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Collamore passes away

Leaving legacy of service to HPS, city and beyond



William Collamore

By Quinn Suomala
Correspondent

HOLYOKE – Longtime School Committee Member William Collamore passed away on Sept. 19.

Collamore had been a part of the Holyoke School Committee since 1976. He dedicated five decades of his life to serving the Holyoke community.

He was the longest serving elected official in Massachusetts prior to his passing. All of his time put toward serving Holyoke has not gone unnoticed.

“Mr. Collamore is someone who puts service to the community ahead of himself,” Mayor Joshua

See LEGACY, page 6

Sheriff's Shuffle raises over \$25K for YWCA

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

HOLYOKE – More than 600 runners and walkers turned out for the Hampden County Sheriff's Office annual Sheriff Shuffle 5K on Oct. 4, raising over \$25,000 for the YWCA of Western Mass., which surpassed expectations and will now bolster the YWCA's outreach and emergency shelter services for those affected by domestic violence, further solidifying a vital partnership as the community continues to rally in pursuit of finding a solution to the ever-growing epidemic.

As usual, the long-standing fundraiser used the



Turley Photos By Brendan Rooney

Above, HCSO Sheriff Nick Cocchi and Elizabeth Dineen, CEO of the YWCA of Western Massachusetts, surrounded by hundreds of participants at the starting point. Left, representatives from BHN (Behavioral Health Network) were present at the fundraiser, posing with this adorable K9.

Holyoke Elks and Ashley Reservoir as its base of operations, drawing participants of all ages, from seasoned local ath-

letes to families and first-time supporters, turning the crisp autumn morning into a vibrant display of solidarity.

Before the official kick-off, local vendors and resource tables buzzed inside the hall, offering everything from crisis support literature

to community wellness programs, showing assistance is always available no matter the occasion.

An element HCSO Sheriff Nick Cocchi touched upon, sharing, “We’re going

See SHERIFF, page 10

Bowlin becomes newest member of team at Wistariahurst



Turley Photo by Christina Gioscia

Wistariahurst Museum Archivist and Assistant Curator Kate Bowlin with a book of mortgage documents from the 1930s.

By Christina Gioscia
Correspondent

HOLYOKE – Wistariahurst Museum has welcomed the newest member of their team, Kate Bowlin, as archivist and assistant curator. Bowlin started working at the museum a month ago.

She shared her thoughts on getting started

“It’s been great. I really love it here and I like all of the programs that we have going on and the stuff that’s being planned. The team seems really great. So, I’m just excited about getting to work here and getting to kind of be apart of it and really ingrain myself in the community because I really value community building.”

Bowlin then shared what her position entails.

“So, a big part of what I do is answer research questions or set up research appointments,” Bowlin said. “So, I have someone coming in this afternoon who

wants to look at some of the Skinner paperwork. So, they emailed and they said, you know, ‘these are the items I’m interested in looking at.

So, I’m just excited about getting to work here and getting to kind of be apart of it and really ingrain myself in the community because I really value community building.”

- Kate Bowlin

I think it’s, some scrapbooks from the Skinner family and some letters and photographs, stuff like that. And so my job would be to kind of put out the stuff that they were wanting and have it there and ready for them. So, you know, answering a lot of questions from the community. And then aside from that, it’s kind of just keeping track of everything that’s in here, making sure everything

is stored well. That nothing needs to be you know, we call it intervention, like nothing needs to be cleaned or prepared or conserved in some way, just making sure everything is organized.”

Bowlin then explained why preservation and education regarding history is so important.

“I think that looking back on history, especially in a context like what we preserve here, we’re preserving the history of Holyoke and the people here and that is where we come from,” Bowlin said. “And there’s so much to learn from that both the good and the bad things of the past. I also think it’s really important to know where you come from, to know your background because it helps give you a sense of identity. And I know that you know, having that identity and having the community identity is just really helpful for people. I think that’s something that a lot of people are missing right now is a sense of community

See BOWLIN, page 6

Election letters must be received by Oct. 20

The Holyoke Sun welcomes readers to participate in this year’s state election by writing letters to the editor for publication.

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 by email to thesun@turley.com or care of: Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 by 12 noon on Friday, Oct. 16 to be published in the Wednesday, Oct. 21 edition. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

Letter writers need to provide their name and the town they reside in.

Please include a daytime telephone number (for verification purposes only) when submitting your letter. Your phone number will not be printed.

Museum opens new Memento Mori exhibit for spooky season

By Christina Gisocia
Correspondent

HOLYOKE – On Thursday Oct. 1, Wistariahurst Museum opened their new exhibit, Memento Mori.

Rachel Powell organized the event, and explained where the idea for the exhibit came from.

“I got to do an exhibit last year,” Powell said. “It was called Identity in Ink. Megan, our museum director, is very giving. If there’s something we’re interested in, she lets us do it. And I’ve been interested in exhibits because I love museums,

and so I did a tattoo exhibit and that was a lot, because it was featuring so many different artists, but it was wonderful. I told myself I’d give myself a break, but in the middle of that exhibit my cat passed away. So, I’ve been going through what I consider deep mourning because it was my sole cat. I loved her so much. And I was like, where are these mourning traditions coming from. And we’d been talking about some of the garments that we had. I approached our museum director and said, ‘I think it would be cool to do like a death and decay in the Victorian era, specifical-

ly when the family lived in the house.” Powell said the exhibit connects with people because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“I think since the pandemic, where a ton of people lost their lives to COVID or other related things, we’re back into that time period of mourning,” she said. “Like not having those pieces of some people because they either hospitals. And we’ve been kind of grappling with death as people began struggling in recent years, which is also kind of the inspiration.”



Overview of the new Memento Mori exhibit.

Turley Photo by Christina Gioscia

See MORI, page 6

Completed applications must be submitted by: Friday, Oct. 9 at 5 p.m. Application materials, eligibility requirements, funding guidelines, and submission instructions are available in the MVP2 Open Space Activation Application & Funding Guidelines document at:

<https://www.holyoke.org/mvp-2-0-open-space-activation-mini-grant-program/>.

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.

