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Teacher retention rate peaking

HOLYOKE – Last week, the Holyoke Public Schools announced a positive trend as it relates to personnel. The district said in a press release that teacher retention rates are the highest they have been in the last decade.

It is worth noting this statistic was announced as the school district recently returned to local control over the summer.

“We’ve been listening,” answered Chief Human Resources Officer Beth Gage when asked why Holyoke Public Schools’ teacher retention rate is the highest it’s been in more than a decade.

That listening has been paying off—and the proof is in the numbers: Almost 83% of Holyoke’s educators who were employed by the district last September as a classroom teacher, expert teacher, counselor, or other Holyoke Teachers Association (HTA) role are still working for HPS this year. While losing any educators from year to year poses challenges and concerns, this 82.8% year-to-year retention rate is still 10 points higher than the district’s low of 71%.

“We also had increases in all of our sub-groups, with the highest being a 20-point increase in the retention of black educators,” added Ms. Gage.

During the 2023-24 school year, the district convened a Teacher Retention Working Group to help determine the causes and propose solutions to improve retention rates for HPS educators. Participants analyzed data, listened to teachers, and developed potential solutions to improve teacher retention. Their work led to the implementation of a pilot program,

See **TEACHER**, page 10

Golf tournament honors Ahearn

By **Brendan Rooney**
Correspondent

HOLYOKE – Last weekend, the Wyckoff Country Club hosted the 5th annual Holyoke St. Patrick’s Parade Michael T. Ahearn Memorial Golf Tournament, with all benefits going towards the Holyoke St. Patrick’s Day Parade committee, which will be used to help alleviate costs for the Parade.

Reflecting on the historic fifth anniversary benchmark while providing insight into the legacy of who Michael Ahearn truly was, tournament Co-Chair Jeff Walsh.

“I truly think he’s (Ahearn) looking down on us smiling right now, and extremely proud of the legacy he started with the golf tournament, for the parade committee, I really do,” Walsh said. “I loved the guy; he was such a great guy, and I miss him so much.” Walsh then noted that he first met Mike (Ahearn) back in 2018, it was where he first recognized his initial kindness and pure-hearted nature written into his spirit. “He was one of the first people to see that I wanted to do something to help, and he knew that I worked on golf tournaments in the past, and he asked me to be co-chair for him which ended up sadly being his last year, and it was one of the first things

I did for the parade committee and it really meant a lot for me,” Walsh revealed. “He always had a smile on his face, and he always picked people up all the time, and overall, he was just such a wonderful person, and he never had anything bad to say about anyone; he never had an intense, angry, or bad moment, and that speaks volumes of the character and integrity Mike (Ahearn) possessed.”

Speaking towards the importance of the fundraiser was tournament Co-Chair Mark Rodgers, who also



Members of the Holyoke St. Patrick’s Day Parade Committee.

Turley photos by Brendan Rooney



A fun-loving team posing after getting the perfect shot off.

touched upon his deep-rooted involvement with the ‘Green Season’ festivities.

“We had 26 foursomes, so about 104 people who came out from all different walks, and then we had two foursomes from Peoples Bank, who were one of our major sponsors,” Rodgers said.

“And I want to add that it was a great year, and it

was great to know we had a full field, despite it being a holiday weekend.” Rodgers also took a moment to comment on the unity among the

Irish community in the Paper City, by noting, “It’s always St. Paddy’s day here in Holyoke, meaning we have to keep celebrating our heritage, and strive to do better and just continue to give back.” He then pivoted

his thoughts to one of legacy as he mentioned his family’s involvement with the parade running deep.

“To be honest, I feel like I have some big shoes to fill, because as I told you before, my grandfather was the Marshal in 1971, President in 1961, and the O’Connell award winner in 1964,” Rodgers said. “So I went and saw him this

morning, and I told him I was carrying his torch, and it really hit home for me.”

In addition, Rodgers then revealed that those who attended were treated to an all-day event and felt the price reflected the value put forth.

“From what people spent on the tournament, they really get a lot for their dollar, with the golf, the lunch, the dinner, and it truly goes a long way, and we are just happy to be here, and hopefully we can keep this going for years to come,” Rodgers noted. For those who attended were treated to a lunch comprised of standard bar-food staples of hamburgers and Italian sausage sandwiches with chips and water, and then later that evening for the night portion, the event shifted to the banquet hall where a ceremonial dinner transpired which boasted a specialty assortment of appetizers and various entrees, along with tons of raffles on display, that drew a massive crowd, something that Wyckoff Director of Sales and Events Michele Holl took notice of.

“We’re so lucky to host, especially in our newly renovated space, and we are happy to be partners with the Holyoke Parade committee,” Holl said. “We’re happy to have the guests here in this beautiful space, and we want to extend a welcome to all of their future events, and we are going to support them anyway they need going forward, as we know it’s going towards a great cause.”

Also in attendance throughout the fundraiser was 2026 Parade President Jim Wildman, who felt the event was a resounding success and couldn’t have asked for better.

“I just want to thank everybody for coming out today, that includes all of the players, all of the

See **GOLF**, page 10

Murphy-Romboletti named Rohan Award winner

By **Brendan Rooney**
Correspondent

HOLYOKE – On Tuesday, Oct. 14, the Holyoke St. Patrick’s Day committee officially announced that Tessa Murphy-Romboletti would be the recipient of the 2026

Thomas F. Rohan Award. The reveal came via a gathering at the Elks Lodge in the Paper City.

The award is one of the parade’s highest honors, and it was first established in 1957 to honor the Parade’s first Grand Marshal. It should be known that this

achievement recognizes a long-standing member of the Committee who has made significant contributions to the overall success of the Parade and the Committee. With that noted, Murphy-Romboletti has been a dedicated member of the Parade Committee since 2011, and

she has played an active role in ensuring the continued success of one of Holyoke’s most cherished traditions.

Offering insight into why Murphy-Romboletti garnered the achievement was 2026 Parade President Jim Wildman.

“Tessa represents the very best of Holyoke’s civic spirit — her energy, dedication, and leadership continue to strengthen the city and our Parade community,” Wildman noted. “Her commitment to both public service and the values of our organization makes her an exceptional recipient of this honor.”

Throughout her tenure, Murphy-Romboletti has served as chair of the Ambassador’s Breakfast, one of the Parade’s signature events celebrating community partnerships and honorees, and as co-chair of the Sign Carriers Committees, a team responsible for organizing and coordinating the hundreds of participants who help bring the Parade to life each year. Additionally, she co-chairs the website, leading efforts to enhance the

School Committee candidate withdraws from city’s election

Write-in candidate announces late run

By **Gregory A. Scibelli**
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – Longtime Ward 6 School Committee member William Collamore is retiring after more than 45 years serving the city on the committee.

Pat Beaudry was set to be his likely replacement after submitting nomination papers to be the new Ward 6 School Committee member. No others submitted nomination papers for the seat.

But late last week, Beaudry issued a press release confirming he was not going to be involved with the election anymore.

Beaudry told *The Holyoke Sun* he and his wife are expecting a baby early next year and as a result are moving to a new home. That new home is

outside Ward 6, necessitating he no longer be in the running for a ward seat on the committee.

With no people on the upcoming ballot for school committee in Ward 6, Beaudry stated in his press release he wished to endorse Patty Norris Lubold for the seat. He announced she is launching a write-in campaign with just a few weeks before the election.

“Just as I have immense gratitude for Collamore and his decades of service to the ward and city, I want to similarly express my thanks to Patty Norris Lubold for stepping up to run a campaign based on her lived experience growing up in and raising kids in the Holyoke Public Schools district, as well as her professional expertise as a strategic consultant,” said Beaudry. “Life is

See **ELECTION**, page 10



2026 Rohan Award winner Tessa Murphy-Romboletti and her family are taking a moment to celebrate the achievement.

Submitted photo

See **AWARD**, page 10

Wistariahurst hosting Calaveras event

HOLYOKE – Get ready for another amazing Dia de Los Muertos celebration with Attack Bear Press and Wistariahurst Museum with a special calaveras (skull) painting event. Dia de Los Muertos is a special tradition that allows people to celebrate and remember deceased loved ones by decorating an ofrenda, a communal altar dedicated to those dearly departed. On October 19th, we invite you

to paint your clay calaveras to add to the annual ofrenda hosted at the Wistariahurst Museum. Thanks to Attack Bear Press, all painting materials and calaveras will be provided at the event. You may also bring a photograph of your departed loved ones to not only add a personal touch to your artwork, but also so the community can honor and remember them as well. After Dia de Los Muertos has passed, you are

welcome to retrieve your photographs and painted skull to take home as a cherished keepsake. All materials must be picked up by November 4th or they will be stored and kept for next year.

