holiday Tournament hosted by Agawam High School. The Knights had just a single champion in the meet. Steven Santiago took the win at 120 pounds, defeating Jalen Streeter of Central High School.



Josiah Cedeno locks up in a 106-pound match.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Jan Luis Rivie Cartagena wrestles in the consolation round.



Steven Santiago goes for the takedown.



In a 126-pound match, Jan Jarell Rivie Cartagena takes on a Ludlow grappler.

Providence Bruins snap Thunderbirds winning streak

PROVIDENCE, R.I. - The Springfield Thunderbirds (12-13-4-2) suffered another gut-wrenching defeat late in regulation, 3-1, against the Providence Bruins (23-6-1-0) on Sunday inside Amica Mutual Pavilion.

Springfield's power play got two early reps in the first four minutes of play, and the man advantage capital-

ized as Matt Luff unleashed his team-leading 11th of the season at 4:32 of the period, making it a 1-0 game off set-ups from Dillon Dube and Samuel Johansson.

The Bruins had a wonderful shift following Luff's goal that nearly tied the score, highlighted by a Victor Soderstrom point shot that rang the post behind Vadim

Zherenko.

Eventually, Providence would get even as they also struck on their second power play of the period, as Dans Locmelis beat Zherenko from the left circle at 13:35 after a Fabian Lysell one-time attempt careened right to the waiting rookie winger.

The Bruins' defense suffocated the T-Birds' attack

in the middle period, keeping the visitors to only two shots on net, but Zherenko was tremendous in his own right, denying all 10 Providence shots in the period. Among Zherenko's best pieces of work was a clutch stop on a low-slot tester from Locmelis.

The 1-1 stalemate carried all the way into the

game's dying minutes, but for the second time in three meetings in Providence, the Bruins found a way to break the tie late in regulation when Frederic Brunet uncorked a slapper that eluded Zherenko with just 1:11 remaining.

The T-Birds offense, which managed only 17 shots all night and just seven after the first period, could not get

an equalizing response, and Riley Tufte polished off the night with an empty-netter just 13 seconds after Brunet's game-winning goal.

With their win streak snapped, the T-Birds were on the road on Wednesday, looking to start a new one as they visited the Utica Comets for a tussle at Adirondack Bank Center.

Monadnock reflects on great 2025 season

Monadnock Speedway competitors and race teams gathered this past Saturday, Dec. 13 at Best Western in Keene, New Hampshire, to celebrate the achievements of the 2025 racing season. The annual awards banquet served as a night of recognition, appreciation, and reflection on a competitive and memorable year at the speedway, while also setting the tone for the upcoming 2026 season.

Champions from each division were on hand to collect their well-earned hardware, highlighting the dedication, hard work, and perseverance required throughout the season. The evening underscored not only championship success, but also the sportsmanship and camaraderie that define Monadnock Speedway.

The All-States Material Group 604 Modified Championship was claimed by Brian Robie, who also earned the Teddy Bear Pools and Spas Triple Crown Championship Award. Robie addressed the crowd following his presentation, sharing his plans for the future. While he intends to compete in select events during the 2026 season, he emphasized his commitment to helping younger drivers in the division grow, learn, and achieve their racing goals.

Dylan Zullo, champion of the Twin State Truck Service Super Streets, also collected his championship hardware along with the Teddy Bear Pools and Spas Triple Crown Championship Award. In his remarks, Zullo noted that he plans to continue racing in certain events, while also exploring a new direction for 2026, leaving fans eager to see what changes may be ahead.

The Fabian Fuels Mini Stock Championship went to Jon Fultz, who stepped forward to accept his championship award along with the Teddy Bear Pools and Spas Triple Crown Award. Fultz took time to thank everyone who supported his championship run, including his crew, family, sponsors, and fellow competitors, acknowledging the teamwork behind his successful season.

In the Brattleboro Towing and Recovery Pure Stock Division, Kyle Kenny was honored as the 2025 champion. Kenny enthusiastically addressed the crowd while accepting his awards, revealing that he plans to move into a new division for the 2026 season at Monadnock Speedway, though he did not disclose specific details.

Also recognized was the champion of the Six Shooter

Mini Series, Travis Hollins.

Carlos Grenier was in attendance to receive the Teddy Bear Pools and Spas Pure Stock Triple Crown Series Champion.

The Doug's Auto Body Young Gun Division was recognized collectively for its hard work and dedication throughout the 2025 race season. Several individual awards were also presented, with Ella Grabowski earning the Sportsmanship Award, Hunter Duquette recognized for Most Wins, Maya Bell receiving the Best Appearing Award, and Sofia Rego honored with the Hard Luck Award.

Special awards were presented across the weekly divisions as well. In the 604 Modified Division, Tyler Leary was awarded Best Appearing, while Tyler Leclerc received the Sportsmanship Award. The Super Streets Division saw J.D. Stockwell earn Best Appearing, with Eric Smith taking home Sportsmanship honors. In the Mini Stock Division, Kevin Clayton received Best Appearing, and Chris Fultz was awarded Sportsmanship. Rounding out the awards, the Pure Stock Division honored Addison Brooks with Best Appearing, while Michaela Krafve received the Sportsmanship Award.

