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Second bridge closed

HOLYOKE – The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is announcing the immediate closure of the bridge carrying Appleton Street (Route 141) over the 2nd Level Canal in Holyoke. Earlier today, Thursday, during a scheduled bridge inspection, deterioration was discovered requiring the bridge's closure. The bridge will be closed until further notice.

Currently the project is at 25% design with a total project cost of twenty-seven million dollars.

Traffic will be directed to seek an alternate route. Drivers traveling through the affected areas should expect delays, reduce speed, and use caution.

For more information on traffic conditions, travelers are encouraged to:

- Download the Mass511 mobile app or visit www.mass511.com to view live cameras, travel times, real-

See BRIDGE, page 12

Sixties Reunion draws big crowd

By **Brendan Rooney**
Correspondent

HOLYOKE – On Sunday, Sept. 28, more than 100 alumni, comprised of both Holyoke Catholic (HCHS) and Holyoke High School (HHS) representatives from nearly 60 years, gathered from inside Hamel's Summit View Banquet hall to celebrate and rekindle fond memories of a time long past.

The event highlighted achievements of the Purple Knights class of 1965 and 1966 and the Gaels classes of 1965 and 1966, who were once cross-town rivals,



The Mid-Sixties Reunion gets underway. The event featured multiple classes from Holyoke Catholic and Holyoke High School.

Turley photos by Brendan Rooney

many years ago, and now, in the eyes of many, are considered long-time friends, gathered once again to partake in festivities which culminated over two days, where the first part was a meet and greet gathering, held this past Saturday, Sept. 27 at the Holyoke Knights of Columbus.

Providing a bit of insight on how the sense of community stayed intact for the past 25 years was Ed O' Connor, HCHS alumnus from 1966 and reunion coordinator.

See REUNION, page 12

JP's takes this year's 'Battle of the Bars'

By **Brendan Rooney**
Correspondent

HOLYOKE – As crowds came to watch the New England Patriots on a busy Sunday, Sept. 28, afternoon, a sense of history was cemented as JP's Restaurant was awarded the title of 2025 'Battle of the Bars' champions, by the Holyoke St. Patrick's Committee, which came with bragging rights, along with an engraved trophy that will be displayed

within the bar until next year's competition set for February 2026.

The ceremony was set against the backdrop of classic Irish music that left all attendees fervent for the St. Patrick's Day Parade to kick off, despite being officially at the halfway point.

Presenting the honor was the current Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade President Jim Wildman, who provided insight into what the award not only represents

but also embodies.

"To present this title to JP's, which they will hold onto until next year, is shaping up to be a great day," Wildman said. "JP's overall did a phenomenal job, and the support they possess is incredible to witness."

Leading the way for JP's was star bartender Mary Kate Glasheen, who felt extremely proud of the achievement and confessed it was JP's first time participating in the fundraiser, and just humbled

to share the crown.

"I'm super pumped, and extremely proud," Glasheen said. "I've worked at JP's for a really long time, it's a family establishment, and just super proud to bring the title back home to Holyoke and JP's." Standing beside Glasheen was JP's server, Ali Shea, who also took a moment to reflect on the achievement.

"We all worked very hard as a team when it came to raising money, and I think we all just pulled it together," Shea said. "We worked really well, and we have loyal customers, and we just came out on top, and I definitely want to do this again, and look to beat our goal if given the chance."

Earlier this year, the official event transpired back on Friday, Feb. 28, from inside the Holyoke Knights of Columbus, which saw JP's earn the crown by raising \$9,416.

Reflecting on the achievement from an ownership perspective was one of the owners, Katie Monaghan.

"This has been a great honor for JP's and for the city of Holyoke, and it was lots of fun to take home the victory," Monaghan said. "We have very loyal custom-

See JP'S, page 12

Committee opens up Grand Colleen 2026 applications

HOLYOKE – The St. Patrick's Committee of Holyoke is proud to announce that applications are now open for the 70th Annual Holyoke Grand Colleen Pageant on Jan. 3, 2026.

For seven decades, the Grand Colleen Pageant has been a signature event of Holyoke's St. Patrick's celebrations, honoring the heritage, pride, and accomplishments of young women of Irish descent. Serving as the kickoff to Parade season, the pageant is more than a competition - it is an opportunity to represent one's community, celebrate Irish culture, and join a legacy of ambassadors who have played a special role in the city's most cherished tradition.

This year, the Committee is excited to announce an expanded eligibility that opens the door for even more young women to participate. In addition to residents of Holyoke and South Hadley, contestants from Holyoke's bordering communi-



The 2025 Grand Colleen Moira Reardon takes her throne.

Turley photo by David Henry
www.sweetdogphotos.com

ties of Easthampton and Southhampton are now eligible to enter the competition.

"Being chosen as the Grand Colleen is about so much more than wearing the crown," said Kate Caligaris, Colleen Committee Chair. "It's about leadership, pride in one's Irish heritage, and the

See COLLEEN, page 12



2026 Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade President Jim Wildman, 2026 Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade Grand Marshal Michael J. Moriarty, Katie Monaghan, JP's owner, Mary Kate Glasheen, JP's bartender, Ali Shea, JP's server, and Kelly McGiverin, 'Battle of the Bars' founder, and Holyoke St. Patrick's Committee member.

Turley photo by Brendan Rooney

Great Holyoke Brick Race returns next weekend, racers wanted

HOLYOKE – Ready, set...brick! One of Holyoke's most creative and quirky traditions is back on the starting line: The Great Holyoke Brick Race zooms into downtown on Saturday, Oct. 11 from 1 to 3 p.m., taking over Race Street along the canal in front of Paper City Studios and LightHouse Holyoke.

Part art project, part engineering challenge, and part pure community fun, the Brick Race invites families,

artists, school groups, and teams of all kinds to design wild, wheeled contraptions that all share one common element: a standard building brick at their core. From sleek racers to wacky rolling sculptures, no two creations are alike—except for the brick.

Now in its 14th year, the race began in 2011 thanks to artists Dean Nimmer and Bruce Fowler. After a few pit stops for construction on Race Street and the pandem-

ic, the event has grown into a crowd-favorite tradition with 50–60 race car builds and 400+ spectators cheering along the 100 foot concrete track built by artist Michael Karmody.

This year, the Brick Race team has been working with students and faculty at LightHouse Holyoke, weaving the planning and build process into their school curriculum. It's all part of the spirit of creativity, prob-

lem-solving, and collaboration that makes this event truly unique.

Want to race? Spots are limited. Already 29 racers are registered, with just 21 spots left—so don't wait. Register your brick racer now: Registration Form: <https://forms.gle/HZ9mJNYmtRehNkBr7>

For those who want to give their racer a trial run, there will be a Test Day & Workshop on Saturday,

Oct. 4, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at LightHouse Holyoke / De La Luz Soundstage (114 Race Street). RSVP here: [RSVP for Test Day https://forms.gle/VeBFuAKM11S9Ra1c9](https://forms.gle/VeBFuAKM11S9Ra1c9)

The Great Holyoke Brick Race is made possible thanks to the Holyoke Local Cultural Council and generous local sponsors including Holyoke Gas & Electric, Witman Properties, Hampshire Towing, Clean Crop Technologies, BankESB,

and many more. The event is also proudly supported by Holyoke Art Inc., the nonprofit providing fiscal and technical support for art spaces, programs, and cultural events in the city. Learn more at holyoheart.com. So mark your calendars, grab your friends and family, and start building your brick racers. On Oct. 11, the bricks will roll, the crowd will cheer, and creativity will take the fast lane in downtown Holyoke.

Sensory-friendly Halloween event on Oct. 19

HOLYOKE – On Sunday, Oct. 19, Wistariahurst Museum is delighted to bring back our spooky and spectacular Sensory-Friendly Trick or Treat event into our halls for the Halloween season! Our bewitching trick or treat event will let you and your little goblins enjoy an adventure in our haunted halls designed for families with sensory sensitivities. Monsters of all ages

will have a chance to collect spook-tacular items through gentle exploration throughout the museum and choose from prizes ranging from candy to fidget toys. Guests are welcome and encouraged to wear their fun, festive costumes throughout their journey through the museum.

When signing up for the event on Eventbrite, please reserve one timeslot per family. A staff member

will reach out to registered guests with questions about accessibility needs before the event to ensure that every ghost and ghoul feels comfortable and welcome during their time. Families are welcome to explore the museum and gardens at this event as well. Wistariahurst will also have yard games that the whole family can enjoy.

Families can sign up for ten-minute time slots

between 12 and 1:30 p.m. and will be limited to two at a time. This trick-or-treat exploration event will continue until 2 p.m. to allow children to explore at their own pace and enjoy a stress-free experience. Stay and search as long as you want, time slots are only meant to ensure a calm and seamless check-in process.

Sign up for a timeslot today, our Boo Crew can't wait to meet you.

Harper's Haven Halloween

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Parks and Recreation Department cordially invite the Holyoke community to the 5th Annual Harper's Haven Halloween Event.

This event will take place on Friday, Oct. 3, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Community Field (off Cherry Street).

Music will be provided by DJ Brian Nicks. Enjoy pizza, cookies and goodie bags while supplies last.