More information about Holyoke Mall stores, restaurants, and entertainment venues, can be found at Holyokemall.com. Follow and share your stories at the center on Facebook and Instagram.

We strive to be an impactful community resource for your family. It is our hope that this program allows families who may typically avoid crowded or stimulating environments to come and join in on the fun. For more information, call the museum at (413) 536-7048.



announcement, 207 municipalities are receiving at least one award from the One Stop program; 13 communities are receiving a One Stop award for the first time. This year's awards are estimated to support more than \$24.6 billion of leveraged private investment, over 13,000 permanent jobs, more than 7 million square feet of new commercial development and over 27,000 units of housing, including about 7,000 new affordable units.

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Skeletal Secrets with the Skinner Specters Tour

H O L Y O K E – Wistariahurst Museum is delighted to bring back one of our most beloved and frightfully fantastic tours of the year: Skeletal Secrets with the Skinner Specters on Oct. 23 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. Wistariahurst’s volunteers portray the Skinner family and their servants in this immersive character tour. Their ghostly performances

will reveal dark tales of death, loss, and the spirits that are said to still roam the museum’s halls. 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, email info@wistariahurst.org or call (413)322-5660. 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.

Broadway Brings Joy presents BBJ Spooky Spectacular



H O L Y O K E – Broadway Brings Joy (BBJ) invites the community to its Third annual family-friendly BBJ Spooky Spectacular, a Spooky Musical Theater Extravaganza highlighting the Broadway Brings Joy Musical Theater Program for students ages 4 through adult. Friday, Oct. 30 – Doors open at 6 p.m., showing at 7 p.m. at De La Luz Soundstage, 114 Race Street, Holyoke. The event is free of charge and open to the public, with a suggested donation of \$10–\$20. The showcase will highlight spooky favorites including Sweeney Todd, The Lost

Boys, Little Shop of Horrors, It’s the Great Pumpkin Charlie Brown, Matilda the Musical, Young Frankenstein, Hadestown, Cabaret, Beetlejuice, and more. A cash bar, snacks, and BBJ merchandise will be available for purchase. The evening offers a fun, family-friendly way for the community to see what BBJ programs are all about. This program is funded in part by the Holyoke Local Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. For more information, visit www.broadwaybringsjoy.com.



HCC Trunk or Treat has been an annual tradition and a successful event.

Submitted photo

HCC hosting Trunk or Treat Oct. 23

H O L Y O K E – Visitors to Holyoke Community College on Friday, Oct. 23, can expect to see witches, ghouls, ghosts and an assortment of characters from popular children’s movies, games, books, and TV shows as the college celebrates Halloween with its ninth annual Trunk or Treat event. Every year, the event draws thousands of children and their parents to the HCC campus for a fun, safe, and early Halloween celebration as dozens of HCC departments, programs, and student clubs, as well as community groups and area businesses, decorate their cars and trucks with a wide assortment of themes. Trunk or Treat runs from 5 to 7 p.m. in Parking Lot

M by the Bartley Center for Athletics and Recreation on the main HCC campus, 303 Homestead Ave. Last year’s trunk themes included Disney’s Cars, the Wizard of Oz, Minions, Dr. Seuss, pirates, a haunted vet clinic, aliens, Jurassic Park, Shrek, the Adams Family, witches, The Nightmare Before Christmas, cartoons, pumpkins and ghosts, Harry Potter, Scooby Doo, Bob’s Burgers, fun at the farm, Irish dancing fairies, haunted house, brains, aliens, and Bluey, among others. Prizes are awarded to vehicle sponsors in various categories including best executed theme, scariest trunk, best costumes, and most original. Each vehicle will be handing out free

Halloween treats and have non-food items for children with dietary restrictions. Trunk or Treat at HCC started in 2017 as a safe, fun, and early alternative to traditional trick-or-treating on Halloween night. Rather than going door to door seeking Halloween treats, children go “trunk to trunk” to collect their candy, visiting cars decorated with seasonal themes and familiar stories and characters. The event is free and open to the public and will be held outdoors, rain or shine. Children must be accompanied by an adult. To sponsor a vehicle, please contact Student Engagement at studentengagement@hcc.edu. The deadline is Monday, Oct. 19.

City residents bringing Mt. Holyoke musical show 'It's The Wildest' to Florence

H O L Y O K E – Local musician, Holyoke resident, and creator of Mount Holyoke College’s “The Big Broadcast,” Mark Gionfriddo will bring his “It’s The Wildest!” show back to Bombyx Center for Arts & Equity in Florence, Saturday, Nov. 7 at 3 p.m. Gionfriddo and local singer Nikki Gorts will perform with a five-piece band, featuring the music of Louis Prima

and Keely Smith. Gionfriddo describes “It’s The Wildest!” as an exciting, tune-filled tribute to the music of Prima and Smith. “The Wildest” was the title of a 1956 album by the two. In the 1950s, Prima and Smith turned a tiny Las Vegas lounge into the most swinging after-hours party with a mix of jazz, swing, novelty music, and rock ‘n roll. Gionfriddo, Gorts and the band pay hom-

age to this renowned duo featuring gems from the American Popular Songbook, including “Jump, Jive ‘N Wail,” “Just a Gigolo/I Ain’t Got Nobody,” “Buona Sera,” “Sentimental Journey,” “I Wish You Love,” and “That Old Black Magic.” Gionfriddo has added a few numbers to the November show, including “I Can’t Give You Anything but Love,” “That Darn Cat,” from the

Disney movie, and in a nod to the season, “Autumn Leaves.” The band will also play a number penned by Gionfriddo. “I wanted to write a novelty song in the style of Louis Prima — and I was reminded of the 1996 film ‘Big Night,’ which revolved around an Italian restaurant busying itself for a visit from Prima and his band. I imagined them making all these exotic dishes for him when all

he wanted was a simple plate of pasta, as in the song’s title, “A Side of Spaghetti & One Meatball.” Gionfriddo, a faculty member at Mount Holyoke College, has been creator and producer of “The Big Broadcast,” the annual 1940’s variety show at the college for the last 20 years. He is also keyboardist and band director for the Young@Heart Chorus, as well as musical director

of “Torch Song Tuesdays,” the monthly cabaret series at the Majestic Theater in West Springfield. Gorts is a singer and theatre artist from Easthampton. She’s been performing throughout western Massachusetts for 25 years and recently joined the cast of “The Big Broadcast.” as a Foley artist. Tickets are available at <https://bombyx.ludus.com>.