Railers lose as comeback fall short

WHEELING, WV — The Worcester Railers HC (13-12-1-1) fell to the Wheeling Nailers (21-7-1-0) on Friday, Jan. 2 by the final score of 3-2, in front of a crowd of 1,972 at WesBanco Arena. The Railers will take on the Nailers next on Friday, January 30th. Puck drops at 7:05 p.m.

Wheeling scored the first goal on the night from Logan Pietila (2-0-2) who scored for the Nailers to bring the score up 1-0. Worcester evened the score with a goal from Cole Donhauser (1-0-1). Wheeling quickly put themselves back on top of the board with their second goal 89 seconds later off another shot from Logan Pietila (2-0-2). Another goal from the Nailers broadened their lead 3-1 on a power play goal from Randy Hernandez (1-0-1). Lincoln Hatten (1-0-1) brought the game back down to a one-goal lead for the Nailers as goaltender Tristan Lennox was pulled on a Railers' power play. Hatten's goal gave the game its final score of 3-2.

The first period was a back-and-forth battle for the puck. Both Wheeling and Worcester came out fighting with an offensive approach, the former of which managed to outshoot the latter

by a five-shot margin of 12-7. Worcester faced one too many men penalty and one delay of game penalty. Both penalties were successfully fought off by the Railers, which left Wheeling still in search of their first point of the night to close the first. Worcester also faced a first-period shutout from Wheeling net-minder Taylor Gauthier.

Wheeling quickly broke the tie as Nailers' center Logan Pietila tipped the puck over the shoulder of Railers' goaltender Tristan Lennox just 25 seconds into the second period. Worcester worked to even the score on their first power play opportunity of the night, a hooking call on Bogdans Hodass. The 5-on-4 play led Cole Donhauser to tip a shot from Michael Suda past Gauthier to tie the game one-all. The Nailers did not keep the tie on the board for long. Pietila grabbed another goal to bring the new score up to 2-1 Nailers. The Nailers and Railers came to blows to close the second as Tanner Schachle took a seat in the box alongside Nailers' captain Matt Quercia after an encounter on the ice. Anthony Hora and Max Dorrington were both sent to the lock-

er room for individual misconducts. The horn signaled the end of the second as Adam Samuelsson battled off Connor Lockhart. Samuelsson skated away with a two-minute roughing minor to open the third period. Shots to close the period were 21-24 in favor of Wheeling. Total penalties for the period were 7 for Wheeling and 5 for Worcester.

Worcester opened the third period down a man from Samuelsson's penalty that carried over from the close of the second. With Worcester shorthanded, Wheeling capitalized on the power play with a goal from Randy Hernandez for the 3-1 Nailers lead. Worcester would see three more power-play chances in the third, none of which would be fulfilled with a goal. Down by two with five minutes to go and the net empty, Lincoln Hatten narrowed the gap back down to a one-goal affair on the power-play. Despite the comeback effort from the Railers, Wheeling skated away with the 3-2 victory. Final shots for Worcester were 32 to Wheeling's 33. The Railers closed the game with seven penalties, while the Nailers led the night with 10 infractions for themselves.

Public Notices

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No.
HD24P2120GD
In the interests of:
Aiyanna K. Carter
of Indian Orchard, 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 Department of Children and Families of Springfield, MA in the above named 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 hearing. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must

file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **01/09/2026**. 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 must be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

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

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

Date: December 09, 2025
Rosemary Saccomani
Register of Probate
01/09/2026

Notice of Public Hearing
The DGR Committee of the Holyoke City Council will hold a public hearing to hear a Special permit for a driveway in a front yard application of Cindy Ely to add a driveway/parking pad at 17 Myrtle Ave (112-00-100) per sec 6.1.8.1. Hearing will take place on **Monday, January 26, 2026 at 6:30 pm** at Holyoke City Hall 536 Dwight St and can be accessed remotely via www.zoom.us Meeting ID 889 3042 4947 Meeting Passcode 652755 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 with same Meeting ID and Passcode. For a copy of the application or to provide comments, please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org or by phone 413-322-5525.
DGR Chair Israel Rivera
01/09, 01/16/2026

**City of Holyoke
Office of Purchasing
Invitation to Bid
IFB 2026-19SD Kelly School**
The City of Holyoke, 536 Dwight St, Holyoke, MA 01040, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids for IFB 2026-19SD the **Kelly Elementary Building Updates Project** located at 216 West St, Holyoke, MA 01040. The work is estimated to cost \$6,650,000. Construction Sched-

ule anticipated to start June 22, 2026, and substantially completed by September 1, 2026. Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §§26 to 27H inclusive.

Filed sub trades must be certified by DCAMM in the categories of ROOFING, DOORS AND WINDOWS, PAINTING, FLOORING, MISC METALS, ELEVATOR, PLUMBING, HVAC and ELECTRIC. All Bidders must include a current DCAMM Certificate of Eligibility and a signed DCAMM Update Statement. Filed Sub Bids will be received until January 23, 2026, at 2:00 PM and publicly opened, forthwith online. Prime Contractors must be certified by DCAMM in the category General Building Construction. Bidders must include a current DCAM Certificate of Eligibility and a signed DCAM Update Statement.

