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Schools looking to make upgrades

By Gregory A. Scibelli
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HOLYOKE – With Peck Middle School in a new building and addressed, the Holyoke Public Schools are turning their attention to roof repairs at multiple schools totaling more than \$13 million.

The school district will apply for funding from the Massachusetts School Building Authority for some of the funding. Like other school districts, funding could be achieved through the MSBA's accelerated repair program. It could help

The city is looking at least \$5.1 million total to complete a roof replacement at Elmer J. McMahon Elementary School. According to the scope of the project, it would replace 35,000 square feet of roofing at the school.

Mayor Joshua Garcia also informed the city council he is looking to submit a Statement of Interest to the MSBA for a full building project at H.B. Lawrence School.

Garcia recommended to both the school committee and city council in a letter last week that the school district should submit the SOI by the due date for 2026 for April 17. Garcia further recommended the site become a middle school for approximately 400 students.

According to Garcia's letter the recommendation for a new building is because:

- The original goal was to have a new middle school

See **SCHOOLS**, page 6

MORIARTY RECOGNIZED AT DINNER



Submitted photos
Last Friday night, the Marshal's Dinner was held at the Log Cabin recognizing this year's St. Patrick's Day Parade Marshal, Michael Moriarty. Moriarty received a plaque along with a caricature. The parade season is fully underway now with many more events to come, including the coronation of the Grand Colleen set to take place next month.

Rivera removed from Committee

With the release of body cam footage, there are more calls for the councilor's resignation

By Gregory A. Scibelli
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HOLYOKE – Amidst calls for his resignation and further criticisms of his action, one consequence has been handed down in the case of At-Large Councilor Israel Rivera, who has been embroiled in controversy since being arrested for operating under the influence of alcohol in December.

It was confirmed this week Rivera has been removed from the Public Safety Committee.

Rivera, who had just been re-elected to the Holyoke City Council in November, was also elected by the council as its first vice president despite the continuing criticisms coming from the Holyoke Police Department's unions and their representation.

Also, during the past week, 20 minutes of body-worn camera footage of the Rivera arrest was released publicly.

During the released footage, Lt. Andrew DiNapoli said you can audibly hear Rivera using the "N-word" 19 times in 20 minutes, he says. DiNapoli represents the supervisor's union for the police department.

Both unions have asked the solicitor's office to render an opinion as to the ethics of Rivera voting on police-re-

lated matters in his capacity as a city councilor. Footage of Rivera's arrest shows him threatening to cut the police department's budget and disparaging the police department saying "they don't (expletive) work."

When initial reports of Rivera's arrest came out, the unions called for the legal opinion. Following release of the body cam footage, DiNapoli and others are now simply calling for Rivera's resignation from the city council.



Israel Rivera

DiNapoli said he was particularly disturbed by Rivera's use of language during the arrest.

Earlier this week, Council President Tessa Murphy-Romboletti, who is now in her second term as the city council president, confirmed Rivera's removal from the Public Safety Committee, a sub-committee of the city council which hears and makes recommendations on police related matters, orders, and requests.

Murphy-Romboletti, as council president, makes the committee assignments, giving her the ability to remove Rivera. She said in a statement she would act in a manner that is in accordance with the law.

The laws and ordinance, however, in Holyoke, significantly limit what can be done to sitting elected officials. There is also currently no recall process for elected officials in the city.

As of this week, the law department has yet to weigh in on whether Rivera's ability to vote on police matters

See **RIVERA**, page 6

Nine candidates up for superintendent job

By Gregory A. Scibelli
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HOLYOKE – The School Committee has selected 12 community members to serve on the Superintendent Search Screening Committee, tasked with reviewing applications and holding preliminary, confidential screening interviews in order to recommend finalist candidates to be interviewed by the full School Committee.

In all, nine applications were received as of the Dec. 23 deadline, said Massachusetts Association of School Committees Executive Director Glenn Koocher, who is leading the search process for the next superintendent for Holyoke Public Schools.

The screening committee will meet for five evening sessions in January so they can:

- Review all submitted application materials and determine which candidates

should be offered semi-finalist interviews;

- Develop interview questions and then conduct interviews with their preferred candidates; and

- Recommend finalist candidates to the full School Committee for their consideration and further interviews and site visits.

"We very much appreciate everyone who offered to serve on the screening committee..."

- Dr. Yadiette Rivera-Colón

Members of the screening committee are expected to provide their recommendations to the full School Committee during their meeting scheduled for Monday, Jan. 26.

Under the search timeline outlined by Mr. Koocher, School Committee members are expected to select a new superintendent later this winter, with the new superintendent expected to begin work effective July 1.

"We very much appreciate everyone who offered to serve on the screening committee, and we were very heartened to see a

See **NINE**, page 6

HMC to offer diabetes education, support group

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Medical Center will host an ongoing bilingual Diabetes Education and Support Group for community members with diabetes. Diabetes education will be provided at each meeting with a Certified Diabetes Care and Education Specialist or member of the HMC

Endocrinology & Diabetes Center team. The group will meet every Wednesday from 9am – 11am in the Holyoke Medical Center Medical Office Building Conference Room located at 11 Hospital Drive, 3rd Floor, in Holyoke.

"Being educated and having a better understand-

ing of diabetes enables people to be more successful in controlling or even reversing the progression of their disease. Support group members will be able to discuss struggles and solutions they have found while managing their diabetes with others going through similar experiences," said Corina Valvo,

RN, BSN, CDCES, Diabetes Program Coordinator for HMC Endocrinology & Diabetes Center.

For more information or questions regarding the Diabetes Education and Support Group, please contact the HMC Endocrinology & Diabetes Center at 413.534.2820.

MIDDLE SCHOOLERS PREPARE FOR NEXT STEP



Submitted photo
HPS eighth graders from Sullivan and Peck middle schools recently toured Holyoke High School's North and Dean campuses to learn more about the academic and extracurricular opportunities available to them at each school. There was a lot of information for students to take in as they explored the schools' physical spaces and had conversations with high school staff and students. Soon they will need to decide if they want to apply for admission to Dean Tech or attend HHS North. Both campuses offer high-interest pathways for students.

COLLEGE NOTES

Molly O'Donnell named to University of Hartford's fall 2025 Dean's List

WEST HARTFORD, CT – The University of Hartford is pleased to announce that **Molly O'Donnell** of Holyoke has been named to the University of Hartford's Dean's List for the fall 2025 semester.

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

The President's List recognizes a select group of students reaching the highest level of academic standing. To be placed on the President's List, students must maintain a GPA of at least a 3.75 and receive grades of C or better.

Congratulations to all our students on their hard work and academic success.

Springfield College announced local students recognized on Dean's List

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield College Recognizes Dean's List Students for the 2025 Fall Semester.

Springfield College has named **Christian Claudio** from Holyoke, MA to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2025 fall semester. Claudio has a primary major of Art & Design.

Springfield College has named **Nicholas Consedine** from Holyoke, MA to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2025 fall semester. Consedine has a primary major of Psychology.