Don't miss this unique chance to connect with the rich tapestry of Dia de Los Muertos and contribute to a vibrant, communal ofrenda. We invite you to join us, and we encourage you to

bring your friends and family to celebrate with all of your loved ones. Viewing for the 8th Annual Holyoke Community Ofrenda will be available for special open hours on Nov. 1 from 6 to 8 p.m., Nov. 2 from 12 to 2 p.m., and Nov. 3 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. We can't wait to see the collective beauty and heartfelt tributes created by our very own community and celebrate this important holiday.

Church to host free classical piano concert

HOLYOKE – On Sunday, Oct. 19 at 2 p.m., Our Lady of the Cross Church in Holyoke will host a free classical piano concert featuring the church's resident pianist and organist, Jason Huang.

He will be joined by violinist Shiyu Zhang and soprano Bethany Williams.

The hour-long program includes a nocturne

by Chopin, two violin sonatas by Mozart and Franck, respectively, and a Schubert song cycle.

The church is located on Holy Cross Ave. Please join us for an afternoon of beautiful and reflective music.

All are welcome!

For more information, call the parish office at 413-532-5661.

UCCH will hold block party Oct. 24

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 of charge 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 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Plow contractors wanted

HOLYOKE – With winter nearing, the Department of Public Works is seeking individuals to assist city plow operators in the 2025-2026 winter season. Qualified individuals with the proper equipment are encouraged to apply in person at: DPW, 63 Canal Street, Holyoke

Elks hosting free throw contest

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Lodge of Elks #902 proudly announces its annual Elks Hoop Shoot Free Throw Contest, to be held on Saturday, Nov. 8, at the Holyoke Boys and Girls Club.

Registration begins at 9 a.m., and the contest starts promptly at 9:30 a.m. This event is free of charge and open to all boys and girls ages 8 through 13 as



of April 1, 2026. Contestants will compete within their age and gender divisions.

Winners from the local contest will advance to the district competition, with the opportunity to continue on to the state, regional, and national levels. National champions will have their names permanently inscribed on a plaque at the Naismith Memorial

Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Massachusetts — an honor that celebrates their dedication and achievement.

The Elks Hoop Shoot is a proud tradition that encourages youth to develop character, sportsmanship, and perseverance — one free throw at a time.

Don't miss this exciting opportunity to test your skills, have fun, and represent your community. For more information, please contact Sal Canata at (413) 883-1561.

NAMI Western Mass. offering family-to-family education program

HOLYOKE – NAMI Western Massachusetts is pleased to offer their NAMI Family-to-Family Education Program in person, starting Saturday, Oct. 25 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon in Holyoke.

NAMI Family-to-Family is a free, 8-session educational program for family, significant

others, and friends of people with mental health conditions. It is a designated evidenced-based program. This means that research shows that the program significantly improves the coping and problem-solving abilities of the people closest to a person with a mental health condition.

NAMI Family-to-Family is taught by NAMI-trained family members who have been there and includes presentations, discussions, and interactive exercises.

NAMI, is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the

millions of Americans affected by mental health conditions. NAMI-WM is an affiliate of NAMI Massachusetts. NAMI Western Massachusetts and its dedicated volunteers, members, and leaders work tirelessly to raise awareness and provide essential education, advocacy, and support

programs for people in our community living with mental health conditions and their loved ones.

Pre-registration is required. For more information contact: Bonnie Pueschel at 413-426-7644 BpishL21@gmail.com or visit: namiwm.org/support

Recent Holyoke Community College alumni invited to free fall celebration

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College is inviting recent graduates from the last decade to attend a free evening of fun and food at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute.

HCC's first-ever "Fall Back Together: Graduates of the Last Decade," or "GOLD," event will be held on Monday, Oct. 20, from 5 to 7 p.m. All HCC graduates from 2015 through 2025 are invited.

The culinary arts institute is located at 164 Race St. on the corner of

Appleton Street.

In addition to complimentary gourmet appetizers and desserts prepared by students and faculty in HCC's culinary arts program, "GOLD" event attendees will be able to build their own HCC swag bags, play corn hole and bingo, tour the HCC culinary arts food truck and culinary arts kitchens, meet President George Timmons, reconnect with their favorite HCC professors, win raffle prizes, network with other alumni, get a free

professional headshot, and learn about the new HCC alumni podcast (The Green Thread), volunteer opportunities and other alumni events.

"This is the first time at Holyoke Community College that we've done this type of event for graduates of the last decade," said Julie Phillips, HCC director of development. "It's an opportunity for recent graduates to meet members of our Alumni Council, get a LinkedIn headshot, and just have fun together."

The menu for the evening includes an artisan cheese and harvest charcuterie board, slow roasted Puerto Rican-style pork on plantain chips, mini cups of New England clam chowder, Vietnamese chicken meatballs with maple-chili glaze, Thai corn fritters with chili-lime sauce, tomato confit crostini with whipped ricotta, mini Jamaican beef patties, mini Boston cream pies, cider doughnuts, and sweet corn Ice cream with cornflake crumble and blueberry sauce, plus an assort-

ment of beer, wine, and mocktails.

"We're hoping our GOLD graduates will come hungry, leave inspired, and build connections that will last a lifetime," said Natalia Castagno, assistant director of alumni relations. "And it's all free."

Space, however, is limited, so pre-registration is requested. To register, please go to hcc.edu/gold

For more information, please contact Alumni Relations at alumni@hcc.edu or 413-552-2576.

Volunteers wanted to flag graves

AGAWAM – The Agawam Veterans' Council is seeking volunteers for flagging veteran graves at local cemeteries in preparation of veteran's Day on Saturday, Oct. 25.

Anyone interested in participating, please meet at 8 a.m. in the Springfield Street Cemetery (across from Sacred Heart Church) in Feeding Hills.



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Museum to hold sensory friendly Halloween

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 ghouel 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.

Hibernians hosting clothing and food drive

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.

St. Joseph's Church holding Polish fare 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.

Colleen applications now available

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. 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.

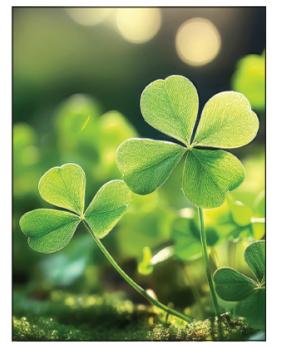
come young women from our neighboring communities to share in this tradition." **What's new this year?** • Expanded eligibility: Young women from Holyoke, South Hadley, Easthampton and Southampton are now invited to apply. • Broader community representation: The Committee hopes this expansion will foster 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

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 • October 1: Applications open • December 27: Deadline to submit application to enter the Grand Colleen Pageant • December 28: Colleen Orientation at Mrs. Mitchell's Public House, Holyoke, 2 p.m. • January 2: Grand Colleen Pageant Rehearsal, at Holyoke High School, 6:00-8:00 p.m. • January 3: Grand Colleen Pageant at Holyoke High School Auditorium, 6:00-9:30 p.m. • January 4: Colleen Tea at Donovans, Holyoke, 3:00-5:00 p.m. • February 14: Grand Coronation Ball at The Log Cabin, Holyoke



Annual 'Trunk or Treat' returns to HCC Friday, Oct. 24

HOLYOKE – Visitors to Holyoke Community College on Friday, Oct. 24, 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 eighth 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 Charlotte's Web, the Wizard of Oz, Minions, mummies, Dr. Seuss, pirates, enchanted forest, haunted vet clinic, aliens, Ratatouille, monsters, Jurassic Park, Shrek, the zoo, STEM, Fairly Odd Parents, castles, Wednesday Adams, spiders, skeletons, scarecrows, witches, sharks, and the Justice League.

In the past, trunk sponsors from HCC have included the Early Education program, Student Engagement, Veterinary and Animal Science, Dance Club, ASL Club, Japanese Anime Club, C.A.M.O. (military club), Radiologic Technology, El Centro, Student Records, Early

Childhood Grants Initiative, Culinary Club, Business department, President's Cabinet, Disney Club, Nursing program, Student Senate, STEM Club, Latinx Empowerment Association, Psychology Club, Radio Club, Animation Club, and Dungeons & Dragons Club.

Community groups and businesses sponsoring vehicles last year included Jan's Flowers, the Girl Scouts of America, Holyoke Chicopee Springfield Head Start, Elms College Teachers Lounge, Holyoke High School North Campus, Western MA Furs, Agawam Bowmen Club, and Holyoke High School Class of 2025.

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 also 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. 20.

Wreaths Across America seeking sponsors for Veterans Cemetery event

AGAWAM – On Saturday, Dec. 13 at 10 a.m., the Friends of the Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Agawam will join Wreaths Across America in our annual mission to Remember, Honor, and Teach.