Visit and take pictures with Moana and the Mandalorian.

Dazzleday Balloon artists will be at the event. Visit with the Holyoke Fire Department.

Wear your favorite Halloween Costume.

This event is free of charge, weather permitting.

This event is sponsored by the Holyoke Parks and Recreation Department and Harper's Family.

City needs help with open space survey

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – Most recently, the city of Holyoke sought the input of citizens for the use of opioid lawsuit settlements. The city utilized a survey and it is also appointing a committee to assist in the best use of the funds.

Now, the city is looking for more input. This time, surveys are needed for the city's Open Space and Recreation Plan.

The OSRP is a tool

that outlines community strategies for managing and improving natural conservation areas, recreational facilities, and open spaces. Municipalities are required to have an active OSRP to be eligible for certain grant funds.

The grant funding allows the city to do various projects that cannot be funded by the Community Preservation Act Fund. That fund has multiple purposes, including open space and recreation. But there are limits to how those funds

can be used, including the inability to use it on artificial surfaces.

The city encourages to take this opportunity to share your thoughts and feedback on open space and recreation in Holyoke. Citizen input is valuable and will help shape the future of these important resources and amenities.

This survey is estimated will take you 5 minutes to complete.

Take the survey in English: <https://forms.gle/K188K9NCKA2qt4Po8>.

UCCH to host Halloween Block Party

HOLYOKE – October is almost here, meaning it's time to plan for Halloween. And Halloween in Holyoke means the Trunk or Treat Block Party, which will be held on Friday, Oct. 24 from 5 to 7 p.m. on Maple Street between Appleton and Essex Streets. The event is hosted by United Congregational Church of Holyoke and Multi-

Cultural Community Services in participation with downtown Holyoke businesses.

This year's Trunk or Treat will feature an All-Inclusive Family Friendly environment, with candy, costumes, games, prizes and fun for the whole family. The big finale will be a Children's concert with Latin Grammy Award-

winning artist MISTER G, held in the Concert Hall/Sanctuary of the Church, Rain or Shine. This event is FREE and open to the public.

If you'd like to learn more about UCCH, please visit our website at www.uccholyoke.org, find us on Facebook or Instagram, or call our office at 413-532-1483 Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Handbag Bingo fundraiser hosted on Nov. 8

SOUTH HADLEY – Tickets are now available to the popular Handbag Bingo fundraiser being hosted on November 8 at St Theresa's Church by the Friends of Buttery Brook Park.

This annual fundraising event will benefit improvements to the park, specifically, the addition of shade

structures.

"The recent park improvement project allowed us to add some wonderful new pieces to the playground. These, coupled with our great spray park, brought more visitors to the park this summer. We often see families trying to crowd under small trees

by the playground to get some respite from the sun. We know there is a need for additional shade," commented event organizer and Friends' board member Kim Prough.

Tickets are \$40 each and can be reserved by emailing Kim at ksprough@me.com.

Fifth Paper City Food Festival

HOLYOKE – Nueva Esperanza will host the 5th Annual Paper City Food Festival on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 11 and 12 transforming downtown Holyoke into a two-block, open-air celebration of local cuisine, culture, music, and community. This year's festival will also serve a special purpose: a portion of activities will support Grace "Gracie" Gianna Falcon, a courageous four-year-old from Holyoke who is battling B-Cell Acute

Lymphoblastic Leukemia (B-ALL).

"The Paper City Food Festival is about the best of Holyoke—our flavors, our music, our small businesses, and our heart," said Paper City Food Festival organizers.

On Saturday, Oct. 11, the event will take place from 2 to 10 p.m. and then 12 to 8 p.m. on Sunday, Oct., 12. It will span two city blocks from Appleton to Dwight St.

Ghost stories event at HPL

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Public Library will present, New England Ghosts on Tuesday, Sept. 30 at 6 p.m.

This is an adult program of supernatural story and magic.

You will hear a legend from each New England state, true stories, information on how to visit sites, and it will be performed by Jonah Knight. The event is rated PG-13.

Skeletal Secrets with the Skinner Servants

HOLYOKE – As the night grows long and a chill lingers in the air, Wistariahurst Museum is delighted to announce a new, frightfully fantastic character tour: Skeletal Secrets with the Skinner Servant on Oct. 24 at 5:30 p.m. Join a ghostly guide as former residents of this historic house manifest to speak of eerie events and strange happenings that occurred during their mortal lives. Discover dark tales of death, loss, and spirits that are said to still roam our halls to this day as you wander through the home.

This unique character tour of Wistariahurst Museum

includes standing, walking, and transitioning between the first and second floors using our Grand Staircase in dim lighting. This tour may include loud noises, challenging subjects, and possible jump scares. Parents are advised to consider these factors before purchasing tickets. If any guest has a question about accessibility and how to fully enjoy this immersive tour, we ask that you email us with your inquiries.

"Our volunteers are eager to reveal these tales to our community," Penni Martorell, City History, comments. "This tour is the best way to learn some of the

secrets hidden beneath our walls."

This new, spine-tingling tour offers a unique way to experience a guided tour of the historic house with our volunteers as they portray the spirits guests will encounter. Join us for a memorable journey through the ghastly tales of Wistariahurst. Venture into where history intersects with the supernatural this fall with general admission tickets selling at \$18. Museum Members can use their discount for \$15 tickets. Our specialized character tours are beloved by our community and sell fast, so make sure you secure your tickets before they are gone.

Grants available through tourism committee

HOLYOKE – Event grants now available. The Holyoke Tourism Advisory Committee (TAC), under the office of Planning and Economic Development (OPED), has available funds designated by the Mass Gaming Mitigation Funds to support events related to tourism in the city of Holyoke. These efforts are intended to bolster the Explore Holyoke initiative.

This second round of Event Grants will be for events between October 24th, 2025, and February 28th, 2026.

The Application for these grants will be open October 1st and available on the Explore Holyoke website and the TAC page on the City of Holyoke's website.

<https://www.exploreholyo-oke.com/>
<https://www.holyoke.org/departments/tourism-advisory-committee/>

Requests for up to \$2000 will be available on a rolling basis. TAC meets once a month and will consider applications submitted prior to their meetings. Grants will be approved until the available

funding is expended.

Please review the guidelines prior to submitting an application. Guidelines are available with the application.

The TAC is a dynamic group made up of tourism experts and community representatives, including voices from iconic local institutions like the Wistariahurst Museum and the International Volleyball Hall of Fame. Together, the committee advises the city on all things tourism — from strategy and events to funding and promotion.

Nominees sought for Veterans Day awards

HOLYOKE – The City of Holyoke's Patriotic Events Committee is searching for nominations for this year's awards which are to be presented at the Veterans Day ceremony, on November 11th, 2025. The awards are Public Safety of the Year, Veteran of the Year, Citizen of the Year, and Local Business of the Year.

The criteria for these awards are as follows:

For Public Safety of the Year, we are seeking an indi-

vidual who has shown outstanding performance in the protection of the general public and has exhibited a willingness to exceed expectations.

For Veteran of the Year, we are pursuing a veteran who has shown grand support and dedication for others in the community.

For Citizen of the Year, we are searching for an individual who has exhibited inspiration through their leadership, volunteerism, and dear contributions to the advances

of the community.

For Local Business of the year, we are seeking a local business that has shown great patriotism and support for the veteran community.

Nominees must be residents of Holyoke or individuals who have made valuable contributions to the City of Holyoke. Anyone can nominate.

Nominations can be sent by email to rual@holyo-oke.org. Deadline for nominations is Oct. 25.

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

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<p>#5 8" Grinder or Pita Pocket with Fries & FREE Can of Soda \$14.25+Tax</p>	<p>#6 One Large 2 Topping Pizza, & FREE 2 Liter Soda \$23.99 +Tax</p>
<p>#10 One Large 1 Topping Pizza, 20 Wings & FREE 2 Liter Soda \$40.99 +Tax</p>	<p>#14 One Medium 1 Topping Pizza, 10 Wings & FREE 2 Liter Soda \$30.99 +Tax</p>

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Puzzle race held at HPL

HOLYOKE – On Saturday, Oct. 4 at 11 a.m., Holyoke Public Library will host a puzzle race and swap event. The race is intended for amateur puzzlers age 13 and up.

Bring puzzles to donate and swap. Light refreshments will be provided.

Call 413-420-8119 or email rsiniaho@holyokelibrary.org to register teams of two to four players.

Vanessa Smith named chair of HCC Board of Trustees

HOLYOKE – Vanessa Smith of Holyoke, the former chief legal officer for Baystate Health, has been named the new chair of the Holyoke Community College Board of Trustees.



Vanessa Smith

Smith has served on the HCC board since 2021. She was recently reappointed by Gov.

Maura Healey to a five-year term and also designated as the permanent chair. She has been serving as interim chair since former chair Robert Gilbert stepped down in November 2023.

Her term runs until March 1, 2030.

“As a first-generation college student, I

have experienced firsthand the value of education, the power of education to change lives,” Smith said at a recent HCC trustees meeting. “As a member of this board, I’ve gotten to see directly the challenges that our students face, and it’s reinforced my commitment to student access and student success.”