Springfield College has named **Martin Loughrey** from Holyoke, MA to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2025 fall semester. Loughrey has a primary major of Health Science / Pre-PT.

Springfield College has named **Peter McMahon** from Holyoke, MA to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2025 fall semester. McMahon has a primary major of Psychology.

Springfield College has named **Elijah Quinn** from Holyoke, MA to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2025 fall semester. Quinn has a primary major of Sport Management.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER



HCC students Nataly Gonzalez, Erykka Rocha of Holyoke, and Julius Dixon celebrate their scholarship awards last May at the HCC Foundation's annual scholarship and donor reception. *Submitted photo*

HCC scholarship season open for 2026-2027

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Community College Foundation is now accepting scholarship applications for the 2026-2027 academic year.

The application deadline is Friday, March 13, 2026.

Last year, the HCC Foundation awarded 410 scholarships worth about \$364,000 to 379 incoming, current, and transferring HCC students. Some students received multiple scholarship awards. The average scholarship award is typically around \$900.

"The scholarship program is the flagship initiative of the HCC Foundation, and it reflects the incredible generosity of our donor community," said Amanda Sbriscia, vice president of

Institutional Advancement and executive director of the HCC Foundation. "Every scholarship tells two stories – one of a donor who believes in the power of education, and one of a student whose path forward is made possible by that belief."

Students must be currently enrolled at HCC or have been accepted for the upcoming academic year to be eligible for scholarships.

Applicants only need to fill out a single online form to be automatically matched with the scholarships they are most qualified to receive. There are scholarships for new students, current students and students transferring to other institutions, scholarships based on financial need, scholarships for

students in specific majors, scholarships for residents of certain communities, and scholarships that recognize academic achievement.

"Last year's 410 scholarship awards represent 410 opportunities for students to focus on their studies rather than financial stress," said Sbriscia. "We're proud to continue this tradition of supporting HCC students as they work toward their goals."

To view scholarship opportunities and begin the application process, please go to: www.hcc.edu/scholarships.

The HCC Scholarship Resource Center, on the first floor of the Donahue Building (Room 158), is open Monday through

Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., to help current and incoming students navigate the process of applying for scholarships.

The HCC Foundation is a 501(c)(3) that works to advance the college's mission, vision, and values. Founded in 1968 as the Friends of Holyoke Community College, in response to a devastating fire that forced the college to rebuild on a new campus, the Foundation now manages assets of more than \$20 million, the largest community college foundation endowment in Massachusetts.

Questions should be directed to the HCC Foundation office at 413-552-2182, or by email to scholarships@hcc.edu.

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Annual report released by Holyoke Mall

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Mall today released its 2025 Community Report that highlights the results of the Center’s collaboration with Western Massachusetts non-profit community organizations over the past year. The Community Report is now available at Holyoke Mall Community Impact Report 2025. In 2025, Holyoke Mall hosted over 150 non-profit events and partnered with many different local organizations that utilized the Center for fundraising, awareness campaigns, and other events. In December of 2025,

Holyoke Mall was honored to receive the Melha Shriners Commitment to the Community Service Award, recognizing our strong partnership and dedication to community engagement, helping the Shriners connect with hundreds of supporters and raise substantial funds for outreach and philanthropic initiatives. “Community part-

nership has always been a core part of who we are,” said Kristen Hinckley, Marketing Director at Holyoke Mall. “We are proud to work alongside so many dedicated non-profit organizations and are grateful for the opportunity to support the important work they do throughout our community.” Holyoke Mall is pleased

“Community partnership has always been a core part of who we are,”

- Kristen Hinckley
Marketing Director
at Holyoke Mall

to work with non-profit organizations seeking opportunities for tabling, fundraising and awareness campaigns, or larger-scale events in the common area. The Center remains committed to being a valuable resource for the Western Mass community. Holyoke Mall event space and community rooms are free for non-profit use. Groups are asked to fill out and submit the required paperwork to be granted access. For more information, please visit <https://www.holyokemall.com/community/>.

Irish Night 2026 set for Feb. 28

HOLYOKE – The Hibernians of Hampden/Hampshire Counties and Ladies Order invite the public to attend Irish Night in Holyoke 2026 on Feb. 28 at the Log Cabin 500 Easthampton Rd. Holyoke, Mass. Doors open at 5 p.m. and dinner is at 6:30 p.m. The night will feature the Keohane and Kenneally Irish-American band and a corned beef and cabbage dinner with ribs. The price is \$50 per person and valet parking services will be

available. For reservations by Feb. 24 call Joe O’Connor at 413-627-7148, or Fran Hennessey at 413-785-5687 or online at eventbrite.com. Additional entertainment by the Cassin School of Irish Dance and Piper Matt O’Connor. The night is in memory of Hibernian Daniel P. Curran and will benefit the Maurice A. Donahue Memorial Scholarship. The Hibernians wish a Happy St. Patrick’s Day to all.

Sarah the Fiddler to perform

HOLYOKE – Day Brook Village Senior Living, a locally owned, not-for-profit Continuing Care Retirement Community located in Holyoke will be hosting a concert featuring Sarah the Fiddler on Thursday, Jan. 29 at 2 p.m. in the Sheldon Dining Room. This performance is free and open to the public. An RSVP is required; kindly call 413-561-7958.

Women empowerment brunch returns March 1 at Wyckoff

HOLYOKE – At a time when women are balancing rising economic pressure, caregiving responsibilities, and increasing burnout, The Becoming Initiative is bringing women together for something many say they rarely experience. A moment to pause, reconnect, and be supported. On Sunday, March 1, The Becoming Initiative will host the She Decides Women’s Empowerment Brunch at Wyckoff Country Club in Holyoke. The event is expected to serve more than 200 women from across Western Massachusetts and will launch a yearlong series of empow-

erment and personal development programming. She Decides was created in response to what organizers describe as a growing need for spaces that support women beyond the workplace. Many women are leading families, contributing to the workforce, and holding communities together while quietly carrying emotional, financial, and personal burdens. The brunch creates a space where women can be seen, supported, and reminded of their value. Last year’s event sold out within two weeks. Attendees shared stories of renewed confidence, meaningful connection, and a sense of clar-

ity they had been missing. The response revealed a clear demand for continued programming focused on growth, leadership, and wellness. This year’s event will serve as a cornerstone fundraiser for The Becoming Initiative, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing skill-based training, personal development, and transformational experiences for individuals at all stages of life. Funds raised will directly support workshops, community gatherings, and leadership focused initiatives throughout the year. Women attending the brunch will participate in guided conversation, storytell-

ing, and moments of reflection designed to encourage personal growth and connection. Organizers say the goal is not just inspiration, but impact that extends long after the event ends. “We created She Decides because women are constantly giving to everyone else and rarely have space to be poured into,” said Nicole Polite, Founder and Executive Director of The Becoming Initiative. “This brunch is a reminder that women matter, their stories matter, and when women are supported, entire communities are strengthened.” The Becoming Initiative

is currently seeking community partners, sponsors, and supporters who want to invest in women and help expand access to these experiences. Sponsorships help offset the cost for women who may not otherwise be able to attend and ensure the organization can continue its programming throughout the year. Tickets and sponsorship opportunities are now available. For more information about the She Decides Women’s Empowerment Brunch or partnership opportunities, visit: <https://www.thebecominginitiative.org/events>.