OneHolyoke opens lottery applications

H O L Y O K E – OneHolyoke CDC is accepting applications for a lottery for the Crafts Block Apartments, eight newly-renovated units located at 145 High Street in Downtown Holyoke. The historic mixed-use property features eight one- and two-bedroom units on the second and third floors of the building, with retail space on the ground level. Lottery applicants will be assigned a unique number, to be drawn on Oct. 26. Each successful lottery applicant whose number is drawn will then receive a rental application following the lottery drawing. The Crafts Block building consists of four one-bedroom and four two-bedroom units, and are affordable apartments for households earning at or below 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI), adjusted for family size. One-bedroom units range from 620-786 square feet and cost \$1,384 per month; and two-bedroom units are 875-975 square feet, and are \$1,734 per month.

More detailed information is available on the lottery application. Online and downloadable applications are available online at OneHolyoke.org/the-crafts-block or at OneHolyoke CDC, 70 Lyman Street, Holyoke. Applications are due on October 26 and can be submitted via the online form; dropped off or mailed to OneHolyoke’s offices at 70 Lyman Street, Holyoke, MA 01040, or emailed to georgianna.brown@oneholyokey.org. The Crafts Block units feature ultra high efficient heating and cooling systems; a washer and dryer in each unit; hardwood floors, slate tiles and large windows. The property is situated in a walkable and transit-friendly area with access to local dining and entertainment. Access to the apartments is only available by stairs; there is no elevator in the building. OneHolyoke CDC is managing the lottery process on behalf of Crafts Block, LLC, who owns the property, and Urbanist Development,

property developer. The Crafts Block project is made possible by funding from TruNorth Bank and MassHousing. OneHolyoke CDC is the only certified Community Development Corporation based in the City of Holyoke. Founded in 1971, OneHolyoke CDC has created over 160 new homes in the Flats, Churchill and South Holyoke neighborhoods, rehabilitated hundreds of apartments and provided thousands of home improvement grants to homeowners through the Neighborhood Improvement Program.



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When will Congress repay Social Security money taken years ago?

Dear Rusty:

I seem to remember that Congress borrowed a total of 4 trillion dollars from SS back in the 1980s and 1990s. When will this be repaid with interest?

Signed:
Concerned Senior

Dear Concerned Senior:

I'm afraid your recollection is not correct – no politicians (Congress or Presidents) have ever taken money from the Social Security Trust Funds – not in the 1980s, nor 1990s, not ever.

Congress and Presidents are prevented by law from using Social Security money for any purpose other than paying SS benefits to beneficiaries and for paying the operating costs of administering the program.

Some significant changes to the Social Security program were, indeed, made in the years you mention, but those changes essentially saved Social Security from defaulting on monthly SS payment obligations.

In 1983, Congress and President Reagan enacted some income tax on received SS benefits for those with higher incomes and which added to Social Security's revenue, thus avoiding a benefit cut.

Then in 1993, Congress and President Clinton expanded that legislation to increase the taxation of received Social Security benefits to provide additional SS revenue.

What you may be remembering is the political rhetoric from those days, which opined that Congress had stolen, squandered or borrowed (and should repay) Social Security money used for other purposes.

And that rhetoric originated because of the way received SS revenue from payroll FICA tax is invested.

Social Security revenue, when received, is immediately invested in special-issue government bonds, which pay interest (just like normal government "T-bills").

The difference is that these SS bonds are redeemable, with interest, upon demand and as needed by SSA to pay monthly benefits. This means that SS gets additional interest income from these investments accounting for about \$69 billion in extra SS income in 2025.

Some folks, however, feel that because the U.S. Treasury gets the actual cash received for those SS investments, that the money is used by the Treasury for other purposes. Which is, of course,

true – just as the government uses all income received from all revenue sources to pay for government programs.

So, rather than viewing those SS bonds as investments, some view them as "money borrowed" and sometimes call the bonds "worthless IOUs." This, of course, is not at all the case, because every dollar invested in those special issue government bonds has been (and still is) used only for valid Social Security purposes and results in extra SS revenue from interest.

Nevertheless, those accusations were prevalent in the 1980s and 1990s when the changes to tax SS benefits were enacted. Indeed, we still regularly hear and refute similar rhetoric these days in our capacity as Social Security Advisors.

We've written many articles on this topic, all of which are available at the AMAC Foundation's two main websites at www.amac-foundation.org, and www.SocialSecurityReport.org.

To answer your specific question "when will this (money) be repaid with interest?" The answer is - there is nothing to repay. All monies ever received for Social Security purposes have been invested in special interest-bearing government bonds, which are redeemed (with interest paid) weekly as needed to pay Social Security benefits to those who have earned and are entitled to them.