Smith is a lawyer with more than 35 years of legal experience. Until March, she had served

as the chief legal officer for Baystate Health in Springfield for nine years. Before that, she was a partner in the Springfield law firm Bulkley, Richardson and Gelin. She started her career in upstate New York, where she worked as a judicial law clerk and an assistant attorney general.

She is a graduate of the Syracuse University College of Law and holds a bachelor’s degree in French language and literature from

Wells College.

Over the years, Smith’s volunteer work has included serving on the boards of Friends of the Homeless, the Center for Human Development, and the Springfield Public Forum.

“I want to be part of an institution that helps people change their trajectory, not just for themselves, but for their families and for their communities,” Smith said. “Serving on this board feels like a good fit.”

Cemetery tours at Forestdale

HOLYOKE – Step past the cemetery gates and peer behind the veil with Wistariahurst as our volunteers channel the spirits of Holyoke’s ancestors, leading you through the meandering paths of Forestdale Cemetery. Established in 1860, Forestdale Cemetery is a serene yet beautiful landscape and the final resting place for many of Holyoke’s founding families, politicians, and other notables who helped breathe life into the city. Guests will walk amongst the monuments, markers, crypts, and crosses to discover the mystique of Holyoke’s vibrant heritage.

“Learn some of

Holyoke’s history through the tales of the people that lived and died here,” Penni Martorell, City History, shares. “Forestdale Cemetery is such a unique and beautiful setting to reflect on the history we share with the people you will see represented in our tour.”

Discover all there is to know about living and dying in Holyoke from narratives of the people who now find solace beneath these hallowed grounds. Cemetery Tours at Forestdale Cemetery include walking and standing on cement and gravel walkways with tours lasting around forty-five minutes.

To fully enjoy this tour, we ask that guests wear comfortable shoes and weather-appropriate clothing. In the event of rain, the tours will be canceled, refunded, and not rescheduled. Wistariahurst Museum’s Cemetery Tours blend history, concepts of the afterlife, and local connections to create an unforgettable outing. Tickets for this delightfully spooky and educational tour sell fast, so make sure to purchase your tickets before they’re gone.

Polish flag to be raised

HOLYOKE – The Polish American flag will be raised over City Hall on Friday, Oct. 3, at 11:30 a.m. as part of a ceremony celebrating Polish history, culture, and pride. Members of the Polish community will gather outside City Hall for the observance. Holyoke Mayor Joshua A. Garcia will read a proclamation designating October as Polish American Heritage Month. The public is invited.

Hibernian to host clothing and food drive for charity

HOLYOKE – The Ancient Order of Hibernians of Hampden/Hampshire Counties along with the Polish National Credit Union Announce the Annual Clothing and Food Drive for Providence Ministries from September to Dec. 1.

Please drop off gently used clothing, blankets, sleeping bags, and/or non-perishable food items to the Polish National

Credit Union 270 Westfield Rd. Holyoke.

Make a donation and be entered to win a raffle basket.

Please help those who are experiencing food insecurity and assist Providence Ministries as they continue to transform lives through their life-changing programs.

Stop by the PNCU—your efforts will be greatly appreciated.

Church to host roast park dinner on Oct. 25

HOLYOKE – There are certain flavors that pair well with the Autumn season, such as apple and cinnamon and pumpkin spice. Another flavor that works well with the season is Roast Pork. If you’re in Holyoke, you can get some Roast Pork at United Congregational Church of Holyoke’s Roast Pork dinner on Saturday, Oct. 25 at 6 p.m.

Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. for the dinner, which will feature roast pork, butternut squash, mashed potatoes, homemade apple sauce, homemade apple crisp, and coffee and tea. Diners will have the option of Dine In or Take Out, with Take Out diners requiring payment in

advance. Tickets for each are \$17 per person, available by contacting the Church Office at 413-532-1483. Proceeds from the dinner will benefit Rebekah’s Closet and the Fellowship Committee’s Scholarship Fund.

The United Congregational Church of Holyoke is an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ. We welcome all individuals, regardless of where they are on their journey. If you’d like to learn more about UCCH, please visit our website at www.uccholyoke.org, find us on Facebook or Instagram, or call our office at 413-532-1483 Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Mayoral Bike Ride to be held on Wednesday

HOLYOKE – BikePed will present the Third Annual Mayoral Bike Ride on Wednesday, Oct. 8 at 5 p.m.

Join Mayor Joshua Garcia and the Holyoke Biking and Pedestrian Committee for a 45-minute bike ride around the city.

Meet at the Armor Yard at 164 Race St. beginning at 4:30 p.m. Waivers must be signed on site at the check-in table before participating.

All cyclists must wear helmets.

There will be activities, free food, and more at the finish line.

Daily guided walk offered at Buttery Brook Park

SOUTH HADLEY – To celebrate and encourage “Active Aging Week” on Oct. 6 through 10, the Friends of the South Hadley Seniors are offering a week-long, daily guided walk at Buttery Brook Park. Join your local community to explore the new walking trails and improvements at the park.

Meet on Oct. 6 through 10 at 10 a.m. at the log cabin in the center of the park. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday will feature an easy, flat walk along the newly

installed accessible trail. Tuesday and Thursday will provide an option to walk either the flat trail or the trail throughout the new disc golf course (a more moderate walk with uneven surfaces). Both options offer benches throughout the trails. Meet for coffee and conversation after the walk in the center pavilion. All are welcome to attend on any or every day throughout the week (cancelled in the event of rain). Please email any questions to southhadleyseniors@gmail.com.

Providence Place to host Fall Concert series

HOLYOKE – If you missed our 2025 Spring Concert Series, you do not want to miss out on our 2025 Fall Concert Series. We will be kicking off our first Fall concert on Sunday, Oct. 19 at 2 p.m. in Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel at Providence Place. Providence Place is located at 5 Gamelin St. in Holyoke, right behind the Holyoke Mall.

The Oct. 19 concert performance is the Heart of the Valley Chorus, an all-women’s acapella choir

from Northampton. Their program will include both contemporary and timeless pieces to celebrate love and remind us that music adds something special to our lives.

This event is free and open to the public with ample parking available, no RSVP is necessary.

For more information on the concert or if you are interested in learning more about our retirement community, please contact Katelyn Bacon at 413-534-9700.

Mall hosting Halloween trick-or-treat event

HOLYOKE – Families and children of all ages are invited to Holyoke Mall’s annual Halloween Mall-O-Ween, trick-or-treating event, on Thursday, Oct. 30 from 4 to 6 p.m. Participating mall retailers will be handing out candy throughout the center, making it the perfect destination for little ghouls and goblins to safely enjoy trick-or-treating.

Attendees can also participate in a Social Media Costume Contest. Simply snap a photo while

trick-or-treating at the mall, post it on Facebook and/or Instagram, follow and tag the mall @HolyokeMall, and use the hashtag #HolyokeMall Halloween2025. Contestants must be at least 18 years of age. Winners will be announced on November 3rd and awarded spooktacular prizes.

For full details regarding Halloween Mall-O-Ween, please visit <https://www.holyokemall.com/event/halloween-mall-o-ween-2025/>.

St. Joseph’s Church holding Polish dinner

WESTFIELD – St. Joseph’s National Catholic Church at 73 Main Street in Westfield is hosting a Community Dinner featuring authentic Polish Fare on Sunday, Oct. 19 at 12 noon.

This community feast will feature delicious Cheese Pierogi, Kielbasa, Galumpki, Lazy Cabbage Pierogi, Pickled Beets, Rye Bread, and Apple Crisp with Vanilla Ice Cream for Dessert. Coffee, Apple Cider, and Bottled Water will also

be available.

Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$10 for children under 12. For tickets, phone or text Cliff at (413) 977-2007. Deadline for purchasing all tickets is Oct. 16. A limited number of Meals-To-Go will be available at 12:30 p.m. (when buying your tickets, please indicate if you are dining with us or planning take-out).

All are welcome. Please join us for an authentic, traditional Polish dinner.

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Guest Column

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor



Should my spouse be getting half of my Social Security amount?

Dear Rusty:

I was referred to you to ask a question about Social Security benefits.

I receive about \$1,700 a month from Social Security while my husband receives only approximately \$750 monthly. Is he entitled to file for half of my Social Security as a monthly benefit without touching my amount?

Signed: Curious Wife

Dear Curious Wife:

For information, spousal benefits are one of the most misunderstood areas of Social Security. A spouse does not always get half of their partner's Social Security benefit how much the spouse gets is determined by their age when the spouse benefit is claimed and it is always based upon both partner's Full Retirement Age benefit, regardless of when they actually claimed Social Security.

The partner with the lower SS benefit can only get half of the other spouse's FRA amount if that partner takes the spouse benefit at or after their personal SS FRA. And each spouse's FRA may be different depending on the year they were born. FRA today is somewhere between age 66 and 67, depending on the person's year of birth.

Here are two basic rules for a lower earning marital partner to get spouse benefits:

The lower earning spouse's FRA entitlement must be less than 50% of the higher earning spouse's FRA entitlement. FRA amounts are used, even if SS benefits were claimed earlier than or later than, full retirement age, and FRA amounts are frequently different than the monthly amounts actually being received.