CPA Committee 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 gran-

ite 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.holyokeCPAC.org for more information.

Print shop to offer free art workshops

HOLYOKE – The Print Shop Makerspace in downtown Holyoke invites families, creatives, and curious community members of all ages to explore hands-on art and design through First Saturdays at the Print Shop, a free monthly workshop series running February through May 2026. Held on the first Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Print Shop Makerspace, 62 Main Street, the series offers welcoming, drop-in workshops that introduce participants to the tools, technology, and creative possibilities of a working print shop and classroom space. No prior experience is required, and all materials are provided while supplies last. Each First Saturday features a different make-and-take activity designed

to spark curiosity and build creative confidence. Winter-Spring workshops include Valentine’s card making, custom sticker printing, wearable art using heat transfer vinyl, and a special Print Day in May Open House on May 2, part of an international celebration of printmaking and creative production. “First Saturdays are about opening the doors and lowering the barrier,” said Jeff Bianchine, manager of the Print Shop Makerspace. “We want people to feel comfortable exploring professional tools, asking questions, and discovering that this space is for them—whether they’re kids, artists, families, or first-time visitors.” The May 2 Print Day in May Open House will feature expanded activities and demonstrations, invit-

ing the public to circulate through the space, try multiple creative processes, and celebrate Holyoke’s long history as the Paper City while connecting to a global printmaking movement. The Print Shop Makerspace is a project of Holyoke Art, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting artists, creative entrepreneurs, and cultural programming in Holyoke. Holyoke Art operates community-focused spaces and events that strengthen access to the arts, support local creatives, and contribute to the city’s cultural and economic vitality. First Saturdays at the Print Shop are made possible in part by a grant from the Holyoke Local Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

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Guest Column

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor



I'm divorced; can I get benefits from my ex-husband?

Dear Rusty:

After 16 years of marriage, we were divorced. I have never remarried, but he has. When he starts collecting Social Security (he is 64 now and still working), is it true that I can claim ex-spousal benefits or does that go to the current wife? How would I find this info?

Signed:
A Divorced Spouse

Dear Divorced Spouse:

The fact that your ex-husband has remarried has no influence on your ability to collect benefits based on his record. If you are eligible for ex-spouse benefits (because you did not remarry), you can get those benefits regardless of whether his current wife collects benefits on his record. In other words, both you and his current wife can both collect spousal benefits from your ex-husband's earnings record.

Your eligibility for an ex-spouse benefit is determined by comparing your own SS retirement benefit amount at full retirement age (FRA) to his – if your own SS benefit at your FRA is less than 50% of your ex's FRA benefit entitlement, and you were married to your ex for more than 10 years, are not currently married and are at least 62 years old, then you can get a "spousal boost" (an amount added to your own Social Security retirement amount). In fact, if you have been divorced for over two years, you can get an ex-spouse benefit even though he is not yet receiving his own SS retirement benefit.

Be aware, however, if you claim any Social Security benefit (both your own SS retirement amount and your ex-spouse "spousal boost") before you reach your full retirement age, the monthly amount you get will be reduced according to how much before your full retirement age you claim. Spouse and ex-spouse benefits reach maximum at your full retirement age but are reduced if claimed earlier than your full retirement age. Claiming your benefits as an ex-spouse will also result in you receiving your own SS retirement benefit (reduced if you haven't yet reached FRA).

I suggest you contact Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 to make a telephone appointment to evaluate whether you are entitled benefits as an ex-spouse. If your own SS retirement benefit at your FRA is less than half of your ex's FRA entitlement, you will be. To apply for those benefits you will need a copy of

your divorce decree (and perhaps your marriage certificate), and your ex-husband's Social Security number (if you do not have his SSN, you can provide his date and place of birth and his parents' names, and SSA will likely be able to locate your ex's SS record).

SSA will be able to tell you what your total monthly benefit as an ex-spouse will be when you meet with them, at which point you can decide whether to claim your benefits early or wait until your FRA to achieve your maximum amount as an ex-spouse.

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-advisor or email us at ssadvisory@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



Guest Column

Winter sowing is a fun experiment

“Winter sowing” always comes up as a hot topic on social media this time of year.

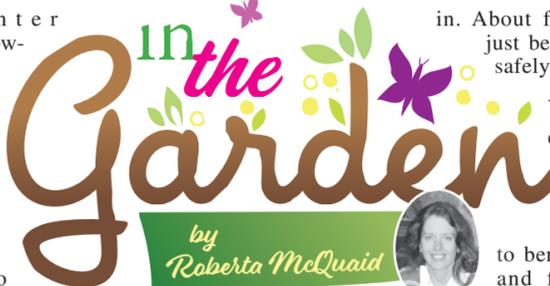
The basic premise of winter sowing is to plant your seeds in mini greenhouses (gallon jugs), place the jugs outside and simply let nature take over. The advantage being that no heat mats or lights are needed. No window sills full of seedlings, either.

While I don't think it is as simple as it sounds, I do think trying it would be a fun experiment.

Read on this week and next to consider some of the pros and possible cons of this seed starting technique.

Years ago I read a blog where a master gardener was encouraging folks to start native perennials in milk jugs outside. The seeds of many of these plants require a period of cold and moist stratification to break seed dormancy.

In simple terms, they need to go through winter in



by Roberta McQuaid

in. About four inches up, just below the handle, safely cut around the jug, leaving an inch or so on either side of the handle as a “hinge.”

You should be able to bend the top back and forth. Make a number of drainage holes in the bottom; three or four per quadrant.

There is a lot of advice out there on how to do that, from drilling holes, to twisting an exacto knife around and even using a hot tool to melt a hole in the plastic (really!). I generally like to make holes in reused plastic containers by banging a large nail through the bottom into a piece of scrap lumber placed underneath.

Once the drainage holes are made, fill the bottom of the jug with moist seed starting mix. With the soil in place, sow your seeds.

If the seeds are tiny or even relatively tiny, don't cover them with soil, simply space them out evenly on top

See XXXXXX, page ??

The flu is lurking – tips on how you can avoid it?



your health

By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN
Guest Column

I wouldn't go so far as to categorize the pandemic as the “good old days,” but during the 2020-2021 flu season, only 1,316 positive flu cases were reported in the U.S. Why? Because most of us were wearing masks and staying away from one another.

Now, there are far more cases of flu than COVID-19. Just from October to December 2025, there were nearly 5 million diagnosed cases of the flu and 1,900 flu-related deaths, and that's just in the U.S.

You may have heard that the 2025-2026 strain of flu doesn't really care whether or not you had a flu shot. That's not quite true, but it does seem that the so-called

“subclade K” variant is pretty good at evading whatever immunity you have, whether from a vaccine or from previous infections.

“This flu is just different than the strain that we saw last year,” Dr. Santina Wheat of Northwestern Medicine told CBS News. “It's similar, but we are seeing that it is moving faster.”