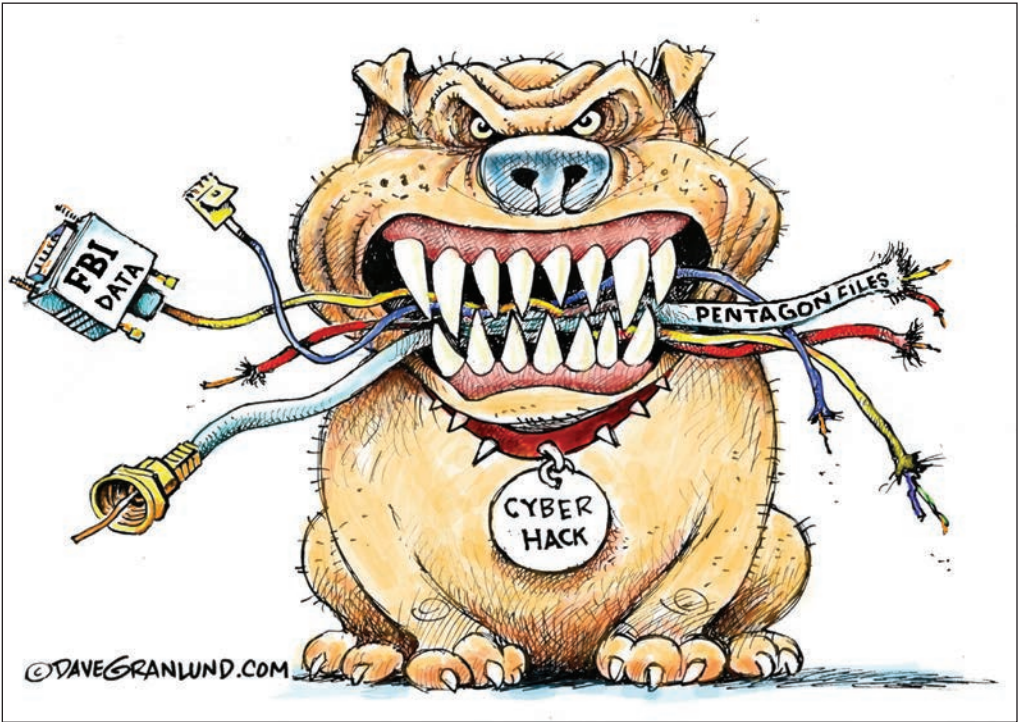
These bonds are secured by the "full faith and credit of the U.S. government," a financial designation which is globally considered to be "exceptionally low risk."

FYI, the SS Trust Fund reserves held about \$2.5 trillion in investments as of the end of 2025, down from about \$2.9 trillion in 2020. The Trust Fund total is now being regularly depleted because incoming SS revenue has not been sufficient to pay 100% of SS benefit obligations since 2021, so Trust Fund reserves are now being used to pay full benefits.

And therein lies the crux of the Social Security solvency issue, which is why the program so urgently needs Congressional reform before the SS reserves in the Trust Funds run dry in 2032, after which everyone would see a cut in their monthly SS benefits. Congress must enact SS reform now.

The Association

See SECURITY, page 5



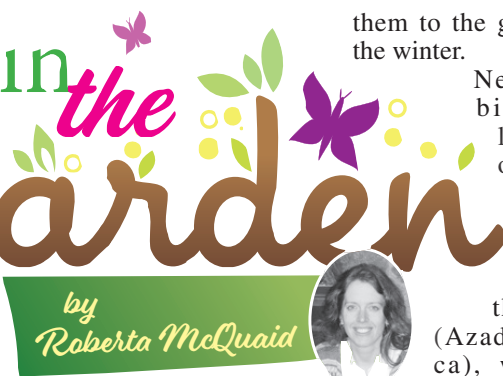
Friends with more questions

The threat of night time temperatures in the 30s sure have us gardeners on the move.

I had a few questions from friends this week that pertained to the change in seasons. Read on; maybe you can relate!

One of my friends asked if she should harvest all of her unripe peppers, and if they would continue to ripen indoors.

Peppers will only continue to fully ripen (i.e. change from green to their ripe color) if they are showing a hint of their ripe color. They definitely won't be as sweet as if they ripened on the vine, and they will lose a little of their mass as they sit, but they would still be a great addition to a stir fry or sauce.



I generally harvest all of my unripe peppers and keep them one layer deep in my cool mudroom, using or discarding as I go.

Another question came in about the use of Neem as an insecticide. My friend put her houseplants outdoors for the summer months and is concerned about bringing hitch-hikers inside where plants will be in close quarters.

We always spray tender plants such as Rosemary or Bay with Safer's Soap or a Sun oil before returning

them to the greenhouse for the winter.

Neem works a bit differently but like the others is also a less toxic approach. Neem oil comes from the Neem tree (Azadirachta indica), which grows naturally in India and Southeast Asia.

It is an effective pesticide, miticide and fungicide for both indoor and outdoor plants. You can buy it ready to use or in oil form which needs to be mixed with water and a small amount of dish detergent right before use. This will help it blend nicely and disperse evenly.

Neem is effective against spider mite, white flies, scale, mealybug and aphids – all of which are typical houseplant pests. It kills them by disrupting

See GARDEN, page 5



By Ellenor Downer



Common Nighthawk

Bird reported recent sightings of common nighthawks at the Rutland Prison Camps in Rutland and in Worcester.

The common nighthawk is a medium sized (8.7 to 9.8 inches long) nocturnal bird of the nightjar family found in both the Americas. It is

See BIRDS, page 5

the HOLYOKE Sun

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EDITOR/SPORTS
Greg Scibelli
thesun@turley.com
sports@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES
Wendy Delcamp
wdelcamp@turley.com

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WEB
sun.turley.com

PHONE
(413) 283-8393

ADDRESS
24 Water Street
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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.

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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*.

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MORI, from page 1

Powell then talks about how life connects to the exhibit and the Victorian eras.

“We still talk about life. Like what did life look like for men and women versus what was the issues they had health wise, or complication wise, war, childbirth,” Powell said. “And then how does that merge into death. The Victorians, because the civil war, so many casualties most soldiers were buried in mass burials. They wouldn’t have like pieces of their loved ones. So, before they would go off to war, they might give a memento of their hair or something. And then as those people come back, they would take postmortem photos. And that is still where we’re getting some of those pieces of like, mourning, that we have. Like when my cat passed away, I had a piece of memorial jewelry made of her paw print. So in a way, how we’re respecting it is we find those tangible pieces that connects us to people back then. And the Victorian era influenced all of our mourning things. We wear black. We are very quiet, sometimes our families come in and take care of us. All those things start in the Victorian era.”

Death connects us all Powell explains how the exhibit from the past can be applied to the present.

“No matter what death effects us,” Powell said. “And when you kind of bring similar sentiments, you immediately feel that because like whether you felt that or you feel loss, that’s how you connect it. So when we see other people grieving as we did and

collecting those objects, it just kind of breaks away. And hopefully it helps people in some way process death a little bit better by seeing the empathy that comes from people in the past and how it echoes to today.”

Archivist and Assistant Curator Kate Bowlin lauded the work of Powell in putting the new exhibit.