If one spouse's FRA

amount is less than 50% of the other spouse's FRA amount, the difference between those two amounts can be added to the lower earning spouse's SS retirement amount, to become their spousal benefit. That may, or may not, equal half of the higher earning spouse's FRA amount.

So, if you claimed your Social Security exactly at your own full retirement age and your husband also claimed his Social Security exactly at his own full retirement age, then based on the numbers you provided your husband is likely entitled to about \$850 per month, instead of his current \$750. And that would not affect your own SS benefit in any way.

Your FRA entitlement would need to be more than twice your husband's FRA entitlement for him to receive a spousal boost from you. But if either of you claimed Social Security before (or after) your respective full retirement ages, your husband would not get 50% of your benefit.

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

Live in the moment but plan for winter

Hasn't the first week of autumn been beautiful weather-wise? Warm and sunny days will have us completely spoiled!

Summer annuals continue to bloom even as we harvest our pumpkins and corn stalks. But alas, while we are enjoying, we must simultaneously prepare for what inevitably will come.

My big task for today was deconstructing a combination planter so that I could (hopefully) overwinter the summer plants indoors. These included a Hypoestes (Polka dot plant), two Fuchsias, and an Ivy Geranium.

Over the years I've had good luck overwintering regular geraniums, Gerber daisies and fuchsias, but I have never tried ivy geraniums or the finicky polka dot plant. According to my research, ivy geraniums are handled in



by Roberta McQuaid

thing would be to prune the top growth. So few roots would have a difficult time supporting all of that foliage. I will take off one third to one half of the top growth. And from this foliage, I will take some cuttings.

a similar manner as regular or zonal geraniums.

I typically overwinter them as a houseplant, in a bright sunny window. Sometimes they delight me with flowers through Christmas!

When I was trying to separate the plants from my big planter, though, the amount of roots I was able to get from the ivy geranium was honestly pathetic. The plant looked big enough on top to fit in a ten inch pot, but the root ball, maybe enough roots to fit in a four inch pot.

What am I to do? First

Regardless of my predicament, cuttings are a good option if you are short on space in front of sunny windows – you can root them in a three or four inch pot placed in indirect light until they begin to grow!

You can also store geranium stock plant out of your living space. Here is how: Cut the plants back to a couple of inches above the crown and set them in the cellar, unheated rooms, enclosed porches or other spaces that don't freeze and aren't too damp. Check them every few weeks and water sparingly if necessary, never

See GARDEN, page 5

You can check out your own cognition



your health

By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN
Guest Column



Some days, it feels like the neurons just aren't firing. You call one child by another child's name, can't remember where you left your phone and forgot to pick up something at the grocery store.

Such forgetfulness becomes more common as we age, but it isn't necessarily age-related. Lack of sleep and stress can cause stuff to leak out of our brains, too.

Memory lapses like these aren't necessarily a sign of cognitive decline, either. They are generally manageable and can be overcome with strategies such as sending yourself text reminders, making to-do lists and maintaining a cal-

endar.

That said, cognitive decline is a reality for millions of people around the world. In 2022, researchers at Columbia University found that almost 10% of U.S. adults ages 65 and older have dementia, while another 22% have mild cognitive impairment. That's practically a third of our senior population.

In one of my columns a few years ago, I called dementia the "other pandemic," because, for many people who had mild cognitive impairment before COVID, it blossomed into something more dramatic during our periods of isolation.

At your annual Medicare

wellness exam, your healthcare provider will screen you for cognitive difficulties by having you try to repeat back several random words and asking you to draw a clock showing a particular time. (With the number of young people today who can't read a clock, they'll have to come up with another test at some point!)

The Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE), an 11-question standardized test that evaluates orientation, memory, attention, language and visual-spatial abilities, might be used for the Medicare assessment because it takes only five to 10 minutes.

If your provider feels your cognition needs further evaluation, they may refer you to a specialist who will perform the MoCA, or Montreal Cognitive Assessment. It takes only 20 to 30 minutes, and has long been validated as an effective tool for early detection of mild cognitive impairment in hundreds of studies. Its sensitivity for detecting cognitive impairment is estimated at 90%, and it is considered

See HEALTH, page 5

the HOLYOKE Sun

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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.

School Street Park site of 'Out of the Darkness' walk Oct. 25

AGAWAM – Suicide is a leading cause of death in the United States and the 16th leading cause of death in Massachusetts. It is also the second-leading cause of death for individuals age 15-34, yet suicide can often be prevented.

Volunteers from western Massachusetts are joining the thousands of people who are gathering this season in towns across the

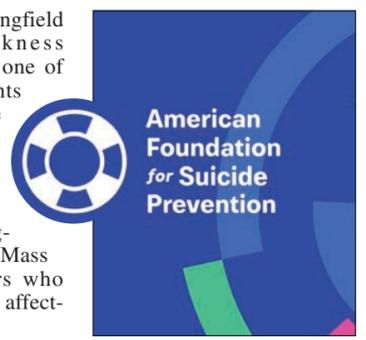
United States to promote suicide prevention. The annual Greater Springfield Out of the Darkness Community Walk, hosted by the American Foundation for Suicide Foundation - Massachusetts Chapter will be held on Saturday, Oct. 25 at 10 a.m. (registration begins at 9 a.m. at School Street Park, Agawam, MA.

This gathering will support the American

Foundation for Suicide Prevention's education, research and support for survivors of suicide loss. In addition to raising awareness and funds to fight suicide, the walks give those who attend a chance to connect with others and know they are not alone, whether they walk in memory or in support of a loved one or in honor of their own mental health journey.

"Suicide touches one in five families in the United States. We hope that by connecting with one another, we will draw attention to this issue and keep other families from experiencing a suicide loss. Our goal is to save lives and bring hope to those affected by suicide," said Lyndsey Nunes, Greater Springfield co-chair and AFSF Massachusetts Board Member.

The Greater Springfield Out of the Darkness Community Walk is one of the hundreds of events being held nationwide this year. Speakers at the Greater Springfield Out of the Darkness Walk will include local legislators and Western Mass community members who have been personally affected by suicide.



GARDEN, from page 5

letting the soil dry out completely.

When spring comes, gradually begin to introduce sunlight and the plant will commence growth. Once the threat of frost has passed the plants can go outside for the summer months. If last year's potting soil is "exhausted" of nutrients, carefully repot the plant into new soil.

Prune away any weak branches and give it some liquid fertilizer. For this situation, storage temperatures can go as low as 45 to 50 degrees.

My fuchsia extraction went much better than the geranium one did. I have equal roots to foliage and flowers. I am going to try and overwinter this plant in a northeast window, knowing that fuchsias don't like bright sun.

The last time I overwintered one of these I got the plant to live into the late winter, long enough to take a cutting. The offspring thrived! The mother plant looked pretty woody, but apparently, if I had waited

a little bit longer and gave it a light fertilization, new supple growth would have ensued.

Live and learn.

Aside from a part sunny window, fuchsias can also be overwintered out of the main living space, following my recommendations above.

The polka dot plant is another story all together. The roots were massive and the top growth the same. Although the plant looked diminutive at purchase, there was no saying that of the pot.

I pruned both the roots and the top growth, cutting it back to healthy growth just a four inches tall, settling on an eight inch pot for the three original cuttings that made up the one plant. I don't have high hopes for overwintering, because, I guess, this plant has always been a finicky one as a seedling in the greenhouse.

It looks dry so you water it, only to find out it has root rot and now you've killed it.

My research indicates that overwintering tempera-

tures should be warmer than what you would use for geraniums or fuchsias. We are talking 65 to 75 degrees. Another point of interest is that the plant likes humidity.

Putting the pot in a tray of wet gravel will provide some humidity to the immediate area and may help, especially since winter air tends to be dry. Indirect light is best for these plants as well. Let's keep our fingers crossed!

Be adventurous, by trying to overwinter some annuals. You just may make it a little easier on your wallet come spring, especially if your favorites are growing strong right in your own house!

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 5

much more effective than the MMSE.

The MoCA is designed to assess:

- Short-term memory
- Visual-spatial abilities
- Executive functions, which help us manage actions, emotions and thoughts
- Attention, concentration and working memory
- Language
- Orientation to time and place

The test has to be administered and scored by a trained clinician. Any medical professional can get the training, which takes only an hour and gives clinicians more confidence in administering the test and explaining the results to patients. Training and certification are free for students, faculty members, academic researchers and public health-care institutions.

Here are some of the activities the MoCA asks of us:

- Naming certain animals
- Counting backwards from 100 by sevens
- Saying as many words as possible that start with a

particular letter in one minute

- Copying a simple drawing
- And, of course, drawing a clock and remembering a series of random words

Evaluating age-related cognitive decline isn't the only use for the MoCA. People of any age who have suffered head trauma are often given the assessment to look out for immediate or delayed symptoms of cognitive damage. Many times, traumatic brain injury (TBI) is missed or misdiagnosed, which can leave a person with long-term cognitive issues.

Other conditions that might affect cognition are cancer treatment, Parkinson's, depression, heart failure, brain tumor, sleep disorders and substance abuse disorders.