Recent holiday gatherings probably made it spread even faster. Illinois hasn't had the spikes that have been seen in New York, but doctors think the worst is yet to come.

Can you totally protect yourself and your family? Probably not. Can you reduce the risk of severe illness and hospitalization? Definitely.

These tips shouldn't

come as a surprise – most of them are just common sense.

1. Get vaccinated. Yes, it's already January. No, it's not too late to get a flu shot. While the optimum time to get a flu shot is October, the flu doesn't usually peak here until February. It takes a bit of time for the vaccine to reach its highest effectiveness, so getting a shot now will still provide protection.

Doctors emphasize that vaccination is not a surefire preventative. You may still get the flu, but you are more likely to avoid severe consequences if you have the vaccine on board.

2. Stay away. What do I mean by that? If you're sick, stay away from other people. Don't go to work, don't go to school, and get your groceries delivered. If people around you are coughing and feverish, avoid them like, well, the plague. If you know you've been exposed to the flu, get a flu test from your doctor so you can get started on an antiviral medication.

Masks fell into political disrepute during the pandemic, but there's a reason medical professionals wear them. They are a kind of physical barrier that prevents both droplets being spread to others and droplets being

breathed in. They're more effective when it's the infected person wearing them.

3. Become a champion hand-washer. The best hand-washing practices include wetting your hands with clean, running water, applying soap, and scrubbing all surfaces of your hands and fingers for at least 20 seconds. Make sure to rinse well and dry your hands with a clean towel or air dryer to effectively remove germs.

Paper towel and disposable hand towels are a good idea this time of year.

4. Pay attention to touch surfaces. When the flu is in your house, take special care to disinfect common touch surfaces, such as door-knobs and light switches, so it won't spread. Disinfectant sprays and wipes can be used, and if you want to avoid chemicals, warm soapy water is all it takes.

5. Remind everyone not to touch their faces. Observational studies have revealed that we touch our faces 15 to 23 times every hour while we're awake. The problem is that most of those touches are in the “T-zone,” encompassing our eyes, nose and mouth, where mucous

See HEALTH, page 5

the HOLYOKE Sun

TEAM



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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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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*.

Make Victorian Puzzle Purse at HPL

HOLYOKE – On Saturday, Feb. 7 from 12:30 to 2 p.m. at Holyoke Public Library, coming learn how to make a Victorian Puzzle Purse. In this free workshop, book arts specialist Kate Ouimette will guide participants as they make their first puzzle purse. Popular in the 18th and 19th centuries, paper puzzle purses reveal designs, and messages, and even gifts to their recipients as they are unfolded.

Once you learn the basics, there is no limit to how far you go. Materials will be provided. The program is for teens and adults and seats are limited. Please pre-register by calling the Holyoke History Room at (413) 420-8107.

Free HCC line-cook training program begins Jan. 26

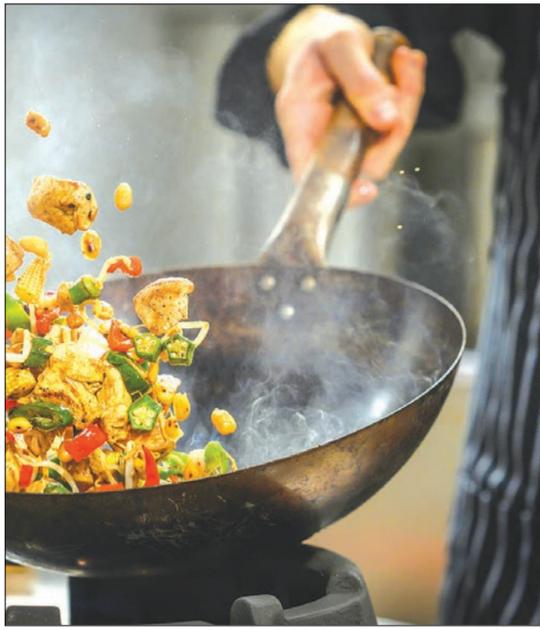
HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College will be running both daytime and evening editions of its free, line-cook training program at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute beginning Jan. 26.

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



Submitted photo
If you ever wanted to learn to be a line cook, free training is available at HCC.

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 competencies 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.

GARDEN, from page 4

and press into the surface.

You may wonder how to deal with tiny seed. I place it in a folded index card and gently tap the card so that the seeds fly out. If you can handle the seed easily, do cover with only a small amount soil, say an eighth of an inch or so and firm down.

How many seeds to sow is a tricky question. If you

want to keep the plants in the jug until they go in the garden, then hope for four plants, maybe six per jug at the most, figuring how big they will be at transplant stage.

For tricky germinators, perhaps double or triple the amount of seed you sow versus how many you desire. If germination is great, you can always transplant some out.

Close the container and seal it with duct tape. Be sure

to label the jug with the plant name via a paint pen, really the only writing utensil that won’t smear, fade or wash away when exposed to the elements.

Place the jugs in full exposure outdoors and with the cap off, so that heat can escape and small amounts of moisture can penetrate. When the temperature outdoors heats up past 60 degrees, be sure to take the duct tape off and vent your

seedlings. Check often and water as needed.

The pros recommend to cover with a blanket if frost threatens or even move heat lovers inside on cold nights so that the seedlings won’t freeze. To prevent tip-over by four-legged friends or playful kids, pros also suggest putting the jugs in trays or bins.

As you can see, this method is not maintenance-free, but certainly

worthy of a try especially for gardeners who are short on indoor space or in the mood to get their hands dirty earlier in the season than normal! January and February is the perfect time to start seeds that need a cold treatment.

Look for key terms on the seed packet, such as “stratification needed,” “sow in the fall,” etc. You can also use this technique to sow cold hardy annuals in March—think chard, spinach, kale,

snapdragons, bachelor button and the like.

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.

HEALTH, from page 4

membranes can let in viruses and germs.

It’s a hard habit to break, so it’s another reason to keep your hands as clean as possible.

6. Keep up good health habits. Hydrate like crazy. Winter dries out those mucous membranes, which makes them less effective at filtering out allergens, irritants – and viruses. Staying physically active boosts the immune system, as does good nutrition.

Most of us will get

through the flu with some aches and pains, maybe a little nausea or diarrhea, and generally feeling like we’ve been hit by a bus, but serious complications can include pneumonia, heart attack and stroke – particularly for people over 65 and those whose immune systems are compromised.

No one wants to get the flu. It’s good to know we can take steps to avoid the worst of it.

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.