“Rachel was the one who conceptualized it and really put it together,” Bowlin said. “So a big part of my role was finding the items. There’s a condolence letter that’s in there, and garments that are on display. So, I was pulling those, examining them to make sure they can go on display. Rachel took care of writing the labels and the information. So, I was kind of like a reference for her. It was a team effort putting it all together.”

This exhibit features historical clothing, including mourning attire, books and photographs specific to the Skinner family, and jewelry and wealth’s made of hair as mementos. Gallery hours are Mondays at 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Tuesdays at 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

BOWLIN, from page 1

and a sense of like coming together. You get that partially by telling stories, and that’s essentially what history is, it’s just storytelling.”

History connects us to our current society, Bowlin shares how that impact happens.

“I am very community focused,” she said. “I think that community is the antidote to like consumerism and prejudice and all that stuff. Just getting to know people, makes all of that, you know, less because it’s



Hair wreaths on display.

Turley Photos by Christina Gioscia



Some of the hair jewelry that can be viewed in the exhibit.

LEGACY, from page 1

Garcia said. Collamore consistently showed up to school committee meetings to offer his perspective and in-depth knowledge of Holyoke.

As a former student of Holyoke Public Schools he had a keen insight into the system and how the committee could continue to improve.

Additionally, Collamore attended as many HPS events as he could. He enjoyed his time getting to know and support the students, faculty, staff and families of the district.

His dedication to HPS and Holyoke as a whole has earned him much admiration from his fellow community members.

“His service has never seemed to be about recognition or personal credit,” Garcia said. “He has consistently been willing to put in the time, listen to different perspectives, and advocate for what he believes will benefit our community and our students. That kind of sustained commitment is not always easy, and it is something I deeply respect.”

In addition to his time on the school committee, Collamore has made many

other significant impacts on Holyoke.

One of his other big accomplishments is his role as a founding incorporator of the International Volleyball Hall of Fame in 1978.

During his time with the Hall, he served as vice-president, longtime Executive Committee member, and Exhibit Hall Committee chairman.

Collamore remained on the Board of Directors until he passed, making him the longest-serving board member of the Hall.

His co-workers at the Hall appreciated all the time,

effort and energy he put into the Hall.

“He coordinated exhibits and displays, oversaw maintenance, and devoted years to helping ensure that volleyball’s history had a permanent home where it could be preserved and shared with visitors,” Executive Director George Mulry said.

Collamore received three honors for his time at the Hall. He received the Mintonette Medallion of Merit in 1999 and 2007 as well as the IVHF President’s Award in 2019.

All of these awards were meant to highlight

Collamore’s dedication to the Hall.

Collamore did not stop at the Volleyball Hall of Fame. He also was a founding member of the Holyoke Public Schools Athletic Hall of Fame in 2017.

He was also a retired firefighter for Holyoke and he served in the U.S. army for two years. With the exception of those two years in the army, he spent his entire life in Ward 6 of Holyoke.

Overall, Collamore was a highly impactful member of the Holyoke community. Those who knew him were all inspired by his commit-

ment to serving Holyoke.

Garcia hopes to take some of the lessons he learned from Collamore into his future as a public servant.

“He has shown me that public service is not about always having the loudest voice in the room; it is about listening, being thoughtful, showing up, and continuing to do the work,” Garcia said.

Collamore will be fondly remembered by all of Holyoke.

“No memorial is big enough to capture the impact of Mr. Collamore,” School Committee Chair Yadilette Rivera-Colón said.

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Gavin Diaz sends a pass up the middle of the field.



SPORTS

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Tabin's hat trick leads Holyoke over Ware

HOLYOKE – Last Monday in rainy conditions, Nayan Tabin scored three of Holyoke's four goals in a 4-2 win over Ware. For Holyoke, they are now 3-5-2 on the regular season. Coming up, the Knights will face Granby High School on Wednesday, Oct. 14 at 4 p.m.



Nayan Tabin tries to steal the ball away.



Patrick Smith O'Connor traps the ball making a play on defense.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Xavier Davila tries to get around an opponent.



Isiah Frazer heads the ball away.

Girls defeat Greenfield

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke High School girls soccer team inched closer to .500 with a high-scoring win over Greenfield 7-4 last Friday afternoon. Kyra Lippman had a huge game for the Knights. She scored all seven goals for the Knights in the matchup, Leilany Figueroa would

get assists on four of the goals. Holyoke is now 4-5 and looks to get back to the .500 mark on Friday afternoon, Oct. 9, when they host Chicopee at 4 p.m.



Kyra Lippman makes a pass up the field.



Issabella Byers goes around a defender.



Abigail Bechard passes the ball forward.



Leilany Figueroa fights to take possession of the ball.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Kayleigh Coutinho receives a pass and looks up the field for an open teammate.



Below, Ishanellys Rivera veers right to avoid an oncoming opponent.



Holyoke Community women's soccer victorious in 'Pink Out' game

Allyn breaks all-time single-game HCC scoring record

HOLYOKE – Women's soccer donned their pink on the first day of October in support of breast cancer awareness. The Lady

Cougars had the offense rolling on their way to a 10-2 win over regional opponent Quinsigamond CC.

Sophomore Emma Allyn (Holyoke, MA / Hampshire Regional HS) spearheaded the attack from her center midfield position, scoring an impressive five goals

while assisting on two others. Allyn's 12 points sets a new HCC women's soccer all-time record for points scored in a game, beating out the 11-point mark previously set by three players (Nikki Callini in 2013, Tai Lopez in 2012 and Julie Peltier in 1990). Her five goals in the game ties the

HCC women's soccer all-time record for goals scored in a game, matched previously by three players (Madisyn Davis in 2025, Tai Lopez in 2012 and Julie Peltier in 1990). Allyn has tallied 15 goals and eight assists for 38 points in the seven games played this season. Sophomore Yanelis

Lacen (Chicopee, MA / Chicopee HS) had the best offensive performance of her collegiate soccer career, scoring Holyoke's first two goals before assisting on another. Freshman Scarlett Mendes (Holyoke, MA / Holyoke HS) notched a pair of goals in the win. Sophomore Samantha

Lowe (Ware, MA / Pathfinder Regional HS) potted a goal and added an assist, and sophomore Ivelise Aponte Gonzalez (Chicopee, MA / Chicopee HS) recorded two assists.