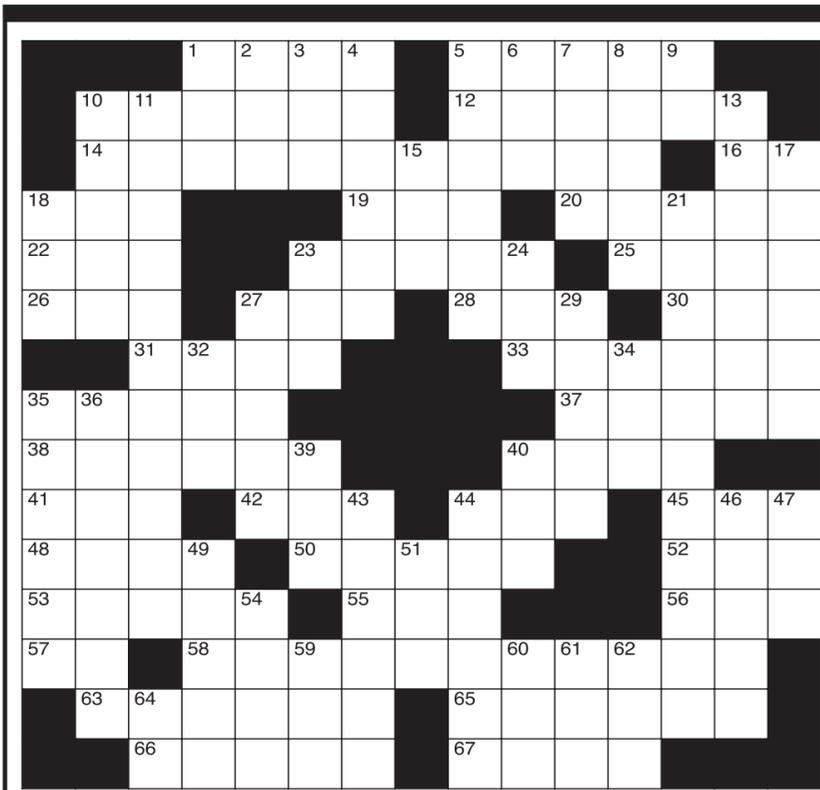
Now, though, you don't have to wait for a doctor's appointment to get a general assessment of your cognitive abilities or those of a loved one. The neurologist who developed the MoCA, Dr. Ziad Nasreddine, last year created XpressO, a quick and fun digital self-assessment designed for anyone to use on their own desktop computer, tablet or smartphone. (Laptop screens aren't large enough.)

Once all the tasks are completed, you will receive a clear and simple report stating low or elevated risk of cognitive decline. You can monitor your cognition over time and share the results with your health-care provider.

XPressO requires registration and creation of a password. Learn more at MoCAcognition.com, or you can download the XPressO app from the Apple and Google Play app stores.

Dementia and cognitive decline, already a reality for millions, are a source of fear and anxiety for millions of others. Using this simple tool might put your mind at rest, or it may signal that you need to be talking to your doctor.

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, is a registered nurse and board-certified patient advocate and founder of www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com, which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. Teri offers a free phone consultation to Turley Newspaper readers as well as to nurses interested in becoming advocates. Reach her at Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com.



CLUES ACROSS

- Native American people of CA
- Long periods of time (Brit.)
- Classroom tool
- Rods
- One who renews
- They start the alphabet
- Periodical (slang)
- Smooth singer Cole
- Dorsal sclerites in insects
- One from Utah
- The world of the dead
- Singer Redding
- Mafia head
- Wrongly
- Unhappy
- Anger
- Dark olive black
- Places to sit and

- eat
- Made a mistake
- Damp
- Banned fuel type
- Actor Damon
- What thespians do
- A polite address for a woman
- Disallow
- Swiss river
- A banana has one
- Afrikaans
- Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- Agave
- Journalist Tarbell
- One-time tech leader
- Incidentally (abbr.)
- Intestinal bacterium
- Loose sheats around the spinal cord

- Accompanies nook
- Vogue
- Highly excited

CLUES DOWN

- Witch
- Utilize
- Writing utensil
- Where rockers work
- Becomes less intense
- Consume
- Type of catfish
- "Horsetown, U.S.A."
- Atomic #50
- The Muse of lyric poetry
- Brings back to life
- Humorous critiques
- Cool!
- Worst
- Wet dirt
- Useful
- Hebrew unit of liquid capacity
- High schoolers' test
- Internet device
- City in India
- A place to rest
- Chat responder
- A way to move on
- What consumers are given
- Digital audiotape
- More (Spanish)
- Disfigured
- White (Spanish)
- Church building
- Georgia rockers
- Surgeon's tool
- "Much ___ about nothing"
- Make by braiding
- Local area network
- Unit of work
- Indigenous person of Thailand
- Liquefied natural gas
- Distance to top

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 9

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 frduyle@blessedsacramentholyoke.org
 1945 Northampton St., Holyoke
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 Sunday 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
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 Monday - Friday: ROSARY 6:15 a.m.
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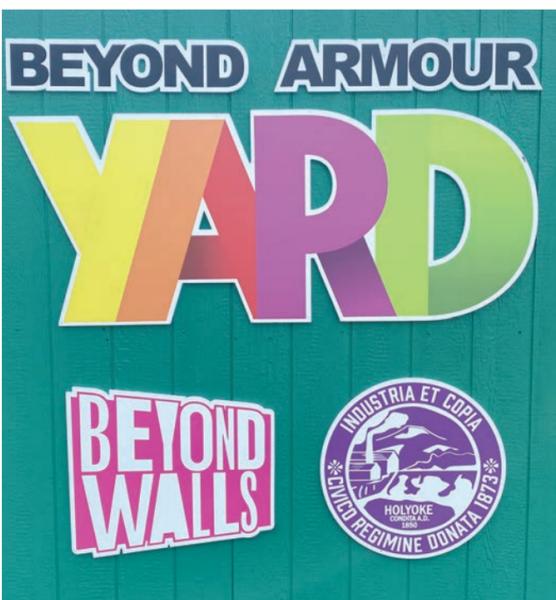
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 Email: pastor@ourladyofthecross.com
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 Reconciliation (Confession) Monday - Saturday 8 a.m.
 Saturday 3:15pm
 Anytime by Appointment
 DEVOTIONS
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 Divine Mercy Chaplet - 7:50 a.m.
 ROSARY 8:05 a.m.
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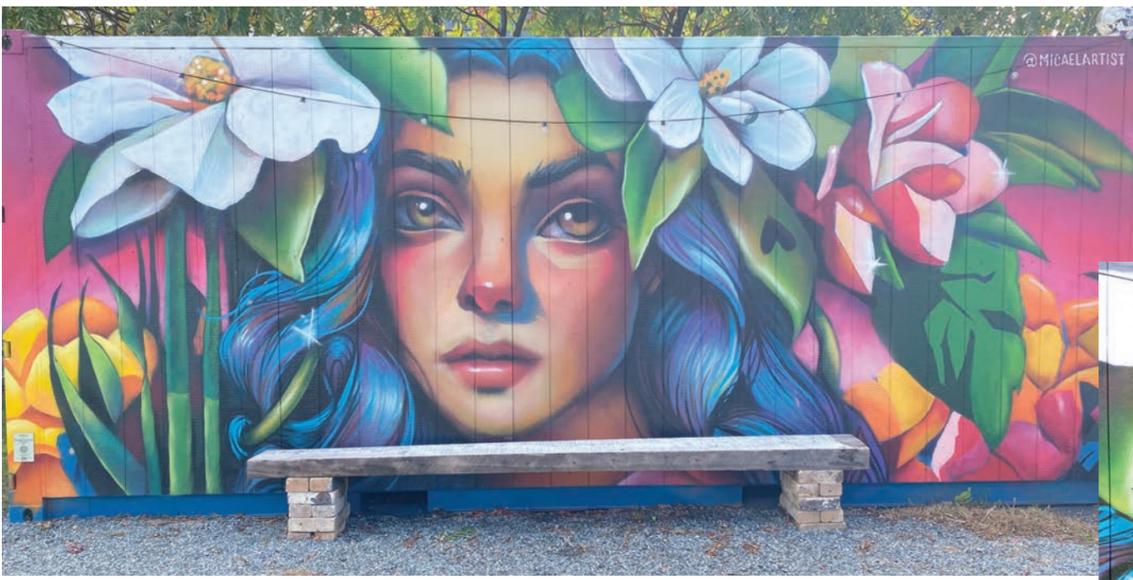
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 Sunday: 8 a.m.
 Sunday: 10 a.m.
 Sunday: 5 p.m. (Spanish)



Art & Culture Combined

HOLYOKE – Beyond the Armour Yard is a community space located at 150 Race Street in Holyoke. The space offers visual delights with beautifully painted trailers. It was developed in partnership with Beyond Walls, the team behind some of the city's vibrant mural art. This dynamic hub hosts "Mondays at the Armour Yard" and is available for community events throughout the week.



"Magnolia" by Micaela Levesque



"Kooltura" by Ruben Ubiera



"Holyoke" by Repoe9



SPORTS

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Knights fall to Agawam

AGAWAM – Last Friday night, Holyoke High School football managed two touchdowns, but was no match for Agawam's

four as the Brownies prevailed 28-15. The Knights finished 1-2 on their independent slate and head into its Suburban North sched-

ule beginning with a road game at Lee High School. Their next home game is Thursday, Oct. 9 against Easthampton at 7 p.m.