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thesun@turley.com

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| <p>CLUES ACROSS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Paddles 5. Sunscreen rating 8. Very fast airplane 11. Immune responses 13. “Partner” to feather 14. New England river 15. Longest river in New Guinea 16. Midway between east and southeast 17. Israeli politician 18. Back bones 20. Consumed 21. One you can rely on 22. Dressed up gaudily 25. Representatives 30. Dog breed 31. Pitching statistic 32. Manpower 33. S. Korean entertainer 38. Outsourcing firm 41. Viceroy of Egypt | <p>under Turkish rule</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 43. One who removes antlers from a flower 45. Potluck dish 48. Discount 49. Airborne (abbr.) 50. Cavalry sword 55. Basics 56. Hollywood director 57. Afflicted in mind or body 59. Horsley and Majors are two 60. Midway between northeast and east 61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation 62. Malaysian isthmus 63. Fall back 64. Cheek <p>CLUES DOWN</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Former CIA | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Baseball’s best pitchers 3. __ Nui, Easter Island 4. Invests in little enterprises 5. Constant 6. Hobby 7. A place to store food 8. Short-tail marten 9. Burn with a hot liquid 10. Left his heart in San Francisco 12. Swedish krona 14. Legendary actor 19. French cleric 23. Former measure of length for textiles 24. Opaque glassy substance 25. Residue of burned item 26. A place to unwind 27. Japanese honorific 28. Terminus | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 29. Fails to make a shot 34. Journalist Tarbell 35. College hoops tournament 36. Monetary unit of Macao 37. Of she 39. Spoke ill of 40. Elements 41. Kilocalorie (abbr.) 42. Shades 44. Poem of fourteen lines 45. Pole used in Scottish sport 46. Hollyhocks genus 47. Street name for marijuana 48. Polio vaccine developer 51. Swiss river 52. Prejudice 53. Actor Idris 54. Confederate soldiers 58. Criticize |
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CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 6

CHURCH DIRECTORY



Your Community Church

Blessed Sacrament Parish
Rev. Duy Le
frduyle@blessedsacramentholyoke.org
1945 Northampton St., Holyoke
PARISH RECTORY: 413-532-0713
OFFICE HOURS:
Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Friday 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
WEEKEND MASSES:
Saturday 4 p.m.
Sunday 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
DAILY MASS AND ROSARY
Monday - Friday: ROSARY 6:15 a.m.
Monday - Friday: MASS 6:45 a.m.
Legal Holidays: ROSARY 7:30 a.m.
Legal Holidays: MASS 8 a.m.
ROSARY AND MEDITATION
Monday Evening: 6 p.m.
www.blessedsacramentholyoke.org
Facebook: @bspholyokema

First Baptist Church
Pastor Theresa Temple
1976 Northampton St., Holyoke
(413) 533-7728
firstbaptistchurchholyokeye@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.
Saturday 4 p.m.
Sunday 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m. (Polish), and 10:30 a.m.
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Legal Holidays Mass 9 a.m.
Reconciliation (Confession) Monday - Saturday 8 a.m.
Saturday 3:15pm
Anytime by Appointment
DEVOTIONS
Monday - Saturday
Divine Mercy Chapel - 7:50 a.m.
ROSARY 8:05 a.m.
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St. Peter's Lutheran Church
Rev. Debora Stein
34 Jarvis Ave., Holyoke
Office: (413) 536-3369
Office: stpetersholyokeye@gmail.com
Pastor: revdebma@gmail.com
Website: www.stpetersholyokeye.org
Social media:
facebook.com/stpetersholyokeye
OFFICE HOURS:
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Friday, 12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
WORSHIP:
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
485 Appleton St., Holyoke
413-532-5060
Office@StPaulsholyoke.org
StPaulsholyoke.org
Instagram:
stpaulsepiscopalchurch_holyoke
OFFICE HOURS:
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)

The Holyoke Sun • JANUARY 23, 2026 • 5

Obituary

Katherine Anne (Boisjolie) Picard

Katherine Anne (Boisjolie) Picard, May 9, 1954 - Dec. 19, 2025 of Belchertown passed away unexpectedly with loved ones by her side. Kathy was born to Eugene and Rita Boisjolie in Holyoke. They welcomed a brother, Robert Boisjolie and moved to Chicopee. She attended Chicopee Comp, where she proudly stood as the president of the home ec club. It was during those years, in 1969, that she met the love of her life Kippy Picard. She would tell you "from the moment I met him I knew I would marry him." On Nov. 25, 1972 they were married with their best friends by their side. The army would bring them to Germany and while Kip was in training, Kathy was living on a farm, helping with animals, making new friends and collecting vinyl. Moving back to the states they bought their first home in Granby. It was there where they started their family of five, Alissa, Jarod and Kara. In 1985 the family moved to Shea Ave. in Belchertown where Kathy would "paint her masterpiece." It was a masterpiece, a legacy of love, devotion, empathy, compassion and kindness.

Kathy (Kath, Aunty Kath, Kat, Ma, Rammy, Darlin) made her home a place where everyone was



welcome. She was the original cool aide mom. Kathy loved immensely and wanted nothing more than to share

that with others. She loved music, the feelings it evoked and the connections it brought to her. She loved gardening and her houseplants. She loved feeding the birds, the squirrels and any wildlife that crossed her path. She was proud to be a "cat lady" and taught her kids to not kill bugs. She loved Christmas, ladies Christmas outings, the lights and the tree and caroling with the Picard family. She loved Yahtzee and puzzles, trips to the casino and OOB with her bestie. She loved movies soaps and a good series. She loved Stephen King, Mary J and scratch tickets. She loved giving big tips. She loved contributing when she could. She was creative. She sewed, quilted, knitted and loved crocheting, especially for others. She was an incredible cook but her specialty was baking. Pizza, potato salad, wedding cakes, Christmas cookies, gingerbread houses, whoopie pies, Yorkshire pudding and lemon merengue pie were just a few of her specialties.

Most of all Kathy loved her family. She was incredibly proud of her children and the families they created. Her grandchildren were the light of her life. They brought her the joy she had lost after the passing of Kip. Kathy knew the simplicity of just spending time together was truly the most valuable gift.

Her children, Alissa and Nate Breyare of Belchertown, Jarod and Kristen Picard of Easthampton, Kara and Justin Clark of Palmer and grandchildren Calvin, Theo, Edie, Nolan, Willa, Jaxon, Kyler and Vivian will carry on their mother/grandmother's spirit. "Our love will not fade away."

Kathy leaves behind several nieces and nephews, brother and sister-in-laws and extended family members she loved dearly.

Family and friends will be invited to gather in celebration of life of Kathy at a later date.

If you feel inclined to do something kind, commit a random act of kindness in her name.

DEATH NOTICE

Katherine Anne (Boisjolie) Picard
Died Dec. 19, 2026
Services later date

In The News

SCHOOLS, from page 1

for every Holyoke student. This intent was to ensure equity of opportunity and experience for all middle school students.

- The current H.B. Lawrence School is the HPS building in the poorest condition for a modern education.
- The project is finan-

cially feasible, due to the recently completed Dr. William R. Peck School which came in significantly under budget, and the space in the City's anticipated debt schedule in the next 30-40 years.

Garcia is recommending the project be moved to the joint committee of the city council and school committee for consideration.

Both the city council

and the school committee must vote to support the SOI for the MSBA to consider it. Garcia said the soonest a school project could begin would 2033 due to the lengthy process the MSBA has for full building projects.

A meeting of the joint committee has not been scheduled as of press time. The committee has historically not met very frequently.

RIVERA, from page 1

when they reach the full council, especially due to his threats to cut the department's budget.