Women's soccer has a 4-0-0 regional record and a 5-2-0 overall record.

Museum set to host annual Forestdale Cemetery tours

HOLYOKE – Step past the cemetery gates and peer behind the veil with Wistariahurst Museum 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.

The tours will be held on Saturday, Oct. 10 with tours starting at 3 and 3:20 p.m. More time slots may open as tours fill up. This tour will lead guests throughout the upper, paved level of the cemetery. A knowledgeable guide will share the meanings behind grave markers' iconography and will lead guests to the graves of notable figures in Holyoke history. Wistariahurst volunteers portraying these historical figures will share information about their lives and deaths. Cemetery Tours at Forestdale Cemetery include walking and standing on cement and gravel

walkways, with tours lasting around forty-five minutes to one hour. 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. Additional time slots may be available if the current time slots sell out.

Doors will open in Holyoke

HOLYOKE – On Saturday, Oct. 17, Doors Open Holyoke will welcome local residents and visitors alike to a day filled with history, fun and exploration. Now in its 6th year, Doors Open Holyoke gives the local community, history buffs and curiosity seekers a unique, behind-the-scenes perspective of the first planned industrial city in the United States. Modeled on similar events that started taking place in France in the early 1980's as a way to inspire more interest in places of historical, cultur-

al, and architectural significance, the upstart Holyoke initiative has been growing steadily every season. Enjoy a special day where all activities are free and open to everyone. Locations include tours of Holyoke City Hall's Ballroom, Victory Theatre, an Open House at Holyoke Fire Department (High St location), Wistariahurst Museum, the Children's Museum, Merry-Go-Round and the Volleyball Hall of Fame. Though scheduled activities take place between 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM, specific

operating hours differ across participating sites. Please visit Explore Holyoke for complete information. Doors Open is free to attend and is an all-ages function. "For residents as well as visitors, Doors Open is an opportunity to discover Holyoke's hidden gems," Mayor Joshua A. Garcia said, "and learn about our history, and connect with the institutions and places that shaped our city." Doors Open Holyoke is brought to you by the Office of Planning and Economic Development (OPED), the Tourism Advisory Committee and funded by the MA Gaming Community Mitigation Grant. Please contact Development Specialist Heather Kies at kiesh@holyoke.org to learn more.



Darkened Hallways returning to Wistariahurst

H O L Y O K E – Wistariahurst Museum is delighted to welcome guests for our Darkened Hallways Tours this fall. Guests will be immersed in an evening of spine-tingling discovery and feel the lingering energy of past inhabitants and workers who once occupied the museum's haunted halls. Our docent "ghost host" will lead visitors through the home by candlelight and will uncover

stories of the Skinner family, the tragedy that moved their home and business to Holyoke, and other chilling tales from the mansion's history. "These tours are a perfect opportunity to get to know the museum after dark," Megan Seiler, Museum Director, comments. This exclusive guided tour of Wistariahurst

Museum includes standing, walking, and transitioning between the first and second floors using our Grand Staircase in dim lighting. If you are interested in our Darkened Hallways Tours and have any questions about accessibility, please reach out to us at info@wistariahurst.org. This is a rare opportunity to experience a guided tour in the bewitching hours of the night.

Join us for an unforgettable exploration of the supernatural side of Wistariahurst. Unlock the secrets, embrace the mystery, and dare to tread where history meets the paranormal. Secure your spot for an evening that promises intrigue and spine-tingling excitement, these tickets sell fast so grab yours now! An additional tour may be added if the first tour sells out.

Fall fun with the bike/walk committee

SOUTH HADLEY– The bike/walk committee is having a Lithia Springs Vernal Pool Trek on Oct. 24 at 10 a.m. meet at the hikers lot next door to 502 Amherst Rd. in South Hadley. Join them for an Autumn trek to the Vernal pools. There will be a Halloween Bike ride on Oct. 31 at 1 p.m. to McCray's Farm for a

spooky Halloween treat. Meet at the South Hadley Center Pavilion across the street from The Village Commons. Costumes must be safe to ride in and helmets must be worn. On Nov. 14 at 10 a.m. join the bike/walk committee for a day of walking at the Ashley Reservoir. This will be a 2.3 mile walk with a 3.5 mile walk option as well.

Trailer Trash performs benefit concert for Harmony House

CHICOPEE – The popular local band Trailer Trash is performing a concert to benefit Harmony House of Western Massachusetts, a nonprofit home providing compassionate end-of-life care and companionship to hospice patients in need. The concert will be on Friday, Nov. 6 at the Portuguese American Club located at 149 Exchange Street in Chicopee. Tickets can be pur-

chased in advance online for \$20 or at the door for \$25. Doors open at 6:15 p.m., with the concert commencing at 7 p.m. Known for their high-energy performances, Trailer Trash will bring their modern country sound to the stage for an evening of music and dancing while raising funds to sustain the work of Harmony House. The event will also include raffles, food for purchase from Pizza Lino

with a portion of proceeds being donated to Harmony House, and a cash bar. The event is supported by local sponsors, including headlining sponsor Yankee Home. Additional sponsorship opportunities are available at www.HarmonyHouseWMA.org/trailertrashconcert or by emailing development@HarmonyHouseWMA.org. Community members

can also get involved with Harmony House by volunteering. If you might be interested in providing care and companionship to our residents, organizing special projects to engage our residents, or supporting our fundraising efforts, please email admin@HarmonyHouseWMA.org. To learn more, please visit www.HarmonyHouseWMA.org.