Parker Brunelle kicks off for the Knights.



Jose Feliciano makes a run up the field.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Devin Velez rears back for a long pass.



Jesus Morales returns the ball.



Darel Sierra-Feliciano makes a grab and heads up the field.



Quarterback Devin Velez makes the handoff to Jesus Morales.



Migdalia Perez Santana looks to get around a defender.



Zaire Burton-King looks to pass.

Field hockey team suffers tough loss

HOLYOKE – Last week, Holyoke field hockey was defeated by South Hadley 6-0.

The Knights also lost to Belchertown and Southwick, both on the road. Holyoke is now 0-10.



Goalie Catalina Cotto kicks the ball away.



Ivan Rivera guides the ball up the middle.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Grace Phillips drags the ball.

Knights offense shines in win over Athol

HOLYOKE – Last Friday afternoon, Holyoke High School's offense had a big game, scoring seven goals, four of them coming from Kyra Lippman along

with an assist. Leilany Figueroa had two goals and an assist. Scarlett Mendes also scored. Kyleigh Luther had three saves while allowing a goal.

Holyoke went 0-5 to start the year, but has won three games and tied one since.

The Knights defeated Palmer 4-3, Easthampton

3-2 and tied Smith Vocational 2-2.

Coming up, the Knights will take on Hopkins Academy at 3:30 p.m. at home Monday, Oct. 6.

Sen. John Velis donates to student trooper program

SPRINGFIELD – On Friday, Sept. 26 Senator John C. Velis joined members of the Massachusetts State Police and the Massachusetts American Legion to present a donation to support a scholarship for several men and women to be able to participate in the Student Trooper Program.



Senator John C. Velis

For over 35 years the American Legion has sponsored the Student Trooper program to provide the

opportunity for young people between the ages of 15 and 17 to gain a better understanding of the difficult work of law enforcement. The program teaches students about how to administer first aide, criminal law, officer safety, and participate in demonstration by state police specialty units include tactical teams and K-9 unit.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

Frank Henry King Sr.



1943-2025

Frank Henry King Sr., 81, of Hyndman, Pennsylvania passed away on Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 at his home in Londonberry Township.

Frank was born in Holyoke, on Sept. 20, 1943, son of the late Charles Howard and Mildred (Weston) King.

He was formerly married to Laura (Sulewski) Pinsonnault of Holyoke and predeceased by Teresa Marie King.

He is survived by daughter, Laurie A. wife of Robert Wagoner, of NC; daughter, Cherie L. wife of Thomas Anderson Jr, of VA; daughter,

Kimberlee S. wife of Troy Risbon, of Everett; son, Frank H. King Jr, of CT; son, Thomas C. husband of Sherry King, of NC; son, Michael R. King, of NC; brother, Robert King, of MA; sister, Nancy King, of MA; 17 grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and special friend, Donna Severino.



cles and the outdoors. He was a member of the Bedford American Legion Post 113. He worked for Savage Arms as a gun maker and was a truck driver for James River Graphics.

He served his country in the United States Army from 1960-1963.

A graveside service will be held Monday, Oct. 6 at 11 a.m. at South Amherst Cemetery, 1205 S. East St., Amherst, MA.

Donations may be made in his memory to the American Legion Post 113, 3721 Business 220, Bedford, PA 15522.

DEATH NOTICE

Frank Henry King Sr.
Died: Sept. 12, 2025
Services: Oct. 6, 2025
South Amherst Cemetery

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. Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

Robie and Zullo crowned champions at Monadnock Speedway

WINCHESTER, N.H. – Monadnock Speedway closed out its 55th summer of racing Saturday, with a huge crowd cheering as solid car counts in seven unique divisions battled for the final points and bragging rites earned during the long and successful summer of excitement on the high banks of the Great Race Place.

Along with Weekly Racing Series championships and memorable high finishes atop the 2025 divisional points parades to be decided at the speedway; 2025 season finale at the storied quarter-mile, the Teddy Bear Pools and Spas Triple Crown final event, postponed by rain a week earlier, was at stake too.

Longtime pace truck driver Leo Martin led the All States Material Group 604

Modifieds to the green for the final time Saturday, Andrew Brousseau and Joey Jarvis, both 2025 feature winners, sat up front. But not for long.

Blasting off from fourth on the grid, Leary was in front before lap one was completed, and he'd never look back en route to victory. Having early set fast time with a lap of 12.207 seconds, Leary was untouchable.

Ty Leclerc kept him close until giving way to Robie, who'd started at the back after missing qualifying, on lap 32 but Leary would not be denied. Robie's strong run netted him the 2025 track championship as well the Teddy Bear Pools crown, and Leclerc ended his season in third.

A year ago, Chris Riendeau had a magical season en route to the

Monadnock Speedway Super Street championship. This summer, that magic belonged to second-generation ace Dylan Zullo.

Firing from row three in the Twin State Truck Services 50-lap main event, Zullo took the lead from JD Stockwell Saturday and soared off to his sixth win of the season and, with it, his first career track championship. Justin Beecher's runner-up finish earned him the Teddy Bear Pools title, and Stockwell held strong for third.

Cameron Sontag closed out his Fabian Fuels Mini Stock season with a flourish Saturday. Taking the lead from Claremont regular Dick LaMotte on lap 18, the Sterling, Mass. hot shoe outran Jon Fultz to the checkers and his second win of the season.

Fultz's second-place run earned him his first Monadnock track championship and the Teddy Bear Pools & Spas Triple Crown championship, and Julia Kendall was a strong third in the season finale.

Markus O'Neil led early in the Brattleboro Towing and Recovery Pure Stock feature, but he had a swarm of potent challengers flying in his shadow, none more ominous than the dynamic duo of Kyle Kenny and Carlos Grenier as the 20-car field went to war.

Kenny held the deuce spot by lap five, but Grenier had plans of his own. Gordon Farnum's bid for four wins in a row fell by the wayside in a lap-three caution, and Grenier - crowned champion of Claremont's Ridge Runners the night before,

took charge on lap 13 and never looked back.

Kenny's second-place finish earned the talented young Green Mountain State pilot his first career track championship, and O'Neil's rock-solid night's work brought him home third, just ahead of Kyle Boniface and Jimmy Zellman. Grenier captured the Teddy Bear Pools & Spas Triple Crown championship.

Travis Hollins earned the 2025 Six Shooter championship by the slimmest of margins. Entering Saturday's season finale, he trailed 2024 champ Michael Yeaton by two points, then pulling even with his heat race win to be dead even as the feature went green.

Hollins led all the way in the Six Shooter main event, holding off the hard charging

Yeaton to win his first career championship. With Yeaton second, Josh Brigham was third in Saturday's 25-lapper.

Matt Robinson took the lead on lap 11 of the Pro V8 Sportsman feature and sped off to his first career win on the high banks. Scott Riggelman - a regular at Wall Stadium in New Jersey, was second, and Stephen Dubois came home third. The exciting full-fendered division will compete eight times next summer on the high banks.

Sofia Rego led all the way in the final Doug's Auto Body Young Guns event of the year. It was Rego's fourth victory in the youth division. Maya Bell was second Saturday, and seven-time 2025 winner Hunter Duquette was third, before later scoring a top ten finish in the Pure Stocks.

Roster takes shape for Thunderbirds

SPRINGFIELD – St. Louis Blues President of Hockey Operations and General Manager Doug Armstrong announced today that the Blues have assigned 18 players to their AHL affiliate, the Springfield Thunderbirds, including forwards Nikita Alexandrov, Sam Bitten, Hugh McGing, Matthew Peca, Juraj Pekarcik, Dylan Peterson, Simon Robertsson, Jakub Stancl, Sam Stange, Nikita Susuev, and Christopher Wagner, along with

defensemen Michael Buchinger, Quinton Burns, Marc-Andre Gaudet, Samuel Johannesson, and Anthony Kehrer, and goal-tenders Will Cranley and Vadim Zherenko.

The T-Birds open their preseason slate on Friday, October 3, when they visit the Providence Bruins at 7:05 p.m. at Amica Mutual Pavilion. They host their lone preseason game on Sunday, October 5 at the MassMutual Center, with puck drop set for 3:05 p.m.

WSU Owls football keeps winning

WESTFIELD – Westfield State University scored a pair of touchdowns on blocked punts on the way to a 31-22 win over Worcester State University in a Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference football win at Alumni Field on Saturday afternoon.

Westfield improves to 2-2 overall and 2-1 in the MASCAC, while Worcester is 0-3, 0-2 in the MASCAC.

Owls were led by 110 yards rushing from first-year fullback Manny Mengata, and got six catches for 88 yards from wideout Will Brewster.

The two offenses were rarely the headline grabbers in the game as five of the scores came from the two teams' defenses and special teams.

Westfield led 10-0 with 46 seconds left in the first half after a 27-yard field goal from Andrew Currier and then a 6-yard TD run from Aiden Fausek.

But Worcester got themselves on the board on the ensuing kickoff, as the Lancers' Gavin Hatfield took the kick at his own two yard

line, juiced his way to the left side of the field and outran everyone for a 98-yard TD return.