Together, we will lay Remembrance wreaths on the graves of our nation's heroes at the Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery, located at 1390 Main Street, Agawam, MA.

Parking and Shuttle Information:

Parking will be available at Six Flags New England, with shuttles running to the cemetery beginning at 8 a.m. Please plan to arrive early to allow for

shuttle transport and seating before the ceremony begins.

The Friends of the Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Agawam is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to honoring those who have served, comforting their families, and enhancing the beauty and dignity of this eternal resting place.

By sponsoring a wreath through the Friends, you help ensure that every veteran resting at the cemetery is remembered with a wreath of honor and gratitude.

For more information or to sponsor a wreath, please visit our website at agawamfriends.org or email us at wreathfriends@gmail.com.



Nobody dreams of having multiple sclerosis

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

Multiple sclerosis is a devastating disease of the central nervous system where the body's immune system attacks the insulation surrounding the nerves. It strikes adults in the prime of life - and changes lives forever.

To help make the dream of ending MS come true, call 1-800-FIGHT MS or visit us online at nationalmssociety.org.



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.



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Should I take Social Security now or at age 70?

Dear Rusty:

I was born in April 1958 and my plan has been to take my Social Security at age 70.

However, my sister-in-law says that it is smarter to take it now while I am still working. I will be 70 in 2.5 years. Her husband collects his SS and has kept working. She believes their strategy will net more money than mine due to the fact he has continued to pay into the system and she believes it has super boosted his monthly benefit. What say you? BTW, Lord willing and the creek don't rise I plan on living at least till 87.

Signed: Questioning My Plan

Dear Questioning:

You have already reached your SS Full Retirement Age, so you can earn as much as possible without your SS benefit being negatively affected by Social Security's Annual Earnings Test. In fact, if your current earnings are among the highest over your lifetime, your SS benefit amount will continue to increase because of your higher current earnings. You are now also earning Delayed Retirement Credits, which will improve your monthly amount by .67% for each month (8% for each full year) you delay. That means that if you wait and claim at 70 you will get about 127% of what you would have gotten had you claimed at your FRA of 66 years and 8 months plus you'll also get all COLA increases which occur between now and then. So your life expectancy is key.

It usually takes about 12 years to break even money wise by claiming at age 70 vs. at FRA. In other words, if you claim at 70 instead of FRA, you'll have received the same amount of SS money after you are 82. Thus, if your life expectancy is greater than age 82, you'll get more in cumulative lifetime benefits by waiting until 70 to claim. Of course, no one really knows how long they will live, so it is a judgement you need to make. "Average" life expectancy for a man your current age is about age 84, but if you'd like to get a more personalized longevity estimate you can use this tool we use here at the AMAC Foundation: <https://socialsecurityreport.org/tools/life-expectancy-calculator/>

Another thing to keep in mind is whether your wife will get a widow's benefit if you die first. A widow will get the higher of either her own SS retirement benefit or the husband's benefit amount when he died. So, if you

claim at age 70, your surviving spouse will benefit if her own SS is smaller because you waited until 70 for your higher SS amount. Just something else to keep in mind.

Yet another is whether your wife will be entitled to a higher benefit as your spouse while you are both living. FYI, a spouse will get a "spousal boost" if her own SS retirement benefit at FRA is less than 50% of her spouse's FRA entitlement. If so, your wife cannot claim her spousal benefit until you take your own SS retirement benefit. If your wife will be entitled to more as your spouse while you are both living, then delaying until age 70 means your wife cannot collect her higher spousal amount until you claim. Depending on your financial needs as a couple, that may affect your decision as well.

When to claim is always a judgement call which should consider your life expectancy, your financial needs and your marital status. If you don't need the SS money now while you are working and believe you will, indeed, live "at least till 87," then waiting would likely be your best long-term decision. If you have doubts about your life expectancy, and/or if your wife will substantially benefit from a "spousal boost" if you claim earlier, then claiming now would also be a wise choice.

Finally, it's also important to understand that your SS benefits may be taxable by the IRS and, if you are still working, your IRS tax rate will likely be higher now than it would be after you retire from working. Note: The so-called "one big, beautiful bill" provides only temporary tax relief (thru 2028) on SS benefits - the IRS will still tax SS benefits but also allow a separate tax deduction to offset those SS taxes you pay.

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

Fall entrepreneur...



Jack Frost has come and gone; time to review

Usually we have a few nights that teeter around the freezing mark each fall, giving us an advanced warning of sorts, before a real deal killer frost strikes. Not so this year.

I tuned into the weather last Tuesday night and to my shock, we were expecting temperatures to dip into the mid to high 20s Thursday night into Friday morning! That meant going into extreme harvest mode to get everything indoors that needed to be and trying to cover what I couldn't get to.

I was trying to hold off on harvesting my Butternut winter squash, hoping for the green tinges of the skin to fade to a warm buff color, but by the time Wednesday rolled around I had to give in and pick them. I think they are mostly ripe.

I grew three total hills this year, two of a variety Mom had saved the seeds of and one of a highly touted, powdery mildew resistant F1 hybrid by the name of "Little Dipper." I was lured in by the catalog description that promised seven plus fruits per plant.

From my two plants in that one hill, I harvested 15. Pretty good, I'll say! They range in weight from just about a pound and a half to over five pounds, with most around the 3.5 pound mark.

I already cut into one, and roasted it. Not being used to such a dry texture, I added a little water when I whipped it up and it was flavorful enough. And true to its description in the Fedco catalog (fedcoseeds.com)



it was indeed powdery mildew resistant.

The leaves were incredibly green and still pumping out flowers until they were struck by frost. Will I grow it again? Yes.

One mention: the seeds took forever to germinate. I start mine indoors in early May. They were easily a week or 10 days behind the open pollinated squash and pumpkins I germinated indoors.

Another squash that was new to my garden this year was an Acorn squash by the name of "Festival" from Renee's Garden (renee-garden.com). I typically don't veer from growing butternuts due to a heavy load of squash vine borers on all other species, but the seed packet was so pretty that I succumbed to an "impulse buy."

I figured I could grow them to eat, and also use them for autumn decorations. The cream-colored squash are splashed with orange, yellow and/or green and reportedly will keep up to three months.

From four plants I harvested 21 squash; not too shabby for vines that are semi bush. I tried two plants in one of my raised beds as an experiment, and they did great there, as did the two in the main garden.

I cut one in half, removed the seeds and roasted it cut side down until fork tender. To me, acorns are on the blah side but all that changes with the addition of some maple syrup.

As far as the vine borers go, the plants were early to bear and quick to ripen. By the time the borers discovered them most fruits were curing right on the plants. I'll definitely be growing them again.

Mouse Melon, also known as Cucamelon was a newbie as well, and one that I was not sad to see go when the frost hit. I sowed the seeds indoors and planted the transplants along one side of an A-frame trellis. By August I had the cutest mini-watermelons, think the size that would be perfect Barbie Doll food!

My appreciation for this trial ended with its cuteness, however. To me it tasted like a bitter cucumber, with a little bit of a kick to it. Not a fan.

I did enter them in the Ware Grange fair, however, and won first place in the "any other" category!

Stay tuned next week for more reviews and also what strategies worked and what didn't!

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.

Don't throw away your shot, get informed



By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN
Guest Column

In the Broadway blockbuster "Hamilton," Alexander sings, "I'm not throwin' away my shot." Neither should we.

Americans' trust in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has been tested in the past. In 2020, early guidance on COVID-19 was all over the place and test kits were faulty. People perceived that the CDC was subject to political, rather than medical,

See HEALTH, page 7

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*.

TEAM



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Letters to the Editor Policy

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

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

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

Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

Please email (preferred) letters to thesun@turley.com. Mailed letters can be sent to *The Sun*, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.



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City to benefit from MassTrails grant program

BOSTON – The Healey-Driscoll Administration today announced \$7.5 million will be awarded through the MassTrails grant program to support 50 trail projects that will improve and expand the trail network across Massachusetts. This funding will create 60 miles of new recreational trails, making it easier for residents to access and enjoy outdoor spaces.

The MassTrails program provides matching grants to communities, public entities, individuals, Native nations,

and non-profit organizations. These grants help fund the planning, creation, and maintenance of trails suitable for a variety of outdoor activities, including walking, running, hiking, cycling, skiing, horseback riding, and off-road vehicle use. This year's projects also focus on making trails more accessible for everyone.

"Trails are more than just paths through the woods. They bring people into town to eat at local restaurants, stay in small hotels and shop

at small businesses," said Governor Maura Healey. "When we invest in trails, we're investing in jobs, tourism and the local businesses that keep Massachusetts moving forward."