Mayor Joshua Garcia has repeated his stance that

he is waiting to see how the legal process plays out. He did not update his comments based on the released body camera footage.

Rivera is also not making any further comments until his legal matters are

resolved.

Rivera is scheduled to be back in court for a pre-trial hearing on Monday, Jan. 26. He is still eligible to participate fully as a member of the city council.

NINE, from page 1

tremendous amount of interest in supporting our search efforts," said School Committee Vice Chair Dr. Yadilette Rivera-Colón. In all, more than 50 people submitted applications to serve on the search screening committee.

The 12 people selected to serve on the committee include:

- Christian Carde, community member
- Ryan Carrie, district employee
- Sadie Childs Cora, district employee, parent/guardian, and community member
- Karleen Lopez, parent/guardian and community member
- Patty Lubold, School Committee member
- Joan Matsalia, community member
- Nestor L. Muriel, district employee
- Addison Rodriguez, student
- Deborah Rodriguez, parent/guardian and community member
- Lisa Smith O'Connor, parent/guardian and community member
- Yaraliz Soto, district employee, parent/guardian, and community member
- Kate Sullivan Craven, parent/guardian and com-

munity member

Interim Superintendent and former Receiver/Superintendent Anthony Soto previously announced he would not seek the permanent position as the school's superintendent.

The Holyoke Public Schools were in receivership for about 10 years before the state released it from the status on July 1, 2025 at the city's request.

Soto was the third of three receiver/superintendents to run the district, though he was the only local appointee made by the state. A new superintendent will be put in place for the 2026-2027 school year.

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. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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This group will be held in zoom, is educational, confidential, and free.

Please contact **Pat James 413-726-8661**.



Nobody dreams of having multiple sclerosis

Some dreams are universal: hitting a ball over the Green Monster; winning the World Series with a grand slam in the bottom of the ninth inning. Finding out you have MS is not one of them.

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Knights grab win over Colts

CHICOPEE – Last Wednesday evening, Holyoke High School girls basketball picked up just its second win of the regular season, defeating Chicopee Comprehensive 41-32 at

Comp. Julianna Pirela was able to score 15 points to lead the Knights. Genesis Rivera added 12 points for Holyoke, which improved to 2-7. Comp is a disappointing 1-11 on the season.



Janessa Torres keeps the ball from going out of bounds.



Isabella Lachat goes for the offensive rebound.



Ishanellys Rivera prepares to make a three-point attempt.



Genesis Rivera gets around a Comp guard and heads for the hoop.



Kyra Lippman eyes the hoop.



Kyleigh Dorman is pressured in the paint.



Julianna Pirela makes her way down the court.



Cecilio Sanchez goes for the win in a match.



Jayden Molina keeps the leverage.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Knights compete at Southwick Duals

SOUTHWICK – The Holyoke High School wrestling team recently competed in the Southwick Duals at Southwick Regional School, having multiple meets against opponents, including Agawam. The Knights also defeated Smith Vocational last Wednesday 55-18. Holyoke is next in action on Jan. 28, hosting Longmeadow at 6 p.m. at Dean Tech.



Rivie Cartegena locks up to start a bout.

HCC men's basketball comes close in consecutive games

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College men's basketball began the spring semester portion of their campaign this past week, playing in their two closest games of the season. The Cougars came ever so close to finding that first victory of the year, falling by just one basket in consecutive contests. Holyoke suffered a 69-67 road loss to Albany College of Pharmacy on Sunday afternoon before a heartbreaking 81-79 loss at home to CC of Rhode Island on Thursday night.

The Cougars could feel a victory in their grasp on Thursday, trailing by two points with possession of the ball and less than ten seconds left on the clock. With time running out, Holyoke took a three-point shot that dramatically rang off the back of the rim and bounced away from the hoop. Dylan Rohan (Holyoke, MA / Holyoke HS) led the way offensively for the Cougars in the home matchup, scoring 30 points, his second highest total of the season.

Daniel Melendez (Boston, MA / Crosby HS) and James Fitzgibbons (Hadley, MA / Hopkins Academy) each registered a double-double on Thursday. Melendez scored 16 points and dished 11 assists, and Fitzgibbons tallied ten points and grabbed ten rebounds.

Men's basketball has an 0-12 regional record and an 0-15 overall record. The last two games were certainly among their best two performances of the season.

Railers pick up overtime win

PORTLAND, ME — The Worcester Railers HC (16-15-2-1) fell to the Portland Pirates (15-10-5-2) in overtime on Saturday, January 17th, in front of a crowd of 6,076 with a final score of 3-2 at the Cross Insurance Arena. The Railers will take on the Pirates next on home ice on Sunday, January 18th at 3:05 p.m.

Portland nabbed the first goal of the night just 2:08 into the first off a goal from defenseman Andrew Nielsen (1-0-1). Nielsen's goal was the only one in the first period. Worcester answered the 1-0 lead from Portland with a goal from Jesse Pulkkinen (1-0-1) at 0:33 into the second to tie the game. Portland took back the one-goal lead halfway through the second, this time from Mitch Deelstra (1-0-1), Worcester once again evened the score with a goal from Drew Callin (1-0-1). A final goal from Max Andreev (1-0-1), at 3:27 in overtime secured the Pirates' 3-2 victory.

Worcester kicked off the night shorthanded just 16 seconds after puck drop. An early penalty against Lincoln Hatten for high-sticking put

Portland on its first power play of the game, which forced Worcester to fight the first two minutes of play for the night down a man. With just eight seconds remaining on Hatten's call, Portland defenseman Andrew Nielsen (5th) grabbed the only goal of the period for either team, which gave the Pirates a 1-0 lead to close the first twenty. Shots for the period with 11-4 in favor of Portland.

Worcester didn't wait long to tie the game in the second. Jesse Pulkkinen (3rd) picked up his 5th point of the season with a goal at 0:33. Portland went back on the power play soon after the score on a hooking call on Anthony Callin. Worcester had their first chance at the man-advantage about five minutes into the period, as Anthony Callin was tripped up by Max Andreev. Portland re-gained their one-goal lead once more around the halfway mark of the period, scored by Mitch Deelstra (2nd) at 9:35. Neither the Railers nor the Pirates could break past the blue line for the remainder of the second, which left the Railers down by one for a second time in the evening. Portland outshot Worcester

nine to seven. Penalties for the period were one for Worcester and two for Portland.

The Railers came out fighting in the third and tallied their highest shot total for any period of the night. A roughing call on Loke Johansson put Worcester on their third power play just over seven and a half minutes into play for the third. Unable to capitalize on their previous two power play chances, Drew Callin (10th) drove the puck home at 8:28 to even the score once more for the Railers. A late-game goal from Anthony Callin had Worcester celebrating an early win; however, the goal was waved off for goaltender interference as Callin fell into the net of Brad Arvanitis. The game once again was 2-2 and went into overtime for the second consecutive night. In the end, the Pirates would take the win in overtime with a final score of 3-2, the last lamp lit by Max Andreev (7th) on a shot from atop the circles to beat Gahagen in net for Worcester. Final shots were 27-25 in favor of Portland. Final penalties were five for Portland and four for Worcester.