The Owls looked to get instant revenge, blocking the extra point try with Andrew Lovell picking up the loose ball and running it back for an apparent 2-pt conversion for the Owls, but two flags flew on the play negating the score. The Lancers second chance at an extra point was foiled by a bad snap.

Westfield marched the ball down the field on the next possession to give Currier a chance for a 47-yard field goal try at the buzzer, but the kick was wide left and the Owls took a 10-6 lead into the half.

Worcester grabbed the lead, 13-10 after Cam Goodrich got a charity hop on a Westfield State fumble and scooted 72 yards for a TD early in the third quarter. Westfield answered a few minutes later, as Nick Gauger broke through the line to block a lancers punt, and Tafari Proctor scooped the ball up and returned it seven yards

for an Owls touchdown and a 17-13 lead.

A couple of series later, Worcester took advantage of another short field after an Owls fumble, capping a 5-play, 35-yard drive with a 2-yard touchdown run from Jermaine Norfleet to grab a 20-17 lead.

Westfield answered early in the fourth quarter, marching 75 yards in 10 plays with Mengata punching it in from nine-yards out to take a 24-20 lead after Currier added the extra point.

Westfield built the lead to 31-20 after pinning the Lancers back in their own end, and forcing a punt from tight formation with ball at their own 1 yard line, Westfield's Budder Ferreira not only blocked the punt, but smothered it in the endzone for the touchdown with 8:37 left in the game.

The Owls had the opportunity to run the clock out late, but after a 3-and-out in their own end, the punt snapped sailed out of the back of the end zone for a Worcester safety to trim the

lead to 31-22.

Westfield sacked Worcester State quarterback twice on the ensuing possession, and ultimately forced Worcester to turn the ball over on downs and the Owls ran out the clock for the win.

Westfield State's defense held the Lancers to just 92 yards of total offense, and -43 yards on the ground.

The Owls sacked Ayotte six times for a total loss of 46 yards with Ferreira and Aydan Verba each racking up 1.5 sacks, and Chase Goldberg, Justyn Gardener and Emerson Ysnardi each getting home for a sack as well.

Westfield held Worcester to 12 first downs on the day and the Lancers were 1-12 on third downs.

The Lancers were led by Lance Williams, who caught 11 passes for 83 yards, and Ayotte finished the day 16-30 for 135 yards and two interceptions.

Westfield will be back in action next Saturday, hosting Anna Maria in a MASCAC conference game at 12 noon at Alumni Field.

How to contact the Sports Editor

Have the scoop on a local sports story? Want to submit a team photo, pass along a potential story idea, or just find out how to get a copy of that great photo of your young athlete? Please send all sports-related press releases and information to Sports Editor Greg Scibelli at: sports@turley.com or call, 1-413-283-8393.

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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Part time snowplow drivers are needed for the Town of New Braintree for the 2025-2026 season. Positions available for both CDL and non-CDL License.
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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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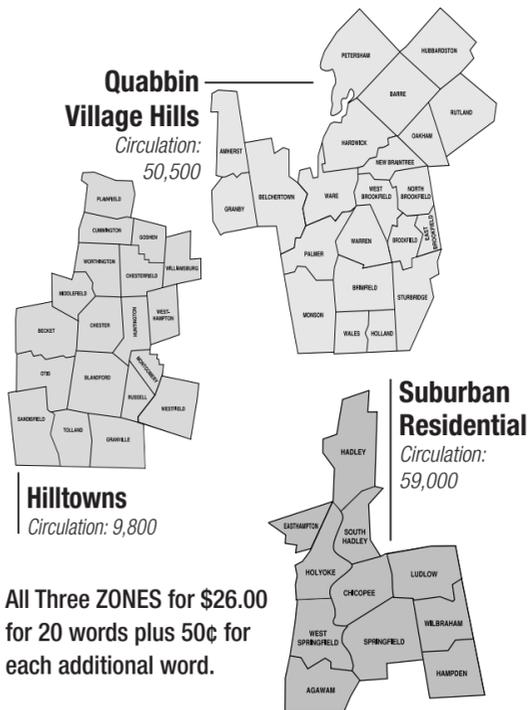
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CITY OF HOLYOKE
GAS & ELECTRIC
DEPARTMENT
2026 EXCAVATIONS &
RESTORATIONS
ANNUAL CONTRACT**

Sealed bids for the above annual contract will be received by Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept until **2:30 p.m., November 5, 2025**, at the Office of the Manager, 99 Suffolk St, Holyoke, MA, at which time proposals will be publicly opened and read.

Bid Deposit:

A Bid Deposit in the amount of \$65,000 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.

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 2026 Excavations & Restorations Annual Contract"** and address them to:

James M. Lavelle, Manager
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept
99 Suffolk St
Holyoke, MA 01040
10/03/2025

**LEGAL NOTICE
CITY OF HOLYOKE
GAS & ELECTRIC
DEPARTMENT
FIBER OPTIC
INSTALLATION, SPLICING,
TERMINATING & TESTING
ANNUAL CONTRACT**

Sealed bids for the above contract will be received by Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept until **2:30 p.m., November 6, 2025**, at the Office of the Manager, 99 Suffolk St, Holyoke, MA, at which time proposals will be publicly opened and read.

Bid Deposit:

A Bid Deposit in the amount of \$15,000 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.

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Please mark sealed envelopes **"Bid for Fiber Optic Installation, Splicing, Terminating & Testing Annual Contract"** and address them to:

James M. Lavelle, Manager
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept
99 Suffolk St
Holyoke, MA 01040
10/03/2025

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No.**

HD25P1909EA

Estate of:

Joyce M. Fournier

Also Known As:

Joyce Marie Fournier

**Date of Death: July 15, 2025
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **David D. Fournier of South Hadley, MA** a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

David D. Fournier of South Hadley, 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.

10/03/2025

**LEGAL NOTICE
CITY OF HOLYOKE
GAS & ELECTRIC
DEPARTMENT
GAS CONSTRUCTION
CONTRACTOR ANNUAL
CONTRACT**

Sealed bids for the above contract will be received by Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept until **2:00 p.m., November 7, 2025**, at the Office of the Manager, 99 Suffolk St, Holyoke, MA, at which time bids will be publicly opened and read.

Bid Deposit:

A Bid Deposit equal to \$112,500 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.

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 proposals 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 Construction Contractor Annual Contract"** and address them to:

James M. Lavelle, Manager
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept
99 Suffolk St
Holyoke, MA 01040
10/03/2025

**LEGAL NOTICE
CITY OF HOLYOKE
GAS & ELECTRIC
DEPARTMENT
HYDRAULIC
STRUCTURES'
MAINTENANCE &
REPAIRS
ANNUAL CONTRACT**

Sealed bids for the above will be received by Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept until **2:00 p.m., November 6, 2025**, at the Office of the Manager, 99 Suffolk St,

Holyoke, MA, at which time bids will be publicly opened and read.

Bid Deposit:

A Bid Deposit in the amount of \$17,500 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.

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 Hydraulic Structures' Maintenance & Repairs Annual Contract"** and address them to:

James M. Lavelle, Manager
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept
99 Suffolk St
Holyoke, MA 01040
10/03/2025

**THE COMMONWEALTH
OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION -
HIGHWAY DIVISION
NOTICE OF A
PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL
MEETING**

Project Description:

**Chicopee -
Bridge Replacement,
Br# C-13-038 I-391
over Route 116
(Chicopee Street)**

Project File No. 612187

A Public Informational Meeting will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed project in Chicopee, MA.

WHERE:

Chicopee Comprehensive
High School
617 Montgomery Street
Chicopee, MA 01013

WHEN:

Wednesday,
October 8th, 2025, 6:00 PM

PURPOSE: The purpose of this meeting is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed project. All views and comments made at the meeting will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed project consists of the full replacement of the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Bridge which carries I-391 over Route 116, locally known as Chicopee Street, in the Willimansett neighborhood of Chicopee. The existing bridge is a concrete structure, originally opened to traffic in 1979. It provides three northbound lanes (towards Holyoke) and three southbound lanes (towards Chicopee), though the left lanes of both directions are currently closed to traffic. Though safe for all users, this bridge has reached the end of its useful lifespan and must be replaced. MassDOT proposes to replace the existing structure with a new bridge which will provide three lanes in each direction, a 75-year design life span, and incorporate modern bridge design elements to reduce maintenance impacts to the Willimansett neighborhood and the traveling public. During demolition of the existing structure and construction of the new bridge, some limited detours and closures may be required to ensure public safety, but in general, MassDOT will seek to maintain traffic on both Chicopee Street and I-391. We invite all members

of the community to attend the meeting and learn more about this project.

This location is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (including but not limited to interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, open or closed captioning for videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats, such as audio tapes, Braille and large print), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), fax (857-368-0602), TTD/TTY (857-368-0603) or by email (MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us). Requests should be made as soon as possible prior to the meeting, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten (10) business days before the meeting. In the event of inclement weather a cancellation announcement will be posted on the internet at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events>.

JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

CARRIE E. LAVALLE
CHIEF ENGINEER
09/26, 10/03/2025

**LEGAL NOTICE
CITY OF HOLYOKE
GAS & ELECTRIC
DEPARTMENT
2026 ROAD REPAIRS
ANNUAL CONTRACT**

Sealed bids for the above contract will be received by Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept until **2:00 p.m., on November 5, 2025**, at the Office of the Manager, 99 Suffolk St, Holyoke, MA, at which time proposals will be publicly opened and read.

Bid Deposit:

A Bid Deposit in the amount of \$25,000 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.

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 proposals that in the opinion of the Manager may be in the best interest of the City of Holyoke.

Please mark sealed envelopes, **"Bid for 2026 Road Repairs Annual Contract"** and address them to:

James M. Lavelle, Manager
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept
99 Suffolk St
Holyoke, MA 01040
10/03/2025

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate
and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No.
HD25P1964EA
Estate of:
George A Roberts
Date of Death: 08/09/2025
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR FORMAL
ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Andrea L Brunault-McGuinness of Holyoke, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Andrea L Brunault-McGuinness of Holyoke, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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 the return day of 10/28/2025. 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 day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION**

**UNDER THE
MASSACHUSETTS
UNIFORM PROBATE
CODE (MUPC)**

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

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

Date: September 17, 2025
Rosemary A Saccamani,
Register of Probate

10/03/2025

City of Holyoke

Notice of Public Hearing

The Ordinance Committee of the Holyoke City Council will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, October 22, 2025 at 6:30pm** to hear a zoning ordinance change proposal to enact a short term rental ordinance. Meeting will take place at Holyoke City Hall 536 Dwight St and can be accessed remotely via zoom.us Meeting ID 894 1169 7608 Meeting Passcode 426774 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 with same Meeting ID and Passcode. For a copy of the proposed language or to submit a comment for this public hearing, please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org or by phone 413-322-5525.

Ordinance Chair, Israel Rivera
10/03, 10/10/2025

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate
and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No.
HD25P1926EA
Estate of:
Douglas N Wilkinson
Date of Death: 12/18/2019
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR FORMAL
ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Late and Lim-**

ited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment has been filed by **Melissa Tempestini of Bristol, RI** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Melissa Tempestini of Bristol, RI** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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 the return day of 10/15/2025. 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 day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION**

**UNDER THE
MASSACHUSETTS
UNIFORM PROBATE
CODE (MUPC)**

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

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

Date: September 17, 2025
Rosemary A Saccamani,
Register of Probate

10/03/2025

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No.
HD25P1993EA
Estate of:**

**Robert Victor Drapeau
Date of Death: 09/05/2025
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Marie S Ryan of Westfield, MA**.

Marie S Ryan of Westfield, 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.

10/03/2025

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.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.



**PUBLIC NOTICES
ARE NOW ONLINE**

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

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

In The News

REUNION, from page 1

"I joined to be a coordinator to reintroduce myself to a lot of my classmates whom I didn't know in high school, and it means a lot to get together once in a while and enjoy each other's company," O'Connor said. He also revealed how the element of 'joint reunions' came into reality.

"One thing I would like to add is that Holyoke Catholic was the combination of 3 different schools, which were Rosary, St. Jerome's, and Sacred Heart," O'Connor said. "So some students went to grammar school with us, but went to other high schools such as HCHS or Holyoke High, so yeah, I would say these two classes are quite unified, and I feel we are all good friends."

O'Connor also took a moment to reflect on the achievements of his classmates, with one of the most notable in attendance being Holyoke High legendary swimmer, John DesFosses, and alumnus from '65, who took a stroll down memory lane, before offering insight about his enshrinement, which is slated to take place later this month at the Wyckoff Country Club on Saturday, Oct. 25.

"We had a really good class, we had a lot of nice people, and everyone always seemed to get along."

DesFosses said, "I think I may be the first swimmer to be inducted, and I confess I'm honored and humbled all at the same time, and I admit the news came as a shock, and it was a wonderful surprise." DesFosses's high school career as a Purple Knight was worthy of his enshrinement as he set various school and league records, which earned him the crown of All-American recognition, along with holding six records still to this day that he established in his junior year of 1964—a Pioneer Valley League record in the 50 freestyle and Holyoke High School records in the 50 freestyle, 100 freestyle, 40 freestyle, 200 freestyle and 160 individual medley.

To note, his most prestigious title came against Deerfield when he posted a time of 22.8 seconds in the 50 free, where the time also set a new pool, school and Pioneer Valley League record in one swim, and remained a Holyoke record for 59 years, which was recently eclipsed last year by a mere three-tenths of a second at the 2024 State Championship.

In addition, it was revealed that alumni from all across the country returned home to the Paper City, with some coming from as far as Arizona, Kentucky, Florida, and just across the border, over in Connecticut, to partake in the 'Mid-Sixties Reunion'.

JP'S, from page 1

ers who continue to help and support us through this very fun journey."

Coming in second and runner up was Halfway House Lounge (\$7,639), Donovan's Irish Pub: (\$5,997), Pic's Pub and Pizzeria (\$1,639), Griffin's

Cafe (\$1,122), and Francie's Tavern (\$779) which in total all participants raised \$26,500 at the end of the night, which will be used to offset upcoming parade, which was also the highest recorded figure yet, according to comments from Kelly McGiverin, 'Battle of the Bars' founder, and Holyoke

St. Patrick's Committee member.

"The event was created back in 2019, as a way to help the Holyoke St. Patrick's Committee raise funds, to offset costs such as bands, music, and other types of entertainment that come down the street, because in total the

parade costs over \$300K," McGiverin said. "All of the participants did fundraisers ahead of time; they sold t-shirts during the event, got donations from those in attendance, and honestly, without the support of our local businesses, parade weekend wouldn't be the same without all of them."



The sold-out atmosphere during the "Battle of the Bars" event was electric. There were packed crowds all over the city, including at JP's, the winning bar. Turley photo by Brendan Rooney



Matt Cabral performed live musical entertainment.

BRIDGE, from page 1

time traffic conditions, and project information before setting out on the road. Users can subscribe to receive text and email alerts for traffic conditions.

- Dial 511 and select a route to hear real-time conditions.
- Follow @MassDOT on X, (formerly known as Twitter), to receive regular updates on road and traffic conditions.



Donovan's Irish Pub

Live Music
Every
Weekend!

**Friday,
Oct. 3rd**

**The
Healys**

**Saturday,
Oct. 4th**

**Dee
Reilly**

**Friday,
Oct. 10th**

Kilashandra

**Saturday,
Oct. 11th**

**Jim McArdle &
Jerry Murphy**

80 Jarvis Avenue, Holyoke
413-543-0791 • donovanspub.com
Sun. 12pm - 8pm; Mon.-Thurs. 11:30am-9:30pm; Fri. & Sat. 11:30am - 11:30pm

COLLEEN, from page 1

chance to be part of something larger than yourself. We're thrilled to welcome young women from our neighboring communities to share in this tradition."

What's new this year?

- Expanded eligibility: Young women from Holyoke, South Hadley, Easthampton and Southampton are now invited to apply.
- Broader community representation: The Committee hopes this expansion will foster regional pride and strengthen bonds across neighboring towns.

Contestant Eligibility

- Applicants must:*
- Be 17-22 years of age as of March 17, 2026
 - Resident of Holyoke,

South Hadley, Easthampton or Southampton

- Be single (never married, not a parent)
- Claim Irish ancestry
- Complete a resume and application

Awards and Opportunities

The Grand Colleen will receive:

- \$3,000 to be used as a scholarship or trip to Ireland
 - Professional portrait
 - Tiara
- The Grand Colleen and Court will receive:*
- Gifts from local businesses and Colleen Patrons
 - A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to serve as community ambassadors during Parade season

Important Dates

- Oct. 1: applications open
- Dec. 27: Deadline to

submit application to enter the Grand Colleen Pageant

- Dec. 28: Colleen Orientation at Mrs. Mitchell's Public House, Holyoke, 2 p.m.
 - Jan. 2: Grand Colleen Pageant Rehearsal, at Holyoke High School, 6-8 p.m.
 - Jan. 3: Grand Colleen Pageant at Holyoke High School Auditorium, 6-9:30 p.m.
 - Jan. 4: Colleen Tea at Donovans, Holyoke, 3-5p.m.
 - Feb. 14: Grand Coronation Ball at The Log Cabin, Holyoke
- Apply now at www.holyokestpatricksparade.com/ apply. For any questions, please contact Kate Caligaris, Colleen Committee Chair at (413) 627-8716 or holyoke-colleens@gmail.com.

Send Us Your Holiday Event Information

Turley Publications
will print
your holiday
calendar listings
FREE OF CHARGE
in our
**Holiday Dazzler
Supplement** which
publishes Nov. 19th.

Deadline for submissions is
October 20th

Community Holiday Events

Event Should Be Non-Profit
& Open to the Public

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

Event Name _____

Date/Time _____

Location _____

Description _____

Cost _____

Contact name & phone number for more information _____

Please specify if you would like your name and number printed in the paper.

CLIP OUT AND MAIL TO:

Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069
or email* them to: jamie@turley.com

*Be sure to indicate "Holiday" in the subject line of your email.