"As a former mayor, I saw how trail networks bring communities together in a real, practical way. They connect neighborhoods, parks and downtowns, making it easier for people to walk, bike and spend time outdoors," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "Our

trails help strengthen community pride and make our towns more connected and accessible for everyone."

This program is an important part of the Healey-Driscoll Administration's Mass Ready Act, which addresses the need to invest in local economies while protecting water and nature. With \$3 billion in funding, the Mass Ready Act aims to revitalize state parks, trails, beaches, and historic sites.

"I use the trails almost every day. It's where I clear

my head, get some exercise and feel connected to the place I live," said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper. "Having safe, clean spaces to walk, bike, and commute, makes a real difference. It's good for our health, it cuts down on traffic pollution, and it helps protect the land and air we all share."

"Trails connect people - to nature, to their neighbors, and to opportunities for recreation and wellness," said DCR Commissioner Nicole

LaChapelle. "What's exciting about our MassTrails program is these trails mean safer walks to school, a more accessible path to work, or a new way to explore your community's natural resources. This funding is going to improve the quality of life for residents across Massachusetts and preserve access to the outdoors for future generations."

Holyoke was named as one of the communities where grant funding would be used for trails projects.

Harmony House hosts spaghetti dinner

CHICOPEE – Harmony House of Western Massachusetts, a nonprofit home for hospice patients, will host their 15th Annual Spaghetti Supper on Friday, Nov. 7 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Moose Family Center, 244 Fuller Road, Chicopee. The community event raises funds to support the organization's mission, providing a home and compassionate, around-the-clock care, allowing residents to live their final days to the fullest.

"Community support is absolutely vital to Harmony House. Donations enable us to provide 24/7 care and companionship to those who don't have a safe or suitable place to receive hospice care

and want to live out their final days in a place they can call home," said Gina Mazza, board president and executive director of Harmony House. "We're looking forward to bringing the community together to share a delicious meal and be part of our work providing the peace, comfort, and dignity that our residents and their loved ones deserve."

The evening will include a hearty spaghetti dinner, 50/50 drawing, and raffle baskets. Tickets can be purchased at HarmonyHouseWMA.org or from a board member and are \$15 if purchased before Thursday, Oct. 30. Tickets purchased after this date or

at the door are \$20. Children six and under attend for free.

This event is made possible thanks to the generous donation of space from the Chicopee Moose Lodge and the support of our sponsors, including Westfield Bank, Egan, Flanagan and Cohen, P.C., Fedor Financial Group, LLC, Carla Santia & Associates, Pizza Lino, and Rivest Financial Associates, Inc. Additional sponsors are welcome and can learn more at the Harmony House website. Additional sponsors will be happily accepted until October 29th. Please visit HarmonyHouseWMA.org to learn more about the organization, event, volunteer opportunities, or to donate.

School Street Park to host 'Out of the Darkness' suicide prevention walk

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 AFSP 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.

Library announces October photo exhibit

AGAWAM – The Agawam Public Library is excited to share works from the Springfield Photographic Society during the month of October. Pieces from the exhibit, titled The Towns of Franklin County, will be displayed on the main floor gallery walls.

This exhibit will feature pictures from each of the 26 towns in Franklin County. The images have been provided by 26 members of the Springfield Photographic Society, capturing the uniqueness of the communities, and illustrating their history, culture, public spaces, and natural beauty. Each

photographer chose one perspective that they felt was important to understanding their town. One of the strengths of the exhibit is the large number of contributing photographers - providing a wider range of perspective than what could have been achieved with one or two contributors. Those photographers with a passion for nature found the natural beauty in their assignment. Other photographers wanted to feature historical sites or local businesses. The Towns of Franklin County is the final installment of a long-term project undertaken by the club to capture images

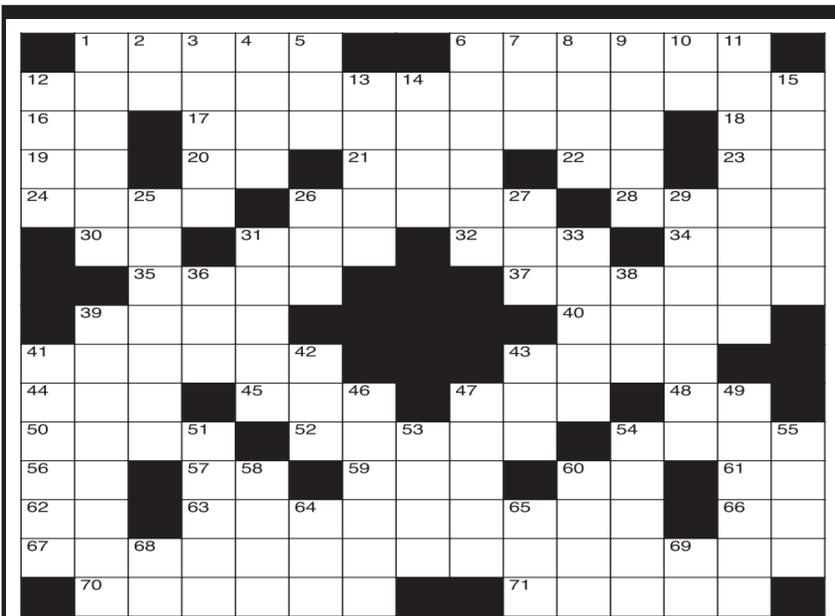
from all 101 towns in the four counties of Western Massachusetts.

Visitors are welcomed to explore these art exhibits throughout October during the regular hours of the library. The library will be closed Monday, Oct. 13 for Columbus Day. Any questions about the exhibits can be routed to the Information Desk at 413-789-1550 x4. Please contact Adult Services Library Associate, Erica LeFebvre at (413) 789-1550 x8858 or elefebvre@agawamlibrary.org if you are interested in displaying artwork at the library.



Send Us Your Photos!

Email: thesun@turley.com



CLUES ACROSS

1. Martial arts in China
6. The butt of jokes
12. Nevertheless
16. Sportscaster Michaels
17. A firm believer
18. Atomic #18
19. One's bestie
20. Of I
21. Hamburger accessory
22. Thus
23. Partner to Pa
24. Scottish tax
26. Cuts away
28. Require
30. Government lawyer
31. Own (Scottish)
32. Body cavity
34. Brew
35. Young woman (French)
37. Platforms
39. Pair of points in mathematics
40. Attack suddenly

CLUES DOWN

1. Ate quickly
41. Aviators
43. Make perfect
44. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
45. Neither
47. The center of a city
48. Sacrifice hit in baseball
50. Singer Redding
52. Dragged forcibly
54. Puncture with a knife
56. Belonging to me
57. Expresses surprise
59. Haul
60. The Golden State
61. Biblical Sumerian city
62. Integrated circuit
63. Opposed to certain principles
66. Sodium
67. Qualities
70. Walk
71. It awaits us all

CLUES ACROSS

2. Peyton Manning's alma mater
3. Moves through water
4. Run away from
5. Utah resident
6. Natural objects
7. Children's game
8. Obligation to prove
9. Ancient Greek building for performances
10. Soldier
11. Decorated
12. Catches
13. Russell __, author
14. Speak indistinctly
15. Students get them
25. Japanese warrior
26. Dessert
27. Doleful
29. Most cushy
31. Moon crater
33. Small evergreen
- Arabian tree

CLUES DOWN

36. Something fugitives are "on"
38. 007's creator
39. Paintings on hinged panels
41. Type of bomb
42. Japanese classical theater
43. U.S. gov't department
46. Flightless bird
47. One who cuts wood or stone
49. Buttock and thigh together
51. A way to gather
53. Body part
54. Argentinian city
55. Undergarments
58. Jai __, sport
60. Container for shipping
64. Type of screen
65. Get free of
68. Indicates position
69. Business department

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 Friday 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
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 Saturday 4 p.m.
 Sunday 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
 DAILY MASS AND ROSARY
 Monday - Friday: ROSARY 6:15 a.m.
 Monday - Friday: MASS 6:45 a.m.
 Legal Holidays: ROSARY 7:30 a.m.
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Knights fall to Chicopee

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke High School girls volleyball team suffered three straight losses and have completed their regular season schedule. The Knights are 6-10 and are on the outside of the playoff picture in both Western Mass. and the state level. The Knights lost to Franklin Tech 3-0 and now await nonplayoff games next week.