Thunderbirds offense dries up in loss

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. — The Springfield Thunderbirds (13-18-4-2) continued to have a tough time location offense, falling 4-1 to the Bridgeport Islanders (16-17-2-1) on Saturday night inside Total Mortgage Arena.

A bad break for T-Birds netminder Vadim Zherenko resulted in Bridgeport's game-opening tally at 6:37 of the opening period, as Zherenko lost his balance and fell in his blue paint, allowing Daylan Kuefler to carry the puck around the net and wrap it past the fallen goaltender to make it 1-0 Bridgeport.

Aside from that unfortunate break, the T-Birds and Islanders played a mostly

defensive-minded first period, as Zherenko's nine saves and Henrik Tikkanen's eight stops in the Bridgeport crease accounted for much of the action on the scoresheet.

Matthew Peca quickly got his troops back on track, as the T-Birds captain slipped a wrister through Tikkanen just 49 seconds into period two, tying the score, 1-1, and extending his point streak to five consecutive games. Matt Luff also extended his season-long point streak to seven games with the primary assist on Springfield's first marker of the evening.

However, that potential momentum-changer was quickly washed out when

Cam Berg connected on a wrister from the left circle just 2:08 later, restoring a one-goal Bridgeport lead, 2-1.

Shots and chances continued to come at a premium for both teams, as the clubs combined for only 43 shots all evening, including just 25 in the final 40 minutes of play.

The T-Birds never did receive a power play in this one, and the club's last-minute efforts with Zherenko on the bench proved fruitless, as Adam Beckman and Eetu Liukas each connected on empty-netters to give Bridgeport the final goals of the night.

Registration open Feb. 1 for Quabbin Valley

SOUTH HADLEY — On Sunday, Jan. 11, the Quabbin Valley Baseball League, an over-28 recreational league, held its first meeting of 2026 to prepare for the upcoming season.

At the meeting it was determined registration for players will open up on Sunday, Feb. 1.

For the 2026 season, the cost will be \$215 and will

include a 16th game added to the regular season schedule.

During the 2025 season, the league experimented with playing on Mother's Day Saturday as well as a weeknight game to allow players an opportunity to play under the lights. While the night games were very successful, the Mother's Day Saturday games were rained out.

Those elements will return along with a 16th game with an opponent to be determine as the league's board explores possibilities for interleague matchups with another league in the region.

For returning players to the league, the deadline is Mar. 22 at 12 noon to be reg-

See OPEN, page 10

Public Notices

Holyoke Planning Board PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Holyoke Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.com; ID: 870 5374 1582; CALL IN 1 646 558 8656** and hybrid in-person, to hear pursuant to the Holyoke Zoning Ordinance, a Special Permit for an Increase Fence Height (Sec 4.6.3.2) to allow a 7ft by 10 ft panel, 4 rail style black steel fence to be erected around the parking lot, submitted by Bryan Taub (2026-1), located at 61-69 Suffolk Street (012-06-004).

For a complete copy of the application and site plan, contact the Planning Department at (413) 322-5575.

APPLICANT: Bryan Taub
PLANNING BOARD:
Lauren Niles, Chairperson
01/23, 01/30/2026

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

Docket No. HD24P1019EA Estate of: Elroy Albert Barber Date of Death: 03/28/2024 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL APPOINTMENT OF SUCCESSOR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

To all interested persons: A Petition has been filed by: **Steven M Barber** of Holyoke, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order that **Steven M Barber** of Holyoke, MA be appointed as Successor Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on **02/06/2026**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

The estate is being administered under formal 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 recipients 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.

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

Date: January 09, 2026

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
01/23/2026

City of Holyok Notice of Public Hearing

The Holyoke License Board will be holding a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, February 4, 2026, at 5:15 pm.** You can join via Zoom.com; ID **83974921923**; CALL IN: ***67 646 558 8656** or in person at **City Hall, 536 Dwight St. in the Old Tax Collector Office**, regarding the application for a **New Seasonal All Alcohol On-premises License for Camellias, 116 High Street.**

pursuant to M.G.L. Ch.138.
Applicant: Camellias
License Board:
Jose Correa, Chairman
01/23, 01/30/2026

LEGAL NOTICE CITY OF HOLYOKE GAS & ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT GAS LEAK SURVEYS ANNUAL CONTRACT

Sealed bids for the above contract will be received by Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept. until **2:30 p.m. February 26, 2026**, at the Office of the Manager, 99 Suffolk St., Holyoke, Massachusetts, at which time proposals will be publicly opened and read.

Additional information may be obtained from:

Chi Wong
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept.
99 Suffolk St.
Holyoke, MA 01040
(413) 536-9308
cwong@hged.com

The right is hereby reserved to reject any or all proposals or to accept any proposal that in the opinion of the Manager may be in the best interest of the City of Holyoke.

Please mark sealed envelopes, **"Bid for Gas Leak Surveys Annual Contract"** and address them to:

James M. Lavelle, Manager
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept.
99 Suffolk St.
Holyoke, MA 01040
01/23/2026

LEGAL NOTICE CITY OF HOLYOKE GAS & ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT NATURAL GAS WELDING SERVICES

ANNUAL CONTRACT

Sealed bids for the above contract will be received by Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept. until **2:00 p.m. February 26, 2026**, at the office of the Manager, 99 Suffolk St., Holyoke, MA 01040, at which time proposals will be publicly opened and read.

Bid Deposit:

A Bid Deposit in the amount of \$125,000 must accompany all bids and may be in the form of a certified, treasurer's, or cashier's check payable to HG&E from a responsible bank or trust company; cash; or a bid bond from a licensed surety payable to HG&E.

Prevailing Wage Rates: Rates, which are to apply to the work, are set by the Mass. Dept of Labor & Industries.

The right is hereby reserved to reject any or all proposals, or to accept any proposal that in the opinion of the Manager may be in the best interest of the City of Holyoke.

Additional information may be obtained from:

Chi Wong
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept.
99 Suffolk St.
Holyoke, MA 01040
(413) 536-9308
cwong@hged.com

Please mark sealed envelopes, **"Bid for Natural Gas Welding Services Annual Contract"** and address them to:

James M. Lavelle, Manager
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept.
99 Suffolk St.
Holyoke, MA 01040
01/23/2026

City of Holyok Notice of Public Hearing

The Holyoke License Board will be holding a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, February 4, 2026, at 5:15 pm.** You can join via Zoom.com; ID **83974921923**; CALL IN: ***67 646 558 8656** or in person at **City Hall, 536 Dwight St. in the Old Tax Collector Office**, regarding the application for a **Transfer of an All Alcohol Annual On-premises License from 241 Whiting Farms DBA Fairfield Inn & Suites, 229 Whiting Farms to Japanese BBQ & Sushi, LLC DBA Daruma BBQ, 241 Whiting Farms Road.** pursuant to M.G.L. Ch.138.