Public Notices

Holyoke Conservation Commission
Pursuant to MGL Chap. 131 §40 and the Holyoke Wetlands Protection Ordinance, the City of Holyoke Conservation Commission will hold a Public Hearing on **Thursday, October 22nd, 2026, at 6:15 p.m. remotely via Zoom** at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89521165144?pwd=cleacg226QH8BVKaXl7cQs7FbH7seP.1> on a **Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA)** filed by Holyoke Revolver Club on behalf of Tom Serrichio for construction of a 85' x 15' pavilion on existing slab with no proposed ground disturbance or vegetation removal. Wetland delineation was approved under prior RDA in 2024. The proposed work will occur within the 100 foot buffer of a resource area.
Jeffery Horan, Chairperson
10/09/2026

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
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Juvenile Court Department
Worcester County
Juvenile Court
225 Main Street

Worcester, MA 01608
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DOCKET NUMBER:
26CP0185WC
SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION
CARE AND PROTECTION, TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS
TO: Father of Jahmyra Ke-Yani Poteat:
A petition has been presented to this court by Department of Children and Families, seeking, as to the following child, **Jahmyra Poteat**, that said child be found in need of care and protection and committed to the Department of Children and Families. The court may dispense the rights of the persons named herein to receive notice of or to consent to any legal proceeding affecting the adoption, custody, or guardianship or any other disposition of the child named herein, if it finds that the child is in need of care and protection and that the best interests of the child would be served by said disposition.
You are hereby ORDERED to appear in this court, at the court address set forth above, on the following date and time:

11/18/2026 at 08:30 AM Status Hearing
You may bring an attorney with you. If you have a right to an attorney and if the court determines that you are indigent, the court will appoint an attorney to represent you.
If you fail to appear, the court may proceed on that date and any date thereafter to a trial on the merits and adjudication of this matter.
For further information call the Office of the Clerk-Magistrate at 508-831-2000.
WITNESS: **Hon. Mary Beth Keating, FIRST JUSTICE,** DATE ISSUED: 08/20/2026,
Brendan J. Moran, Clerk-Magistrate
10/02, 10/09, 10/16/2026

City of Holyoke
536 Dwight Street, Room 3
Holyoke, MA 01040
Invitation to Bid
IFB 2027-1PD PD
Lighting Upgrades
The Work under this Contract consists of interior lighting upgrades at the Holyoke Police Department Building, including removal and proper recycling or

disposal of existing fluorescent lamps, ballasts, and selected complete luminaires; furnishing and installing ballast-bypass LED replacement lamps; furnishing and installing integrated LED flat-panel luminaires; furnishing and installing compatible wall dimmers and associated control wiring; testing; labeling; cleaning; closeout documentation; and all incidental work necessary to provide complete and operational lighting installations. Quantities are approximate and payment will be based on actual authorized and accepted quantities.
Starting on October 7th, 2026 at 10AM documents will be available electronically by requesting from morrowj@holyoke.org. **Bids will be received until 2PM on October 29th, 2026 at which time they will be opened publicly and read.**
This Project constitutes public-building work estimated to cost more than \$50,000 but not more than \$150,000. Bidding procedures and award of the Contract shall be governed by M.G.L. c. 149, §44A(2)(C), using the competitive bidding

procedures set forth in M.G.L. c. 30, §39M, and by all other applicable provisions of Massachusetts law. The estimated value of this Contract is approximately \$61,000.00. This Project is funded in whole or in part through the U.S. Department of Energy Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program. The Contractor and all Subcontractors shall comply with the federal requirements included in the Contract Documents that are applicable to the Work.
A non-mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at 10:00 AM on October 15, 2026 at the Holyoke Police Station, 138 Appleton St, Holyoke, MA 01040. Attendance is encouraged but is not required as a condition of submitting a Bid. Bid Documents do not contain a room-by-room location schedule and as such, Bidders should use the walkthrough to observe fixture types, access constraints, ceiling conditions, emergency-lighting conditions, and other reasonably observable conditions affecting the Work.
Attention is called to the minimum wage rates required to be paid for all labor performed

under this Contract. Wage rates are established in the applicable schedule issued by the Massachusetts Department of Labor Standards in accordance with M.G.L. c. 149, §26 through 27H, and in the applicable wage determination issued by the United States Department of Labor in accordance with the Davis-Bacon and Related Acts. The applicable Massachusetts and federal wage schedules are included in the Contract Documents.
Every Bid shall be accompanied by a bid deposit in the amount of five percent (5%) of the Bid. The bid deposit shall be in the form of a bid bond, cash, certified check, treasurer's check, or cashier's check issued by a responsible bank or trust company and payable to the City of Holyoke.
The Work shall achieve Substantial Completion no later than December 30, 2026.
The Awarding Authority reserves the right to reject any or all Bids if it is in the public interest to do so and to waive informalities only to the extent permitted by applicable law.
10/09/2026

The Holyoke Sun

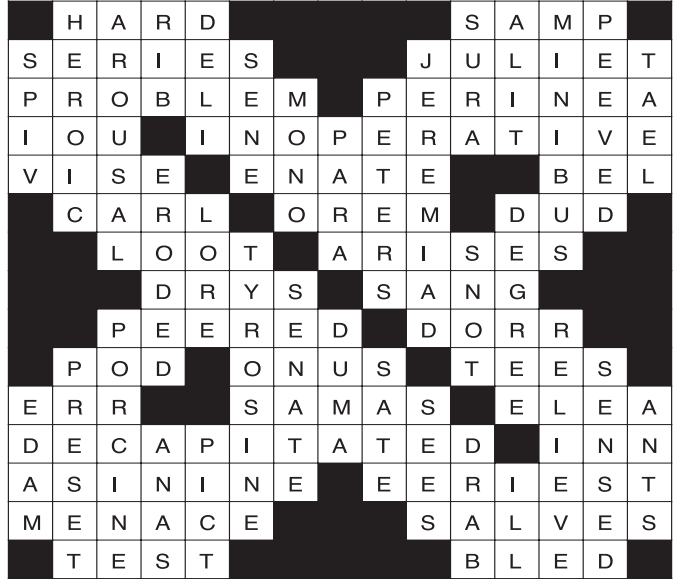
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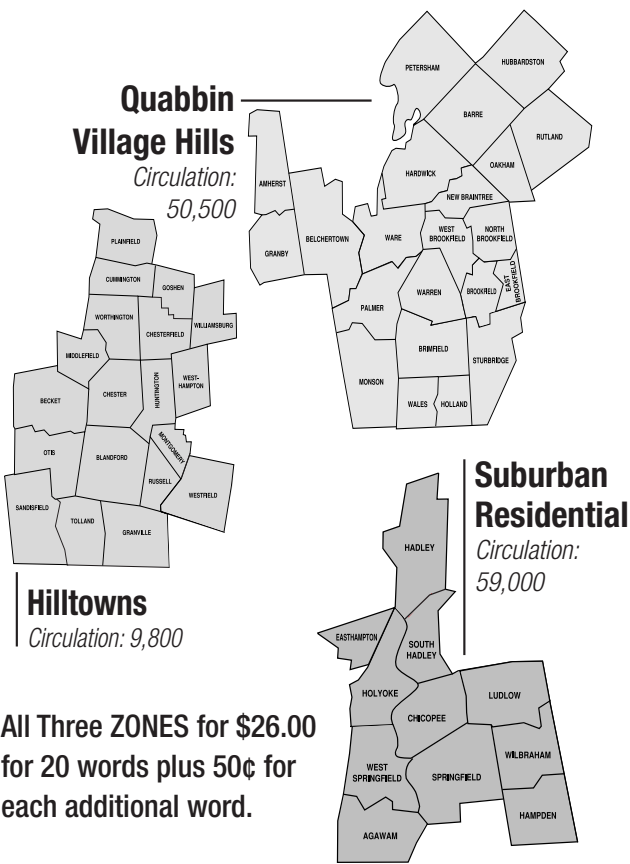
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SHERIFF, from page 1