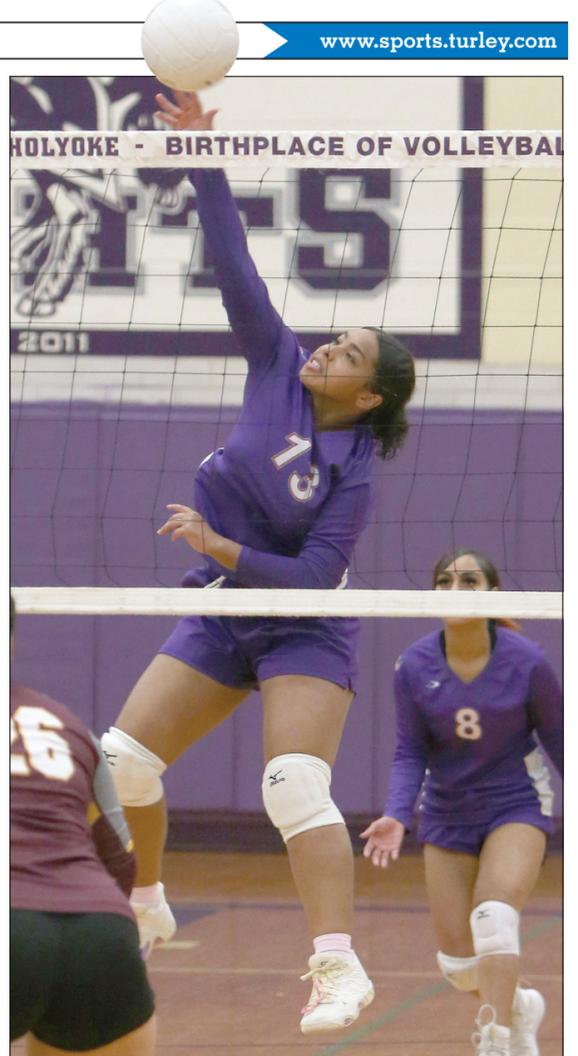
Tatiana Gonzalez sets near the net.



Paola Berrios Martinez gets low for a hit.



Anaya Rosario looks to keep the ball in play with a jumping move.



Ashantyls Calderon goes for the spike.

Turley photos by David Henry

Boys soccer headed for tournament after win

HOLYOKE – The High School High School boys soccer team clinched a spot in the Division 3 State Tournament despite being ranked well below the top 32 in the power rankings.

The Knights scored a 5-3 win over Greenfield High School on Tuesday, Oct. 7. They would also earn a draw 2-2 against the High School of Commerce. The Knights improved to 8-5-1 during the past week and were guaranteed a finish above .500 to qualify for the state tournament this year.

Holyoke had one final regular season matchup against Ware earlier this week, then would await news if they qualify for the Western Mass. tournament, or will participate in non-playoff games leading up to the state tournament.

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.

Holyoke girls fall to Hopkins

HOLYOKE – Last Monday afternoon, Holyoke High School girls soccer suffered a 2-1 defeat against Hopkins Academy.

Leilany Figueroa scored the lone goal for Holyoke with Kyleigh Luther making six saves for the Knights.

Holyoke is now 3-8-3

this season. Holyoke now competes in Division 3 for girls soccer, and is well below the top 32 in the power rankings.



Scarlett Mendes sends a pass away.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Kyra Lippman tries to outrun her opponent.



Kayleigh Coutinho clears the ball out of the defensive end.



Grace Bechard plays the ball off her knee.



Ishanellys Rivera advances toward midfield.

Worcester Railers wrap up preseason with loss

B I D D E F O R D , ME – The Worcester Railers HC (0-2-0-0) lost to the Maine Mariners (2-0-0-0) on Saturday, Oct. 11, in front of a crowd of 1,000 by a final score of 3-2 in favor of Maine at the Harold Alfond Forum in Biddeford, ME. The Railers open the regular season against the Maine Mariners next Saturday at the DCU Center on October 18th at 6:05 p.m. EDT.

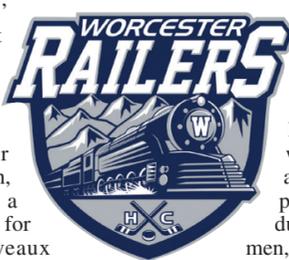
Worcester opened up the scoring for the game early on, with JC Campagna (1-0-1) nailing a shot into the Mariners net at just 0:30. Mariners responded 69 seconds later with a goal from Ty Cheveldayoff (2-1-3) at 1:39 to make it 1-1. Mariners center Wyllum Deveaux (1-0-1) landed a rebound goal towards the end of the period at 17:42, which gave Maine a 2-1 lead to finish the first.

Worcester evened the score early in the second with a goal from Tyler Kobryn (1-0-1) off a rebound shot 3:59 into the frame. Mariners' Robert Cronin (1-0-1) secured the win for the night at the 17:26 of the third period after a battle at the net with Railers' goaltender Gale.

The Railers opened the first period with a winning faceoff that allowed them to get a point on the board early with a goal at just 0:30 from JC Campagna (1st), assisted by Lincoln Hatten and Tanner Schachle to make it 1-0. The Mariners didn't wait long to even the score with a goal from Ty Cheveldayoff (2nd) at 1:39, just 69 seconds after the Worcester goal was made, assisted by Xander Lamppa and Linus Hemstrom. Neither team found the net for the next stretch of the first, until

Mariners' Robert Cronin sent a shot off the pads of Railers' goaltender Luke Pavicich, setting up a rebound shot for Wyllum Deveaux (1st), which broke past the goal line for Maine's second of the night at 17:42. Worcester looked to even the score, but found themselves trailing by a goal at the end of the period. Maine out-shot Worcester 12-8 with no penalties or power-plays on either side.

Worcester had another early scoring start in the second period with a goal at 3:59 from Tyler Kobryn (1st), who was able to get a rebound off Maine's Arvanitis from a shot by defenseman Benjamin



Lindberg and tie the game at 2-2. Maine's Jacob Perrault followed the goal with serving a two minute penalty at 4:42 due to too many men, which allowed the Railers to head onto their first power-play of the game. Worcester split time between their goaltenders on the night, as Thomas Gale skated into the net around the eighth minute of the second period and took the place of starting goaltender Luke Pavicich. Worcester went onto a second power-play at 16:45 from a slashing call on Mariner's left defenseman James Marooney. The Railers' left the ice with a tie game at the end of the second. Worcester had two total

power-plays in the second, the only two of the game so far, with two penalties from Mariners' Jacob Perrault and James Marooney. Maine out-shot Worcester 17-9.

The Railers entered the third looking to take the lead for the second time. An early attempt to take the lead from Mariners' Zachary Massicotte passed the goal line after the referee whistle—on-ice officials determined no goal for the defenseman to keep the game nodded 2-2. Worcester's Nathan Burke received a two minute minor for tripping at 5:32, allowing the Mariners to go onto their first power-play of the game. Maine's Jacob Perrault followed Burke into the box shortly after with a slashing minor for four-on-four play and a brief 40 second power-play for Worcester. The Railers' didn't wait long to head back

into the box as Nick Pennucci served two minutes for a holding minor on Mariners' Tyler Cheveldayoff. Both teams looked to score and take the game, but it would be Maine's Robert Cronin (1st), assisted by Shawn Element and Xander Lamppa, who would secure the win for the Mariners at 17:26 by making it 3-2. Worcester followed the goal with a delay of game at the faceoff dot at 17:41, leading Maine to their third power-play of the night. Worcester had a late game opportunity, pulling Gale for an extra man on the ice to try and grab another goal but failed to find the net. Worcester had three penalties for the period, Nathan Burke, Nick Pennucci, and a delay of game served by Matt DeMelis. Maine had one with Mariners' right wing Jacob Perrault.

Comeback falls short for T-Birds on Opening Night

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (0-1-0-0) battled valiantly, but could not overcome an early three-goal hole in a 4-3 loss to the Charlotte Checkers (1-0-0-0) before a sold-out Opening Night crowd of 6,793 inside the MassMutual Center on Saturday night.

The season began with a dose of adversity just 19 seconds into the opening period, as Hunter Skinner and starting goaltender Vadim Zherenko miscommunicated on control of a loose puck, and Charlotte newcomer Jack Studnicka pounced to poke the loose puck into the yawning net to give the Checkers a 1-0 advantage.

The defending Eastern Conference champions then flexed their power play muscles at the 9:04 mark, as Ben Steeves rifled a one-timer over Zherenko's glove off a slick feed from Ryan McAllister, and the visitors' lead grew to 2-0.

Before the T-Birds could stop the barrage, Charlotte added still another when rookie defenseman Ludvig Jansson squeaked one through Zherenko on the short side at 11:28, and the deficit became 3-0.

Despite the tumultuous beginning, Springfield fought back, beginning with Otto Stenberg pursuing a loose puck after being denied on a first attempt on Charlotte goalie Cooper Black. The second-year Swede chopped the second chance past Black, cutting the lead to 3-1 at 14:37.