General Bids will be received until January 30, 2026, at 2:00 PM and publicly opened, forthwith online. **Only pre-qualified General Bidders may submit bids.** General bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (considering all alternates), and made payable to the City of

Holyoke. Bid Forms and Contract Documents are available electronically at www.biddocs.com (**BDO# B25-HQ8P**) or in person at Nashoba Blue, Inc. at 433 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749 (978-568-1167). Questions due by January 15, 2026, at 2:00 PM. The city reserves the right to reject any and all bids if in the city's best interest.
01/09/2026, 01/16/2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No.
HD25P0789EA
Estate of:
Alfred J. Holubecki
Date of Death: March 09, 2025
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Lisa Knowles of Springfield, MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Lisa Knowles of Springfield, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative

under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
01/09/2026

The Holyoke Sun
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

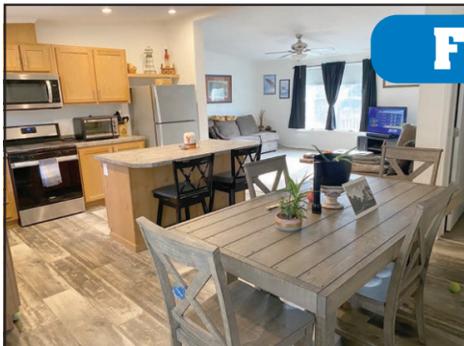
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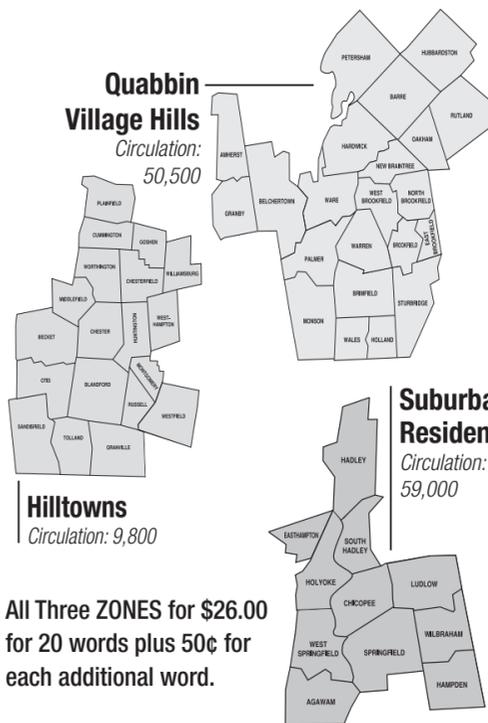
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| 21 | Base Price \$26.50 | Base Price \$27.00 | Base Price \$26.50 |
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COLLEEN PAGEANT SEASON UNDERWAY



The 2026 Grand Colleen contestants all on stage.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



St. Patrick's Committee Chairman President Jim Wildman delivers an address.



Past Grand Colleens and their courts gather on stage to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the pageant.

COLLEENS, from page 1

Congeniality. Additionally, many former Grand Colleens, Colleen Court and Miss Congeniality members were recognized as part of the celebration of the 70th Grand Colleen Pageant.

With the scores tabulated, the five finalists are:

- Paige Brady Leahy**, 19 (Holyoke)
- Jadyn Christie**, 19 (South Hadley)
- Bridie Bowler**, 22 (Holyoke)
- Anna Mary Evans**, 22 (Holyoke)
- Olivia Rose Royland**, 20 (Holyoke)

The Bonnie Baker Award for Ms. Congeniality was also announced, and who was chosen by the con-

testants as the young woman who was the most helpful, kind, and personable. The 2026 Ms. Congeniality is **Amanda Royland**, 17 (Holyoke).

The Grand Colleen will be selected at the 70th Coronation Ball and Awards Night on Saturday, Feb. 14 at the Log Cabin in Holyoke. For more details or to purchase tickets, please visit: <https://holyokestpatricksparade.com/events/2025-grand-colleen-coronation-ball-ratrn>

The Colleen Pageant is part of Holyoke's larger St. Patrick's season, which concludes with the 49th Holyoke St. Patrick's Road Race on Saturday, March 21, 2026, followed by the 73rd Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade on Sunday, March 22, 2026.



The Caledonian Pipe Band has its annual performance at the pageant.



Kelsey Lecca presents at the pageant.



Moiria Reardon, 2025 Grand Colleen, delivers remarks to the 2026 contestants.



The 2025 Grand Colleen Moiria Reardon and her Court- Erin Gauthier, Abigail Huebner, Maura Joseph.



Amanda Royland was named Miss Congeniality.



Grand Colleen finalist Anna Evans.



Grand Colleen finalist Birdie Bowler.



Grand Colleen finalist Jayden Christie.



Grand Colleen finalist Paige Leahy.



Grand Colleen finalist Olivia Royland.