to have over 650 people here, all taking part in an event that shows the public that it's not okay to verbally, mentally, or physically abuse anybody, man or woman," Cocchi said, emphasizing that the community's collective voice grows stronger with every mile walked and run, and that it's time for change. "

He then shifted his focus to the YWCA's mission, noting that the work carried out by CEO Liz Dineen and her staff is of the highest importance.

"The YWCA does an unbelievable job in supporting our domestic violence survivors and, unfortunately, providing resources and support to the people who weren't fortunate enough to survive and their families," Cocchi said. "So, I couldn't think of a better cause, and I'm so grateful for my staff who continue to pour their heart and soul into working with the YWCA along with all of the support service agencies in our community to help make today a success.

Echoing those sentiments was Dineen, who also touched on how the funds will be allocated and repurposed.

"First, I want to say that we are officially in year 8 of working together, and this has truly been a terrific partnership, and I have nothing but unbelievable respect for Sheriff [Cocchi] and his team because they do tremendous work in the jails, both the men's and women's jails, and I love partnering with them, and it's always special seeing that the cause is continuing to grow, and our message is not only being heard, but felt," Dineen said. "And in terms of how the funds raised today will be used, they will go towards supporting our domestic violence programs for adults as well as children. Because we have a domestic violence shelter where we currently have 63 people today, along with a program called "Children Who Witness Violence", which includes four therapists who work with children who have either experienced or witnessed domestic violence, so funds will also go to that as well."

Additionally, offering insight into the practical side of how the fundraiser is choreographed and brought to fruition was HCSO Program Supervisor and Race Coordinator Davis Snow.

"Well, first I can share, it truly takes a community to get this thing to work, between the Sheriff's Department, committee, all the volunteers that we have that come out, all the community sponsors and supporters, and of course, all thanks to the leadership from Sheriff Cocchi," Snow said. "But I also feel it's clear to recognize that every year, it only gets bigger and better than the one prior, and the result is always of value, and as usual we're just so excited to be raising awareness and funds for the YWCA of

Western Mass in combating domestic violence as best as we can."

As the moment quickly approached, participants rushed down to the starting point, where hundreds gathered to hear opening remarks from event leaders. Against the backdrop of music drifting across the reservoir—prompting Sheriff Cocchi to later quip, "That's a great song right there, 'Winning It All' by The Outfield. That's what all of you are today. You're winners"—the energy hit a fever pitch. "Thank you for being here, because the truth is this event goes nowhere without you," Cocchi said.

Cocchi said he was emotion coming to this year's event.

"I will say this: as I was driving over here today, I always think of the reason why I'm getting in the car and going to an event, and I got very emotional in my car because I miss her every day, so trust me when I tell you this: I am blessed to be your Sheriff," Cocchi said. "I have the greatest 1,100 staff any human being could have, because every day my staff are where the rubber hits the pavement. They're in those facilities, they're helping, they're helping manage, they're giving people that small four-letter word of hope, and that's what Liz's staff does every single day."

Cocchi concluded by reiterating that everything achieved up to this point wouldn't be possible without the community, praising YWCA Executive Director Liz Dineen and her team for doing what he considers "God's work" before passing the microphone.

Dineen opened by highlighting the strong alliance between the YWCA and the Sheriff's Office, before her tone pivoted to the urgent, sobering reality of the day's cause, addressing recent headlines and the critical need to change how society approaches domestic violence.

"Unfortunately, as we have all seen in the news over the last couple of weeks about Cornell, it's a realization and reminder that we have so much more work to do, in terms of raising awareness and upholding the standards of how men treat women," Dineen said. "So I ask: if you're raising a young man, make sure you teach him that his first job as a human being is to respect others, while instilling the morals to remember not to use people, never abuse individuals, and never let others participate in the abuse unfolding."

She then closed by sharing, "Remember, today is about domestic violence. It's time; it ends; it stops. And as a society, we say no more, because it is not justifiable to abuse somebody economically, sexually, physically, or emotionally, and if you are ever in a relationship experiencing that level of abuse and neglect, walk away; it's time



The runners and walkers are off as they embark on either the 1.5 Mile walk or the 5K run.

Turley Photos By Brendan Rooney



Above, HCSO Sheriff Nick Cocchi with athletes from Western New England University. Below, Cocchi with Boomer from the Springfield Thunderbirds.

for change, and know we are here to help, and understand that through our combined efforts, one day we will finally eradicate domestic violence, as the crowd delivered a resounding standing ovation.

After the race, attendees gathered inside the Elks community room for live music, raffles, and awards—with Nolan Griffin taking the overall 5K title and Abigail Touhey winning the women's bracket; Celebration then filled the hall, serving as a fitting bookend to another year dedicated to community strength, hope, and standing together against domestic violence.



Holyoke Police Chief Brian Keenan, Elizabeth Dineen, CEO of the YWCA of Western Massachusetts, with HCSO Sheriff Nick Cocchi.

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