Just 1:33 later, former Checker Matt Luff continued the momentum shift, arriving at a loose puck at the blue paint after a Skinner shot ricocheted off a teammate in the crease. Luff played through to the whistle and jammed it under the fallen goaltender, and after so much had gone wrong to begin the night, the T-Birds had clawed to a 3-2 score heading into the second.

Charlotte, however, got right back to their power play excellence to begin the second, with rookie Jack Devine wiring a one-timer over Zherenko's shoulder at 2:11 of the second, restoring the insurance marker, 4-2.

After six goals in the game's first 22 minutes, both goaltenders settled down through the duration of the middle stanza, and the 4-2 score carried into the final period.

The third period proved to be tough sledding for both teams to locate offense, but with Zherenko on the bench with 1:23 to play, Juraj Pekarcik unleashed a one-time slapper past Black, cutting the lead back down to one, 4-3. Theo Lindstein also picked up his first AHL point with the primary assist.

Despite the tough beginning of his night, Zherenko showed great resilience in making 32 saves for the night. Black earned the victory with 26 stops in the Charlotte goal crease.

The T-Birds take to the road for the first time in the 2025-26 season next Saturday and Sunday for a pair of contests against the Hershey Bears.



Doiron doubles up at Lee, Robie clinches GSPSS Championship

LEE, N.H. – The Granite State Pro Stock Series' 14th season drew to a close Sunday evening as part of Russ Conway's Oktoberfest, the season-ending spectacular at Lee USA Speedway.

And while Joey Doiron locked down his second series win of 2025, rookie Cole Robie celebrated his first GSPSS championship at "New Hampshire's Center of Speed."

Jeremy Sorel edged out Cory Casagrande in time trials, but Doiron wasted little time establishing himself as the man to beat. The winner of July's Iron Sight 125, the two-time GSPSS champion planted his Petit Motorsports entry at the front of the field early in the feature.

Jimmy Renfrew, Jr. closed in on Doiron midway through the race, hoping to reverse a July mis-cue and steal his first series win since 2022. But with Renfrew breathing down his neck, Doiron turned up the wick, outpacing the recently-crowned Lee track titlist.

Renfrew soon faded into Eddie MacDonald's grasp, with "The Outlaw" making the pass for second on a late restart. But MacDonald had nothing down the stretch for Doiron, who stretched his

advantage to nearly a second as he took the checkers.

Doiron's victory was his fourth GSPSS win at Lee, leading the series among all drivers. The 2019 and 2022 series champion from Berwick, Maine, now sits tied with 2020 champ Joey Polewarczyk for the second-most career GSPSS wins.

MacDonald held on for second, with Renfrew clinging to third in the final sprint. Fast qualifier Sorel finished fourth, his best run at Lee by far since 2022. Dave Farrington, Jr. avoided an early skirmish to come home fifth, his best result of the year.

Polewarczyk was sixth at the stripe, ahead of Ryan Green, who wheeled Doiron's backup car to a seventh-place performance. Lee regular Frankie Eldredge matched his season best from Hudson Speedway in eighth. Robie wrapped up the night in ninth while Casagrande rounded out the top ten.

Robie entered the evening having virtually clinched the title a week ago. With the drop of the green flag, the 17-year-old from Windham, Maine, officially became the series' 12th different champion and its youngest titlist ever. Robie

joins Doiron and 2023 champ Travis Benjamin as the GSPSS' third champion from the Pine Tree State.

Robie's title comes on the back of a consistent season in which he finished no worse than tenth all year, winning once in July at Monadnock Speedway and completing all but seven laps. The reigning NELCAR Legends champion has strong Granite State ties; grandfather Carleton and father Jarod fielded their racing efforts from the family shop only a few towns away from Lee.

Title hopeful Evan Beaulieu, last season's runner-up, could only manage a 14th-place finish. Nevertheless, the Durham, Maine, veteran celebrated a career season with two wins. Reigning champ Casey Call was swept into an early crash, ending his evening and ceding third in the standings to Casagrande.

Eight different drivers visited a GSPSS winner's circle in 2025, including four former series champions. Beaulieu and Doiron were the season's only multiple-time feature winners, with Beaulieu joining Robie and Alexandre "Fireball" Tardif as first-time GSPSS winners.

HEALTH, from page 4

influence.

Trust is easy to lose and hard to regain. While some applaud the current CDC leadership for cutting back on vaccine recommendations and gutting its panel of vaccine experts in 2025, the medical community is expressing alarm that we may see a resurgence of diseases thought defeated, like measles.

So, this is the atmosphere as we head into fall vaccine season. Understandably, confusion reigns. Should I get that vaccine? Will I have to pay for it if the CDC doesn't require it? Should I get it from a doctor or a pharmacy?

All good questions! I remain firmly in the camp that vaccines not only save lives, but also protect us from serious illnesses, from everyday flu to shingles to cancer. Studies have found that vaccines increase life expectancy by reducing deaths from infectious diseases and improving overall health.

Let's look at our fall vaccines

COVID-19

While COVID-19 has

dropped out of the top 10 deadliest diseases, it was still a contributing factor in about 47,000 deaths in the U.S. in 2024. The CDC says older people and those with underlying conditions need the vaccine. Medical experts say it's important for more people to be vaccinated in order to not spread disease to others.

While CDC dropped its recommendation that pregnant women get vaccinated, doctors say vaccination protects both mothers and babies, who cannot be vaccinated.

What you should do: A majority of Americans falls into one of the permitted categories (age, chronic health conditions, etc.). But go by what your doctor tells you, and don't delay. Supplies may be limited.

Where can you go? Currently in Massachusetts, everyone 6 months and older is eligible for the updated 2025-2026 COVID-19 vaccine. Nearly all Massachusetts residents can still get a COVID-19 vaccine for no or little cost.

Massachusetts residents may get their COVID-19 vaccine at their doctors' office, health center or pharmacy or through their

local health department. Pediatricians' offices and community health centers are the best option for accessing COVID-19 vaccines for children, especially those between 6 months and 5 years of age.

Will you have to pay? Not if you have Medicare or a Medicare Advantage plan. Additionally, Gov. Maura Healey signed an executive order requiring insurance companies that operate in the state to cover the cost of vaccines. Medicaid is also covering vaccines.

Influenza

Unlike the COVID-19 vaccine, guidelines for the flu vaccine haven't changed. The CDC recommends that everyone 6 months and older should get vaccinated against the flu — even if they are healthy — with rare exceptions. That's because influenza is a highly contagious disease and can lead to serious complications, including pneumonia and hospitalization, even in otherwise healthy people.

What you should do: Get the shot from your doctor, a pharmacy or a public health department. The best timing is September or October, to let the antibodies time to

develop.

Will you have to pay? Unlikely. Medicare, Medicaid and private insurance programs cover the cost. Again, check with your insurer to make sure there isn't a copay.

RSV

RSV (respiratory syncytial virus) is dangerous for older adults (75 and up), ages 50-74 with underlying conditions and for babies. It's a big reason babies are hospitalized each fall.

The nice thing about this vaccine is that it's a one-and-done.

What you should do: If you haven't had it already, get it at your doctor's office or a pharmacy.

Will you have to pay? Probably not. The vaccines are covered by Medicare, Medicaid and most commercial insurers.

One of the things I find with vaccines is that people forget what they had, or when they had them. This is where the electronic patient portal your health care provider uses comes in handy because it will keep track of your immunizations and tell you when it's time to ask whether it's time to get (yet)

another one.

Whatever you do, don't throw away your shot!

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.

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Public Notices

CITY OF HOLYOKE PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Holyoke Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, November 5, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.**, in the City Hall Annex, Room 403, Holyoke MA to hear the petition of Rafael and Sheila Rivera, who are requesting an appeal from the zoning official's, Notice of Violations letter dated, September 19, 2025, at a property known as 230-232 Beech Street (061-03-009).

A complete copy of the application may be seen in the Office of Planning & Economic Development, 20 Korean Veterans Plaza, Rm 401, 8:30-4:30, M-F.

Applicant:
Rafael & Sheila Rivera
Board of Appeals: Josh Knox
10/17, 10/24/2025

CITY OF HOLYOKE PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Holyoke Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday November 5, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.**, in the City Hall Annex, Room 403, Holyoke MA to hear the petition of William F. Sullivan Company, Inc / Woodeast Realty, LLC, who is requesting an appeal from the zoning official's, Notice of Violations letter dated, September 19, 2025, at a property known as 1-3 Jed Days Landing (084-00-002).

A complete copy of the application may be seen in the Office of Planning & Economic Development, 20 Korean Veterans Plaza, Rm 401, 8:30-4:30, M-F.