Applicant:
Japanese BBQ & Sushi LLC
License Board:
Jose Correa, Chairman
01/23, 01/30/2026

City of Holyok Notice of Public Hearing

The Holyoke License Board will be holding a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, February 4, 2026, at 5:15 pm.** You can join via Zoom.com; ID **83974921923**; CALL IN: ***67 646 558 8656** or in person at **City Hall, 536 Dwight St. in the Old Tax**

Collector Office, regarding the application for a **New Annual All Alcohol On-premises License for Obie Knox 1568, 18 1/2 Spring Street.** pursuant to M.G.L. Ch.138.

Applicant: Obie Knox 1568
License Board:
Jose Correa, Chairman
01/23, 01/30/2026

City of Holyoke PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Ordinance Committee of the **Holyoke City Council** as well as the **Holyoke Planning Board** will hold **separate public hearings** to hear a zoning ordinance text change proposal to review potential changes to operating times of cannabis dispensaries. **Planning Board public hearing will be held on Tuesday, February 10, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. via www.zoom.us** Meeting ID: 870 5374 1582 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 with same meeting ID. **Ordinance Committee public hearing will be held on Wednesday, March 4, 2025 at 6:30pm at Holyoke City Hall 536 Dwight St and can be accessed remotely via zoom.** us Meeting ID 873 9001 6319 Meeting Passcode 613009 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 with same Meeting ID and Passcode.

To provide comments to the Planning Board, please contact Brianna Tejada at tejadab@holyoke.org. To provide comments to the Ordinance Committee, please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org or by phone 413-322-5525.

Planning Board Chair,
Lauren Niles
Ordinance Chair,
Meg Magrath-Smith
01/23, 01/30/2026

City of Holyoke Notice of Public Hearing

The Holyoke License Board will be holding a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, February 4, 2026, at 5:15 pm.** You can join via Zoom.com; ID **83974921923**; CALL IN: ***67 646 558 8656** or in person at **City Hall, 536 Dwight St. in the Old Tax Collector Office**, regarding the application for a **Transfer of an Annual Wine & Malt Beverage On-premises License from Bugalu Ballroom, 120 High Street to Pedro's Sport Bar, LLC 120 High Street.** pursuant to M.G.L. Ch.138.

Applicant: Pedro's Sport Bar
License Board:
Jose Correa, Chairman
01/23, 01/30/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103

Docket No. HD26P0088GD In the matter of: Jason D. Little Of: Holyoke, MA RESPONDENT

Alleged Incapacitated Person CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §§5-304

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Care One Holyoke** of Holyoke, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Jason D. Little** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Regina Little** of New Haven, CT (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

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

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of **02/12/2026**. 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 may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: January 15, 2026
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
01/23/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court

Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103

Docket No. HD21P1931GD In the interests of Jason D Little Of: Holyoke, MA RESPONDENT Incapacitated Person/ Protected Person CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR RESIGNATION OF A GUARDIAN OF AN INCAPACITATED PERSON

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

Accept the Resignation of the Guardian of the Respondent.

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

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **02/12/2026**. 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 may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: January 15, 2026
Rosemary A. Saccomani
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Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court

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HCC art gallery exhibit imagines radical Valley future

HOLYOKE – A new exhibition at Holyoke Community College’s Taber Art Gallery asks visitors to imagine a future Pioneer Valley 100 years after the fall of capitalism.

“River Valley Radical Futures” opens Tuesday, Jan. 20, and runs until Thursday, March 12. The gallery will host a closing talk from project lead and curator Alix Gerber and book launch on Thursday, March 12, from 5 to 7 p.m.

The show features the work of eight area artists and has its origins in the Making Radical Futures Lab at Smith College in Northampton. Gerber is a post-doc fellow and associate director of Smith’s Design Thinking Initiative.

“The lab uses participatory and speculative design practices to explore collaborative ways of imagining futures without capitalism,” Gerber said in a statement about the show. “Worker co-operatives, mutual aid networks, and other community groups came together through a series of workshops throughout the Pioneer Valley to imagine how their values and current work might lead to future, alternative economic systems.”

Those sessions led to the creation of an illustrated map of the Connecticut River Valley 100 years beyond the fall of capitalism.

In “River Valley Radical Futures,” the map is brought to life by paintings and sculptures and other artwork – “artifacts excavated from the future we imagined,” says Gerber.

Gallery visitors will see body extensions and creature masks, cow brushes and bells made from local materials, a

floating house design, a tool sharing station, a secret-baring mural, a flood system made from local clay, and an apothecary, among other pieces.

The exhibition includes the work of artists Sunny Allis, David von Dufving, Andrea Hairston, Mary Kate Cleary, Bo Kim, Sharon Leshner (a.k.a. Sharona Color), Michael Madeiros, and Laura Toraco.

“This is an exciting project that opens up the art-making process from what is usually a single artist materializing their thoughts alone in the studio into a collaborative effort between artists, educators, community workers, facilitators and organizers,” said gallery director Rachel Rushing. “By collaborating

across disciplines and experiences the workshop participants were able to imagine the kind of future their work could make possible.”

“When visiting the Taber, you’ll see artwork that has begun the process of bringing those ideas to life,” Rushing said. “Imagination is at the core of this exhibition, and I hope visitors will be inspired and energized to continue imagining what kind of future we all hope to create, together.”

The Taber Art Gallery, located off the lobby of the HCC Library on the second floor of the HCC Donahue Building, is free and open to the public Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. during regular school sessions.



Submitted photos
Artist Michael Madeiros sets up his contribution to the “River Valley Radical Futures” exhibit at Holyoke Community College.



Creature masks from artist Sunny Allis are part of the “River Valley Radical Futures” exhibit at HCC’s Taber Art Gallery, running Jan. 20-March 12.

OPEN, from page 8

istered for the 2026 season in order to be guaranteed a roster spot. There will be open practices for all players but specifically targeted at new players scheduled for March 29 and April 4 at times and locations to be announced. The draft is currently scheduled to take place on April 4 following that practice.

The season is currently slated to start on Sunday, April 19 and following the success of the six-team fall league last year, the league will also have a fall league in September and October this season.

The registration link will be live on Feb. 1 at www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org. Players must register and then pay the league dues via Venmo or contact the league leadership if an alternate form of payment is needed.

Aside from the week-night and Mother’s Day games, other games take place Sundays at 10 a.m. outside of Mother’s Day, Memorial Day and July 4 weekends. Playoffs will be in August.

This is the 30th season for the league and league officials are looking to celebrate the anniversary with a couple of events.

FREE WORKSHOP!

WHERE DO I START?

WHAT DO I DO WITH MY STUFF?

DECLUTTER & DOWNSIZE

LEARN FROM THE EXPERT, CHRISTINA MARQUES FROM CARING TRANSITIONS, ON HOW TO DECLUTTER THE START OF YOUR 2026! THIS FREE WORKSHOP WILL WALK THROUGH EACH STEP OF THE DOWNSIZING PROCESS AND ALLOW FOR A Q&A SESSION!

ALL GUESTS WILL ALSO BE ENTERED IN FOR GIFT CARD TO HELP WITH YOUR DECLUTTERING GOALS!

January 29 5:30p

RSVP

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