Applicant:
William F. Sullivan Company, Inc and Woodeast Realty, LLC
Board of Appeals: Josh Knox
10/17, 10/24/2025

MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in that certain Mortgage, Assignment of Leases and Rents, Fixture Filing, and Security Agreement given by 156 High Holyoke MA, LLC (the "Mortgagor") to Aloha Capital, LLC, dated April 14, 2023 and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds (the "Registry") at 24973, Page 440, as assigned to Reigo Securitization Sponsor 2021-1, LLC, dated September 9, 2024 and recorded with the Registry in Book 25566, Page 146, of which Mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at **11:00 AM on the 7th day of November, 2025** at 156-162 High Street, Holyoke, Massachusetts, being more particularly in said mortgage, to wit:

The land in Holyoke, Hampden County, Massachusetts, being known and being more particularly bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a point at the intersection of the easterly line of High Street with the Southerly line of Hampden Street; THENCE running Southwesterly by the Easterly line of High Street forty-nine (49) feet; THENCE Southeasterly and at right angles to said High Street eighty (80) feet to an alley or common passageway; THENCE Northeasterly by said passageway forty-nine (49) feet to said Hampden Street; THENCE Northwesterly by said Hampden Street eight (80) feet to the point of the beginning.

Containing 3,920 square feet of land more or less.

Address: 156 High Street, Holyoke, Massachusetts 01040
Parcel ID: 013-03-005

For mortgagor's title see deed recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 24014, Page 102.

Said premises shall also be sold subject to and/or with the benefit of any and all other restrictions, easements, improvements, covenants, outstanding tax titles, municipal or other public taxes, assessments, liens or claims in the nature of liens, attachments and existing encumbrances of record created prior to the Mortgage, if any there be, insofar as in force and applicable.

Said premises will also be sold subject to all leases and tenancies having priority over said Mortgage, to tenancies or rights of parties in possession now or at the time of said auction which are subject to said Mortgage, to rights or claims in personal property installed by tenants or former tenants now located on the premises, and to laws and ordinances including, but not limited to, all building and zoning laws and ordinances.

Terms of sale:

The highest bidder in the sale shall deposit a bank treasurer's check, or certified check in the amount of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) at the time and place of the sale as a non-refundable earnest money deposit towards the purchase price to be held at the option of the Mortgagee as liquidated damages for any default by the successful bidder. The highest bidder shall then be required to remit by federal wire transfer an additional non-refundable deposit to bring in an amount sufficient to make the total deposit equal to ten percent (10%) of the purchase price within five (5) business days of the date of the public auction.

The balance of the purchase price shall be paid upon delivery of the deed within thirty (30) days of the date of the public auction. Each successful bidder shall be required to sign a Memorandum of Sale at the public auction containing the terms herein and any additional terms set forth in the Memorandum of Sale or announced at the public auction.

In the event that any successful bidder at the public auction fails to perform in the time specified to purchase the applicable premises, the Mortgagee reserves the right, at its sole election, to sell such premises by foreclosure deed to the other qualified bidders, in descending order beginning with the next highest bidder, provided that in each case the next highest bidder delivers to Mortgagee the amount of the required deposit within three (3) business days after written notice of the default of the previous highest bidder and promptly executes a Memorandum of Sale providing for performance within thirty (30) days of execution. Mortgagee also reserves the right, at its sole election, to assume the bid of any defaulting or declining bidder. The Mortgagee reserves the right to postpone this sale to a later date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the sale and to further postpone any adjourned sale date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the adjourned sale date.

Other terms to be announced at sale.

For inquiries concerning the auction, please contact Samantha Saperstein at ssaperstein@pesco.com.

Reigo Securitization Sponsor
2021-1, LLC,
present holder of the Mortgage,
By its attorney,
Lauren A. Solar, Esq.
Hackett Feinberg P.C.
155 Federal Street, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02110
10/10, 10/17, 10/24/2025

MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in that certain Mortgage, Assignment of Leases and Rents, Fixture Filing, and Security Agreement given by 445 High Holyoke MA, LLC (the "Mortgagor") to Aloha Capital, LLC, dated April 11, 2023 and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds (the "Registry") at 24973, Page 410, as assigned to Reigo Securitization Sponsor 2021-1, LLC dated September 9, 2024 and recorded with the Registry in Book 25566, Page 154, of which Mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at **12:00 PM on the 7th day of November, 2025** at 445-447 High Street, Holyoke, Massachusetts, being more particularly in said mortgage, to wit:

PARCEL 1

Certain parcel of land with the buildings thereon, situated in said Holyoke, bounded and described as follows, viz

BEGINNING at a point of intersection of the westerly side of High Street with the northerly side of Essex Street and thence running

NORTHEASTERLY on said High Street Twenty-Eight (28) feet and one (1) inch; thence NORTHWESTERLY at a right angle to said High Street ninety-seven (97) feet to the center line of an alley or common passageway (which passageway is fourteen wide); thence

SOUTHWESTERLY on said center line of said alley and parallel with said High Street Twenty-Eight (28) feet and one (1) inch to said Essex Street; thence

SOUTHEASTERLY on said Essex Street ninety-seven (97) feet to the place of BEGINNING.

Containing 2,724 1/12 square feet more or less.

Address: 0 High Street, Holyoke, Massachusetts 01040
Parcel ID: 011-07-007
PARCEL 2:

The land in Holyoke, Hampden County, Massachusetts, with the buildings thereon, bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at the point of intersection of the westerly side of High Street with the southerly side of Essex Street and thence running

SOUTHWESTERLY on said High Street twenty-nine (29) feet and eight (8) inches; thence

NORTHWESTERLY at right angles with said High Street ninety-seven (97) feet to, the center line of an alley or common passageway (which passageway is fourteen (14) feet wide); thence

NORTHEASTERLY on said center line of said alley and parallel with said High Street twenty-nine feet and eight (8) inches to said Essex Street thence

SOUTHEASTERLY on said Essex Street ninety-seven (97) feet to the place of beginning.

Address: 445 High Street, Holyoke, Massachusetts 01040
Parcel ID: 0011-8-00001

For mortgagor's title see deed recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 24895, Page 181.

Said premises shall also be sold subject to and/or with the benefit of any and all other restrictions, easements, improvements, covenants, outstanding tax titles, municipal or other public taxes, assessments, liens or claims in the nature of liens, attachments and existing encumbrances of record created prior to the Mortgage, if any there be, insofar as in force and applicable.

Said premises will also be sold subject to all leases and tenancies having priority over said Mortgage, to tenancies or rights of parties in possession now or at the time of said auction which are subject to said Mortgage, to rights or claims in personal property installed by tenants or former tenants now located on the premises, and to laws and ordinances including, but not limited to, all building and zoning laws and ordinances.

Terms of sale:

The highest bidder in the sale shall deposit a bank treasurer's check, or certified check in the amount of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) at the time and place of the sale as a non-refundable earnest money deposit towards the purchase price to be held at the option of the Mortgagee as liquidated damages for any default by the successful bidder. The highest bidder shall then be required to remit by federal wire transfer an additional non-refundable deposit to bring in an amount sufficient to make the total deposit equal to ten percent (10%) of the purchase price within five (5) business days of the date of the public auction.

The balance of the purchase price shall be paid upon delivery of the deed within thirty (30) days of the date of the public auction. Each successful bidder shall be required to sign a Memorandum of Sale at the public auction containing the terms herein and any additional terms set forth in the Memorandum of Sale or announced at the public auction.

In the event that any successful bidder at the public auction fails to perform in the time specified to purchase the applicable premises, the Mortgagee reserves the right, at its sole election, to sell such premises by foreclosure deed to the other qualified bidders, in descending order beginning with the next highest bidder, provided that in each case the next highest bidder delivers to Mortgagee the amount of the required deposit within three (3) business days after written notice of the default of the previous highest bidder and promptly executes a Memorandum of Sale providing for performance within thirty (30) days of execution. Mortgagee also reserves the right, at its sole election, to assume the bid of any defaulting or declining bidder. The Mortgagee reserves the right to postpone this sale to a later date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the sale and to further postpone any adjourned sale date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the adjourned sale date.

Other terms to be announced at sale.

For inquiries concerning the auction, please contact Samantha Saperstein at ssaperstein@pesco.com.

Reigo Securitization Sponsor
2021-1, LLC,
present holder of the Mortgage,
By its attorney,

Lauren A. Solar, Esq.
Hackett Feinberg P.C.
155 Federal Street, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02110
10/10, 10/17, 10/24/2025

**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.
HD25C0300CA
In the matter of:
Gregorio Garcia
CITATION ON PETITION
TO CHANGE NAME**

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Gregorio Garcia of Holyoke, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

**Greg Rodriguez
IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family 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 if you object to this proceeding.

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

Date: September 30, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
10/17/2025

**City of Holyoke
Conservation Commission
Notice of Public Hearing**

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 23rd, 2025, at 6:15 p.m. remotely via Zoom** at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83982886825> on a Notice of Intent filed by Fuss & O'Neill on behalf of Holyoke Gas & Electric for the 1657 and 1292 Lines Structure Replacement project located along an approximately 5-mile section of the 1657 and 1292 Transmission Line ROW within the Ashley Reservoir and the Pioneer Valley Railroad in Holyoke, MA. The proposed project includes work within Bordering Vegetated Wetlands, Riverfront Area, and Buffer Zone.

Jeffery Horan, Chairperson
10/17/2025

**City of Holyoke
Conservation Commission
Notice of Public Hearing**

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 23rd, 2025, at 6:15 p.m. remotely via Zoom** at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83982886825> on an **Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation** filed by VHB on behalf of Craig Authier for the verification of wetland resource area boundaries and field delineation on Homestead Avenue (MBP 170-00-031) in Holyoke, MA.

Jeffery Horan, Chairperson
10/17/2025

**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.
HD22P0785EA
Estate of:**

**Henry Patrick Ingersoll
Date of Death: 03/08/2022
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR SALE OF REAL
ESTATE BY A PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Sale of Real Estate has been filed by: **Edward J Tousignant of Mount Holly, NJ** requesting that the court authorize the Personal Representative to sell the decedent's real estate at a private sale.

**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 11/06/2025.

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.

Witness, **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: September 30, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
10/17/2025

**City of Holyoke
Conservation Commission
Notice of Public Hearing**

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 23rd, 2025, at 6:15 p.m. remotely via Zoom** at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83982886825> to review a **Request for Determination of Applicability** filed by Jonathan Moquin on behalf of the City of Holyoke Parks and Recreation Department for the improvement of Jones Point Park (MBP 097-00-002) in Holyoke, MA to determine whether the proposed activities are subject to MGL Chap. 131 §40 and the Holyoke Wetlands Protection Ordinance.

Jeffery Horan, Chairperson
10/17/2025

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No.
HD25P1998GD
In the matter of:
Sonia M Lopez
Of: Holyoke, MA
RESPONDENT**

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

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Valley Springs Behavioral Health H of Holyoke, MA** in the above captioned matter alleging that **Sonia M Lopez** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

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

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of **11/12/2025**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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

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

Date: September 29, 2025
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
10/17/2025

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No.
HD25P2072EA
Estate of:
Dennis C. Milos
Date of Death:
August 29, 2025
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Jaime Collins of East Granby, CT.**

Jaime Collins of East Granby, CT

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.
10/17/2025

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No.
HD25P2028GD
In the matter of:
Jamillette Santiago
Of: Holyoke, MA
RESPONDENT**

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

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Mission-Care at Holyoke** of Holyoke, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Jamillette Santiago** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Pedro Arroyo** of Melbourne, FL (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

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

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of **10/30/2025**.

This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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

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

Date: October 01, 2025
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
10/17/2025

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In The News

GOLF, from page 1

groups that came out, and the support put forth is tremendous because everything we do here goes toward the parade, and all of our events," Wildman said. He also highlighted the importance of the various sponsors who played a part in making the tournament a monumental achievement.

"This event and the parade committee would be nothing without our sponsors," Wildman said.

"And we can't thank our sponsors enough, for everything they do, especially our main sponsor, Peoples Bank, who continue to raise funds throughout the year in support of the parade weekend, making it the grand spectacle we continue to look forward to, year in and year out."



Golfers get ready for the tournament.

Turley photo by Brendan Rooney

AWARD, from page 1

Parade's online presence and promote the organization's events, history, and volunteer opportunities throughout the year. She was also a proud member of the 2007 Colleen Court.

Murphy-Romboletti has been a lifelong resident of Holyoke. She started her career as a proud graduate of Holyoke Public Schools, where she then went on to earn her Bachelor of Arts in History and Sociology from the University of Delaware. Currently, she also serves on the MassHire Holyoke Board of Directors and remains deeply engaged in civic and volunteer efforts throughout the community. In addition, she also serves as Executive Director of EforAll/EparaTodos Pioneer Valley, a nonprofit that accelerates economic and social impact in communities through inclusive entrepreneurship, which reflects her leadership in economic and community development, having a lasting impact on the region, while fostering opportunity and creating a platform of inclusion for all.

However, before



2026 Rohan Award winner Tessa Murphy-Romboletti and 2026 Parade President Jim Wildman. Submitted photo

her work with EforAll, Murphy-Romboletti served as Program Manager for SPARK Holyoke at the Holyoke Chamber of Commerce, guiding the program's transition to EforAll in 2018, and she also spent five years with the City of Holyoke's Planning and Economic Development Department and the Mayor's Office. Her most recent achievements stem from 2022, when she was recognized as Emerge Massachusetts' "Woman of the Year".

Nonetheless, reflecting on the moment was Murphy-Romboletti herself, who felt receiving the award was a 'truly humbling experience'.

"The Parade and associated events represent everything I love about our city - pride, community, and tradition," Murphy-Romboletti confessed. Before adding, "Being a part of this Committee has been one of the greatest honors of my life. It's where I've made lifelong friends and made millions of memories."

Murphy-Romboletti will be honored at the Grand Coronation Ball on Saturday, Feb. 14, 2026.

TEACHER, from page 1

which included:

- A reduction in total required working hours, especially for experienced teachers;

- Differentiated professional learning to support educators; and

- Balancing pay across K-8 and high school teachers.

"The district has also taken on a 'one team' approach to hiring," said Director of Recruitment Christie Elman. "We revised our recruiting and hiring system by centralizing applications and prioritizing more qualified candidates for schools that have more vacancies."

The new system allows the district to put the right candidates in the right positions, which has contributed to a better fit over time. "Our new hires feel that sense of belonging in the schools they are working in," Ms. Elman explained.

School leadership teams are also prioritizing teacher voice, using information learned from the district's annual Panorama culture and climate survey data to identify strengths and ways to improve. Each school also solicits staff input on the development of school improvement and school operations plans, and to foster a sense of shared mission and belonging, Ms. Gage said. District and school staff were particularly excited to see a significant increase in staff retention at many schools, including schools experiencing significant transitions. These include the newly completed Peck Middle School that combined two previous school communities in one new building, and Lawrence School where long-time prin-

icipal Catherine Hourihan retired and Katie Bourque became principal on July 1.

"The transition from Ms. Hourihan to Ms. Bourque was really smooth," said Lawrence Expert Teacher Stephen Monge, who also served on the teacher retention working group when he was a fourth-grade teacher at Donahue. "Ms. Bourque visited the school many times last spring to get to know the staff, students, and families, which helped us all feel like we knew what to expect for the next school year and that the school would continue in a positive direction."

When asked about areas for improvement, Ms. Gage said the district is continuing to strive for greater retention and more consistency from year to year. An important next step is to further analyze the data by grade level, content area, and other ways to identify employee groups that have lower retention rates and to speak with educators about what needs to be improved. Hiring and retaining special education teachers is a critical need for Holyoke Public Schools, as it is for many districts.

Educator development—including a commitment to growing and retaining a talented, diverse staff—is one of five priorities outlined in the HPS strategic plan. "We are hopeful that our teacher retention rate will continue to increase over time," Ms. Elman said. "Continuity is key to having a high-quality educational experience. When teachers and students have daily, familiar interactions and when teachers build deep expertise with the curriculum over time, students benefit. These relationships and consistency directly lead to stronger outcomes."

ELECTION, from page 1

truly what happens when you are busy making plans and, while I'll never forget all of the Ward 6 voters who signed my nomination papers and encouraged me on, now is happily a time to prioritize my growing family."

Norris Lubold is now mounting a write-in campaign for the opportunity to represent the ward where she has lived for 28 years.

Norris Lubold attended HPS as did her sons and she has been an ardent advocate for students with disabilities in Holyoke.

Professionally, Norris Lubold is a strategic consultant who will bring a systematic approach to improving outcomes for students, families, and educators as Ward 6's next school committee member.

"I'm running for school committee so every child in our community gets what they need—safe

schools, and strong learning support. I will make sure families and neighbors have a voice in decisions and loudly affirm that all students, regardless of their learning needs or styles matter," said Norris Lubold. "I believe with fresh ideas, attention to literacy, and a commitment to innovation, our schools can be better for all—especially those who need it most."

"As a mom who put two children through Holyoke schools - I wit-

nessed disparities in learning outcomes and opportunity firsthand. Accessibility to education is not a luxury, it is a fundamental right and a shared responsibility of an entire community," continued Norris Lubold. "Challenges won't get solved without ideation, collaboration, and action. As your Ward 6 school committee member I will bring that drive, I will do my homework and I will deliver for the next generation of Holyoke."

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